



**Title of Meeting:** Dee Liaison Panel

**Date & Venue of Meeting:** 15 October 2014 at Chester Zoo

## Attendance

Sector	Name & Organisation
Natural Resources Wales	MOIRA REYNOLDS Chair
Natural Resources Wales	CERI JONES River Basin Programme Manager
Natural Resources Wales	LYNDA BIGLAND WFD Advisor
Natural Resources Wales	HELEN MILLBAND Senior Environment Planning Officer
Business and Industry	DENNIS PUGH Kronospan
Environment Agency	JO HOLDEN Catchment Officer
Environmental NGO (Wales)	ADRIAN JONES Welsh Wildlife Trust
Fisheries	RICHARD LUCAS AND KEN O'HARA Dee Rivers Trust
Local Authorities (Wales)	ELIZABETH BARLOW Denbighshire County Council
Natural Resources Wales	DAVE JOHNSTON WFD Advisor
Natural Resources Wales	RICHARD MAY (for Mike Willis) Regional Sites Programme Manager
Water Companies (England)	KATE SNOW United Utilities
Water Companies (Wales)	EVE READ (for Paul Henderson) Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water
Water Consumers	PAUL ROBERTS Consumer Council for Water

**Apologies** were received from: Howard Stevens, Mike Willis, Jim Radcliffe, Kevin Owen, Paul Henderson and Paul Glading.

## **Summary of agenda**

- Consultation on the updated Dee River Basin Management Plan
- Progress with the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, catchment working and communications
- Forward Look

### **1. Welcome, Minutes and actions**

Moira Reynolds introduced herself as the new Chair for the Dee Liaison Panel and outlined the agenda for the day including the H&S briefing.

The panel reviewed the minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and agreed that these were a true reflection of the meeting.

#### **The following actions remained ongoing from the previous meeting:**

- Terms of Reference and membership. Of particular concern was the lack of sector representation for land ownership and agriculture at the panel meetings. It was agreed that land owners needed to be involved as without them it would not be possible to deliver long term solutions to the failing water bodies in the catchment.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones to review current membership gaps and identify options for filling these gaps, in particular for land ownership and Local Authority. FUW will be joining the next meeting, Rhys Roberts will be the representative.**

- Paul Henderson asked what had happened as a result of the consultation on other government bodies such as FERAC.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones to feedback on the outcome of the FERAC consultation**

- Kate Snow commented that there was a need to have clarity on status of safeguard zones in Wales.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones to speak to James Dowling in Welsh Government**

### **2. Consultation on the updated River Basin Management Plan for the Dee**

DJ began the session with an overview of the consultation documents including the main document, annex and the Dee catchment summary. Attention was drawn to the consultation questions associated with the proposed changes to water body boundaries. In particular the panel focused on changes with coastal waterbodies and should lakes designated as SSSIs be included in the second cycle. Generally, small lakes don't fall within the European legislation and we are consulting on whether they should be designated as Special Protected Areas. Where waterbodies are removed, this will be for the purpose of EU reporting, improvements will still be included as part of the overall

catchment objectives, DJ reassured the panel that measures would still be relevant in coastal waters.

The panel discussed the Scenario's. The panel raised a discrepancy with the costs using Scenario B as an example of the water industry investment compared with the NW RBD.

Measures were also discussed, in particular what measures deliver outcomes for the environment and what have we learnt from the first cycle. Delivery of N2K actions were also discussed.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones – provide further detail on these points at the March panel meeting.**

**Water Watch Wales (WWW)**

LB updated the panel on WWW. The panel were very supportive of this tool and put forward some early suggestions for future improvements, this included the addition of proposed projects in conjunction with existing projects, joined up data for cross border catchments, water safeguard zones on the maps, delivery of N2K actions and funding arrangements for measures.

**Communications/promoting the consultation**

The panel provided feedback on the issues they felt should be focussed on during the consultation, who can help and additional communications tools required to support the consultation. The panel also provided a list of future events that we can use to promote the consultation. It was also agreed that a communications pack would be circulated to the group to help promote the consultation.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones to circulate the outputs of the communications session and include these suggestions in the NRW communications plan.**

**3. Progress with the first cycle**

CJ discussed work with the current programme of investigations and measures. This will need to be reviewed both to show how far this work has taken us in the first cycle and to help steer the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle approaches. This review will form part of the uRBMP and progress with this work will be discussed in more detail at the March panel meeting.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones to include a review of progress to date for the March panel meeting.**

RL gave a presentation on the work of the Dee Catchment partnership. The Muddy Boots event was held in November, the events have been well supported but do still need more

involvement from landowners. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and United Utilities are supporting a project with the group. Access to data and information remains an issue.

**The panel all agreed that the catchment approach with the partners has been a positive step and value that Richard Lucas and the partners have contributed should be recognised. The Dee RBD fully recognises this invaluable contribution.**

RL also provided an update on the Dee INNS project where 1,000 hours of volunteer time has been given.

#### **4. Forward Look**

The forward look was considered and updated.

- Links across England and Wales for N2K sites through the PIPs and SIPs.
- Flow steering group – progress with work
- All Wales LP event early in the New Year – 20<sup>th</sup> January in Shrewsbury.

#### **5. AOB**

- Access to data – ongoing issue that was noted at the meeting and requires follow up.

**ACTION: Ceri Jones to provide an update prior to the next panel meeting.**

**Next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Chester Zoo**