

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Poole Harbour Commissioners office

Poole Harbour Delivery Group Meeting

Poole Harbour

Catchment Initiative

Name	Initial	Representing	Present
Doug Kite	DK	Natural England, Conservation Adviser	Y
Dominic Stubbing	DS	Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fisheries Association	Y
Nicola Hopkins	NH	Poole Harbour Catchment Coordinator	Y
Dave Jones	DJ	Wessex Water, Regulatory Scientist (Chair)	Y
Amanda Broom	PT	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Y
Ian Rees		Dorset AONB	Y
Ali Quinney	AQ	DDC, Natural Environment Team	Y
Jane Wright	JW	Natural England	Y
Kath Burt	KB	EA	N
Aly Maxwell	AM	EA	Y
Giles Bryan	GB	EA	Y
Kevan Connelly	KC	EA	
Fiona Bowles	FB	Chair	Y
Ben Davis	BD	Lush Cosmetics Biodiversity Officer	Y
Emma Sumner	ES	Catchment Partnership technician	Y
Tim Bowden	TB	FWAGSW	N
Vicky Farwig	VF	Wessex Water Flood Risk Coordinator	Y
Angus Menzies	AM	Riverfly Partnership / DWT	Y
Alison Turnock	AT	Purbeck District Council	Y
Renny Hendersen	RH	RSPB	N
Chris Osborne/Becky Brookman	BB/CB	DCC, Flood Risk Engineers	Y
Stephen Gregory	WB	GWCT	N
Jez Martin	JM	Borough of Poole	Y
Oliver Rendle	OR	West Dorset District Council	N
Louise Stratton	LS	NFU	Y
Scott West	SW	Westcountry Rivers Trust	Y
Matilda Manley	MM	Litter Free Coast and Sea	N

**Guests:** Claire Buckerfield FWAGSW (for Tim Bowden). Matt Hosie, Cally Barnes (BoP), Mitch Perkins (EA) Gordon Watson (Portsmouth University) Kevan Connelly (EA) Will Beaumont (for Stephen Gregory)

**Apologies:** John Humphreys, Stephen Gregory, Tim Bowden.

1. Actions arising from the last meeting Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Who	Action	Progress
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DJ	share summary of Wessex Waters Water Resource Plan and NH to circulate link to the full document <a href="http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/waterplan/">http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/waterplan/</a>	Complete
KG	Send link to information on new WRFCC roles for interest and other consultation links	Complete
KG	Circulate link for RBMP and Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Strategy <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/river-basin-planning-working-together">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/river-basin-planning-working-together</a> <a href="https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/fcrm-national-strategy-info/">https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/fcrm-national-strategy-info/</a>	Complete
NH	circulate NFR CER Strategy presentation slides	Complete
NH	Distribute JR; update the partnership on the Judicial Review Order after Novembers EA/NE meeting	Agenda for Strategy group
NH	Add a flood focus to the agenda for the next delivery group meeting in January 2019	Agenda
NH	email copy of Dorset Beaver Feasibility Report to all relevant partnership consultees.	Complete
All	Send any data and evidence held by your organisation on the Hooke and Devils Brooke and send on to NH for inclusion in the desk study/business case.	Ongoing
TB/CB	(FWAGSW) forward on relevant comments and information on INNS in Hooke to NH	Complete
ES/NH	circulate information on mapping from the strategy group	Agenda
NH	invite Jane Wright Natural England to the next Stour Delivery group meeting	Complete
NH	amend scoring criteria in line with partners suggestions for T&F group meeting	Agenda
All	specific comments on scoring parameters to be fed back to NH for direction for task and finish group. Deadline for reposes to NH by 30th November.	Agenda
NH	organise task and finish group on prioritisation before the next delivery group meeting in Jan 2019	Complete
NH	Draft gap analysis for agricultural group representatives and identify or advertise for appropriate representatives.	Agenda for agriculture group
NH	MSc project for plastics in agriculture, NH to raise at the next agricultural group meeting to gauge farmers interest	Agenda for AG
All	provide other deadlines for funding, consultations to NH and ES for 2019 meeting and activity planning.	Ongoing
NH	contact Southampton Uni (David Sear) for Poole Harbour PhD study report for the sediment and tipping point distribution to group.	Complete
NH	arrange Lower Frome Vision presentation (AP) for next meeting in January.	Deferred to next DSG meeting
All	All suggestions for agenda items for the meeting in January to NH by 30th November	Complete

#### Actions from previous meeting;

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- GDPR registration sheet- to enable minutes to be uploaded to the website. Since the adoption of new GDPR regulations the minutes from meetings and agendas have not been uploaded on to the partnership websites as has traditionally happened in the past. This is because they contain names of people both at the meeting and working on related projects. During January's meeting a GDPR declaration list was circulated and signed by all attendees for permission to upload the minutes. Only names will be mentioned, not email address or contact details. For anyone who wishes to opt out please email the catchment partnership and this will be kept on file.
- **NOTE** the sign-up sheet was circulated during the meeting however did not come back- if anyone has the sign up sheet please could they let ES know.
- Ongoing action for Devils Brooke due as funding still required for the project. A fluvial audit is currently in progress.
- The Agricultural group on 12th Feb- members were asked where the gaps are for representation.

