

# WWMF Meeting Notes

**Title of meeting: Wales Water Management Forum**

**Location: Virtual via MS Teams**

**Date of Meeting: 12 May 2022**

**Present WWMF Members:**

**Attendees Present:** Professor Steve Ormerod (CHAIR), Ceri Jones (Secretary), Natalie Hall (NRW), Sian Williams (NRW), Gail Davies-Walsh (Afonydd Cymru for WEL), Liz Franks (HD), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales), Tony Harrington (DCWW), Bob Gilchrist (CCW), Ian Watson (Coal Authority), Lia Moutselou (CCW), Richard Blackwell (WRW for United Utilities), Rachel Lewis-Davies (NFU Cymru), Dennis Matheson (TFA Cymru)

**Apologies:** Mark Charlesworth (NRW), Eifiona Williams (WG), Anthony Geddes (Confor)

**Correspondence members:** Mark Tilling (WG Marine and Fisheries Division Peter Birch (C&RT), Dai Harries (WG Land, Nature and Forestry), Peter Birch (Canal and Rivers Trust)

**Secretariat: Ceri Jones**

Item 1 Open meeting

As Chair, Professor Steve Ormerod opened the meeting setting out logistics for holding the virtual Forum.

Item 2 Review minutes and action log

Minutes were agreed and actions from the last meeting complete. An agreed version of minutes are made available on the NRW website page for WWMF. <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/water/wales-water-management-forum/?lang=en>

Item 3 Members contributions and Update paper

WWMF had an open discussion on matters relevant to the forum, this included member updates and a discussion on the Update paper. Points to note included:

* **Drainage and Waste Water Management Plans** and a suggestion to bring this to the next meeting for discussion
* **Real time data and monitoring** - how we determine water quality data today using both historical data and live data. Is it feasible to get the live data like we can with coastal water ? What are the options to link data on CSO releases and other safety information to support water users across all activities. How are we planning to provide this in the future and communications around this work. Communications can be confusing where different organisations may be monitoring in different ways. Mention that the Rivers Trust tool should be looked at
* **CSO Road Map and the task force** – important to note that this is not a NRW roadmap but a roadmap for the partner organisation. Question asked about future ambition and having the right tools, what evidence is available
* **Designation of inland bathing waters** - overlaps with discussions and involvement with the WG Wales Water Forum. Ongoing discussions and priorities with this work, being influenced by changes in peoples habits and use of outdoor space. Question asked on how wider stakeholders will be involved and choosing popular spots to prioritize and reach out to other water users and stakeholders.
* **Regulation of drainage** - broader than water company drainage, needs better integrated thinking for all drainage.
* **Pharmaceuticals** – Royal College of Pharmacists in Wales, research programme for pharmaceuticals in water and environmental impact, both production and use
* **Urban Waste Water Directive** – On agenda for July in Brussels, this may lead to new substances being listed, transposition of this in Wales in particular for micro pollutants
* **SAC River work** - nutrient management boards now set up
* **CCW priorities** – setting a baseline of issues for water consummers, includes a package of information and tools. LM to shared link to the report.

CCW has published its work programme and are keen to hear how members want to work with CCW on the delivery of its environment strand. They have also published two research reports on the environment.

Document links:

CCW Environment work  <https://www.canva.com/design/DAE3HWYI2iU/Vn0BoVLQWMM4kppcn4bWJw/view?utm_content=DAE3HWYI2iU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton#1>

CCW work programme  - <https://www.ccwater.org.uk/aboutus/our-strategy/>

CCW water awareness survey report - <https://www.ccwater.org.uk/research/water-awareness-survey/>

CCW perceptions of river water quality research - <https://www.ccwater.org.uk/research/awareness-and-perceptions-of-river-water-quality-2/>

* **Recreation** – how we can work with the sector to get messages out. The Big Paddle clean up is coming up. Building trust with the communities , good news stories and making links to the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
* **Flooding** - work on Welsh border for Vyrnwy and Severn on flood alleviation

**ACTION: TH feedback at next meeting on the Urban Waste Water Directive and pharmaceuticals research**

**ACTION: TH to involve AC via GD with work on pharmaceuticals research**

**ACTION: CJ to link up with PS on future articles making links to the RBMPs**

Suggestions for future meetings:

* Drainage and Waste Water Management Plans
* Pharmaceuticals
* Groundwater trends
* Evidence including data – integrating various approaches
* CCW work

## Item 4 Severn Thames Transfer and Water Resources West

Richard Blackwell (WRW and UU) was joined with Gareth Thomas (Programme Manager, Severn to Thames Transfer) to discuss progress with WRW and to talk about the Severn Thames Transfer.

Informative presentation to update WWMF on the progress with Water Resources West. Following consultation earlier this year work is progressing for the emerging Regional Plan. The focus is to meet future water resources needs in an environmentally sustainable way. More detailed draft plans are due in the Autumn with links to water company plan consultations. To date, the work has received support and a report has been published on the WRW website, the report includes number of participants and where they reside.

The consultation feedback report is available via this link: <https://waterresourceswest.co.uk/publications>

Considerations include water demand, climate change, supply and demand.

Gareth Thomas then provided information on the work of the Severn to Thames Transfer, making the connections between these during drought conditions, there needs to be a resilience supply in order to do this.

Both presentations prompted wide discussion with the following points raised:

* Severn SAC – understanding how proposed releases do not impact designated species downstream. Schemes must demonstrate that they will not cause damage to SACs. The report detailing the new sources in United Utilities area is here: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/water-transfers/>
* Flooding
* Severn Valley partnerships and other groups, working with other parties on wider objectives
* Invasive species and disease – treatment process at start for water quality and INNS, closed pipeline
* Pipeline replacement, risk to upstream flooding
* Links to WG Water Strategy and value of our water

**ACTION: CJ to check with WG to check Water Strategy and value of water work in relation to STT**

Item 4 Water Framework Directive Regulations Classification

Item was postponed for a future meeting or standalone event.

Item 5 Project and information exchange

Open discussion to share projects and information. The discussion included monitoring and data to feed into the future Classification update. Points raised included:

* Understanding and unpicking what targets we have not met, what needs to be done
* Individual elements – improvements made and depth of data
* Monitoring as a general topic
* Where failures occur and land based interventions and opportunities arise
* Data sharing and collection
* Access to data and use including Citizen Science, does NRW have a Citizen Science Policy? Links to WG Taskforce on storm overflows
* Consultation on Worthenbury pumping station raised in the Dee
* [Natural Resources Wales / Worthenbury Meadows pumping stations review](https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/flood-scheme-projects/worthenbury-meadows-pumping-stations-review/?lang=en)

**ACTION: SW and CJ to work together to share what’s happening and who’s involved with links across Forums in relation to the wider monitoring and data discussions including Citizen Science**

Item 6 AOB

The next meeting is planned for 19 October 2022 and March 2023

Meeting closed at 12:30