

## Dorset Strategy Group Minutes

4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 13.30-16.00

Dorset Wildlife Trust, Beacon Hill, Corfe Mullen

## Attendees;

Name	Role	Present
Fiona Bowles	Chair	Y
Natalie Poulter	Catchment Partnerships Coordinator	Y
Emma Sumner	Catchment Partnerships Technician	Y
Ruth Barden	Wessex Water	Y
Ian Withers	EA	Y
Andrew Pollard	DWT	Y
Dominic Stubbing	FP&WDRA	Y
Jon Bass	WCSRT	Y
Bridget Betts	DC	Y
Alan Frampton	BCP	Y
John Humpreys	IFCA	Y
Jane Wright	NE	Y
Louise Stratton/ Paul Cottington	NFU	N
Ian Rees	DAONB	N
Luke Rake	LEP	N
Maria Clarke	LNP	N
Nicola Hopkins	FWAG-SW	N
Scott West	WRT	N
Steve Dring	BoP	N
Brian Richards	DC	N

**1. Minutes**

*Summary presentation including actions will be circulated with these minutes*

There is a rolling task to keep track of other organisations' projects and funding applications.

Natural England have appointed a new Communications Officer for Dorset.

**Action JW:** Pass on contact details for the new NE Dorset Communications Officer to Catchment Partnership

**Action MC:** Provide more information on the Local Community report (mentioned last meeting) and to provide feedback at the next meeting.

**2. River Basin Management Planning**

The next step is to collate a partnership response to the EA's Challenges and Choices consultation which is due 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The EA then have 6 months for the draft plan to be completed. The National CaBA meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> February may bring to light how this process is going to work.

The RBMP will incorporate all transitional waters up to a mile offshore and will also cover flood risk. Brexit does not appear to affect the RBMP timescales, but this may change.

WxW have an interest in the RBMP but the deadlines are half-way through the next AMP (2027) meaning RBMP work will be split across two business plans.

**Action IW:** Provide additional information on the RBMP process and timescales especially the process around the Challenges and Choices consultation.

**Action FB:** Feedback to partners from the National CaBA meeting on Challenges and Choices consultation and RBMP- to be issued with minutes.

### 3. Time Planning- Key dates for 2020

Partners are requested to provide key dates of strategies, plans, documents or consultations which will be accounted for in developing RBMP responses and Catchment Plan updates this year. Understanding where key opportunities for engagement will also form an important part of the updates.

Things to consider:

- West Country Water Resource dates- 2021 is the deadline for the regional plan- WxW, Bristol Water, SW water and all other abstractors are involved.
- Colchester declarations- Natural Recovery Plan for AONB
- Land Use Planning- DC/BCP
- Defra River Biodiversity Metric now been adopted by DC. Now in the National River Restoration Centre's citizen science-based metric.
- Dorset Council land use Plans – these are now available online
- MMO South Marine Plan reviewed every 3 years.
- Marine Protected Area plans are with the EA- new MPZs proposed (JH)
- Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan review starting in April.
- Stour Valley Park- meeting Thursday 13th February, EA have an internal meeting for this. Catchment Partnership not currently represented.
- IFCA plans- new plans- Maritime Aquaculture Strategy due in a couple of weeks- link between partnerships and MBA.
- Algal project Christchurch Harbour- South West Water and Bournemouth University.
- EA's Working Together consultation- responses online

**Action NP:** Create a strategic planning calendar and development plan for catchment action plans in 2020, incorporating other organisations' deadlines for consultations, plans etc.

**Action RB:** Acquire the EA's work plan for the West Country Water Resource Group.

**Action BB:** Ask Annabel King about the River Biodiversity Metric methodology.

**Action NP:** Circulate the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan review summary.

**Action NP:** Represent Catchment Partnership at Stour Valley Park development meetings as appropriate.

### 4. WxW- Final Determination

See PDF document attached with minutes.

A summary of the Final Determination for AMP 7 (2020-25) for WxW was presented to its catchment panel last week. These business plans take 4 years to develop and plan out the next 5 years of investment and expenditure. AMP 7 has seen the most change in terms of regulation and public perception, but Ofwat approach is still focussed on customer bills and not the environment. Draft business plan was submitted to OFWAT in Sept 2018- initial feedback in Jan 2019 and responded to feedback in April 2019. Final determination was December 2019.

The AMP7 plan is the biggest programme to be delivered since privatisation. It includes 46 performance commitments including cutting number of pollution incidents by 40%, leakage by 15%; 15% reduction in supply interruptions and a reverse in water usage trends. The average bill to be reduced and then only increase in line with inflation.

Water usage is reducing but there is a mismatch between industry and domestic- domestic reduction partly due to more efficient white goods, behaviour and awareness change. WxW view of AMP7 is that Ofwat have missed an opportunity- short term expectations of customers and statutory environmental obligations- little focus on long-term stewardship of infrastructure. However environmental spend for the Environment programme is >£400m, compared to c. £100million in AMP6.

There are several investigations and projects planned for the next AMP around Dorset (see notes attached with minutes)

Stour:

This is WxW's main catchment for P removal and will further the pioneering catchment offsetting approach with a target to remove 209tpa by 2027. This target will be helped by optimising certain STWs and offsetting small treatment works. Trialling of technology to provide N removal at smaller sites will continue but the technology to do this has been undecided.

Poole Harbour:

There will be P removal at 4 sites- Cerne Abbas, Piddlehinton, Corfe Castle & Dorchester. There is also a compliance commitment to reduce 40tpa of N- in addition, there will be an additional 51tpa reduction by 2025 which is a voluntary commitment. There will also be 80 hectares of biodiversity improvements- grassland woodland and hedgerow sites have been identified. Alongside these works will be a series of investigations which will shape the next business plan.

West Dorset:

P removal at 1 STW at Puncknowle

WxW have a waste management portal on their website which maps spills and overflows across the region. WxW also publish data of incidents- info is sent to interested parties and is posted online. <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/protecting-the-environment-and-conservation/bathing-waters>

**Action RB:** Circulate PDF of WxW Final Determination

**Action RB:** Extract and circulate costs of AMP7 programme for Dorset, PH and Stour

## 5. Organisational structures (updates):

Several partner organisations have seen team changes over the last 6 months; partners are requested to update the partnership team with changes and provide organograms to assist.

- NE has a new Wessex team (Hampshire Avon, Dorset, Somerset and Wilts)
- EA have just appointed a new catchment coordinator for Dorset and Hampshire Avon- Keith Calder; starting in April.
- Dave Womack, EA, has secured temporary staff member Beth Moore, to support on farm compliance in Poole Harbour catchment. Hope to secure more funding to make the post permanent.
- West Country Rivers Trust may have a Catchment post available, possibly joint with EA. IW to check.

- BCP have almost finished structure reshuffle- next step is establishing a Coastal Partnership for FCERM.
- DC consultation closes end of March- still discussion around flood risk and engineering and what departments they sit under.
- DWT- Simon Cripps has stood down as CEO, currently being replaced on a temporary basis by Brian Bleese. A decision on permanent replacement due March.

**Action All:** Send on organisational structures/organigrams for further discussion at next meeting.

**Action All:** Review membership lists of all three groups to ensure correct partner representative.

**Action IW:-** check WCRT post and EA involvement

## 6. Partners and chair update

### NP

PHNMS discussing how to go forward- still awaiting funding decision (due end of February). Farmers keen to maintain the momentum of the scheme. Partners, particularly farmers, are keen to avoid confusion with different trials, projects etc and keep the scheme simple and commit to it long term.

### FB

Still a lack of information on ELMS process, programme and trials. NE & EA representatives did not hold that information. PH has three potential nutrient trials (PHMNS, EnTrade natural capital auction & EA River Frome) plus AONB trial. FB to request feedback at CaBA national steering group.

Agricultural Group- currently developing a network of farm clusters and natural groupings. Will continue to engage with advisors who attend delivery group meetings. Farm cluster groups are self-motivated but may need to be steered for changes to happen. First stage is to map these clusters.

Beaver group met to define working group and projects responsibilities. In particular on responsibility for comms- To date, in addition to Project specific comms, NFU have had a Beaver meeting and a FP&WDFa fisheries meeting is arranged by DS for Feb 6th. There is a meeting in March with both Purbeck and Dorset Beaver groups. FB is drafting a general Beaver information sheet for circulation to WG members and issue by PHCI.

Stage Zero feasibility-projects- 3 projects have been contracted by DWR for the EA. These could act as a driver to help deliver wetland creation for Poole Harbour. Potential identified to work with the LA's to use CIL money. A LA internal meeting about this is being held mid- February. A new post is being created to coordinate projects in DC. BCP don't have a natural environment team but will work together with DC (intention is that DC's NET deliver this work in BCP area via a service level agreement).

No update on the Environment Bill due to Brexit.

AONB is looking at another review starting end of Feb.

**Action NP:** Circulate agri. meeting notes on new approach on farmer engagement within the catchment and on web.

## 7. AOB

**John Humphreys- Norovirus in PH Shellfishery**

An outbreak of norovirus, in Oyster beds in PH has resulted in a temporary closure of the fishery since mid- November 2019. Depuration process for shellfish is for bacterial contamination and is less effective on norovirus. The IFCA Technical Advisory Committee will meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> and CP has been asked to arrange a bilateral meeting between the EA and SIFCA.

WxW decline to comment due to ongoing discussions with the Oyster Farm.

**Action JH & IW:** Liaise about Shellfishery issue and how to go forward and advise NP.

**Action RB:** Draw out shellfishery elements from presentation and share.

**Action NP:** Share further information on norovirus

**DONM:** May 6th 2020, Wessex Water, Corfe Mullen

**Action ES:** Create doodle poll for next meeting.

**Action IW & FB:** Escalate the concerns of the partnership about the ELMS scheme to EA and DEFRA.

Who	What	Progress
<b>JW</b>	Pass on contact details for the new NE Dorset Communications Officer to Catchment Partnership	
<b>MC</b>	Provide more information on the Local Community report (mentioned last meeting) and to provide feedback at the next meeting.	
<b>IW</b>	Provide additional information on the RBMP times scales especially the process around the Challenges and Choices consultation.	
<b>FB</b>	Feedback to partners from the National CaBA meeting on Challenges and Choices consultation and RBMP.	
<b>NP</b>	Create a work plan for 2020 feeding in other organisations deadlines for consultations, plans etc.	
<b>RB</b>	Acquire the EA's work plan for the West Country Water Resource plans	
<b>BB</b>	Ask Annabel King about how the River Biodiversity Metric methodology	
<b>NP</b>	Circulate for the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan review summary	
<b>RB</b>	Circulate PDF of WxW Final Determination	
<b>RB</b>	Abstract costs of individual AMP7 investigations in Dorset	
<b>All</b>	Send on organisational structures/organograms for further discussion at next meeting.	
<b>All</b>	Review membership lists of all three groups to ensure correct partner representative.	
<b>NP</b>	Circulate agri. meeting notes on new approach on farmer engagement within the catchment.	
<b>JH &amp; IW</b>	Liaise about Shellfisheries issue and how to go forward.	
<b>RB</b>	Draw out shell fisheries elements from presentation.	
<b>NP</b>	Share further information on norovirus	
<b>ES</b>	Create doodle poll for next meeting.	
<b>IW</b>	Escalate the concerns of the partnership about the ELMS scheme to EA.	