**Action all;** Check with your organisations that our partnership policies conform with GDPR (either names or initials and organisation appear on the meeting notes posted on the website). If your name needs to be redacted, please let us know.

**Action NH & FB;** prepare and distribute shortened version of the Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of PH WQ PhD report to the delivery group.

## 2. Algal mat trials and projects- EA and Portsmouth University

### Algal harvesting- Mitch Perkins/Kevan Connelly

A small pilot study was conducted by the EA to assess the potential economic and environmental impacts of algal harvesting in Poole Harbour focussing on the Holes Bay area and Brands Bay. This had been looked at in the past however Interreg bid funding was unavailable until the EA took an interest. The aim of removal was to leave clear substrate and to see if there was a beneficial use for the algae harvested.

The two-focus areas were chosen due to their extensive algae mats and easy accessibility. Within these zones 2m x 2m plots were established with a control plot adjacent. These were revisited throughout the months of June and October 2018, algae removed from each plot was taken back to the lab to estimate the biomass. Other observations were also made such as species of invertebrates living within the algae.

Results- Brands Bay; clearance did not reduce subsequent growth in comparison with control.  
Holes bay- The control site showed more growth but not statistically significant

In short, the pilot was inconclusive on how removing algae from a small area of mud flat would reduce algal growth. There needs to be more discussion on how to remove it as the technique used during the pilot was time consuming. There would be health and safety issues if this was to be done on a larger scale as there is only 2 hours access between tides. It was also noted that by removing the algae, disturbance was made to the mud beneath with concern about damage to the underlying substrate if this was to be done on a larger scale.

#### Discussion:

- Was the impact on sediments considered? Due to resource constraint, the impact on sediments was not considered but observations did record a lot of invertebrate species living in the weed.
- JM-Algal removal has happened on a larger scale (2 or 3 ha) in Poole Park Lagoon in the past. The regrowth to similar levels was often quick, requiring up to 3 visits- this operation was carried out with a

floating harvester in Poole Park Lagoon. Washed up algae has been removed from the Sandbanks area at considerable cost.

- Concern over the densities of algae mats near active shell fisheries- Have had to be removed in the past.
- At high tide you do not see much of the mats- suggesting that much of the plant mass is connected to the mud flats, when it becomes detached it rapidly ends up on the shore line.

### **RanTrans- Interreg Bid- Gordon Watson (lead, Portsmouth university)**

#### **Rapid reduction of Nutrients in Transitional waters,**

The Interreg bid for the Rapid reduction of Nutrients in Transitional waters (RansTrans) has been approved with sign up anticipated spring 2019. Its focus is on the channel region of soft sediment estuaries routinely covered by macroalgal mats especially the Solent and Poole Harbour. The nutrients derived from these mats will continue to enter transitional and coastal water ecosystems for decades.

The funding still requires some conditions to be met before sorting out the final contracts between the partners, but the project will start employing people and set up a stakeholder group in late Spring. The 9 partners involved are academics, or plant growers or users and including; Aleor, Bournemouth university, University of Portsmouth, Cefas, Natural England, Ceva, Agrans, University of Caen, UBO and Sustainable Feeds UK.

The project focus is on soft sediment estuaries in the English Channel region, which are routinely covered by macroalgal mats, especially the Solent and Poole Harbour. The nutrients derived from these mats will continue to enter transitional and coastal water ecosystems for decades.

The proposed work includes:

- A toolkit to identify optimum locations and time for testing methods- Map algal mat coverage to define optimum locations
- A novel method for algal mat removal on intertidal mudflats- We will test and optimise mechanical removal methods and assess impacts
- Aquaculture feed from conversion of algal mat - Produce new AC feed
- Bioremediation by macroalgal biomass (seaweed culture)- Identify the most suitable seaweed species; develop the optimum growth method
- Bioremediation by shellfish (European oyster)- to identify the optimum methods for mudflats
- Extraction of bioactive chemicals- Extract bioactive chemicals from algal mats for industry

For each intervention the following will be assessed; cost effectiveness, EIA, economic assessment, regulatory assessment, investment strategy, recommendations for scale up

Funding and timelines; project costs 2.9m euros, appoint staff spring 2019, kick-off meeting for stakeholders and associate partners- the project partners want people to be in the loop from the beginning. For additional information please contact Gordon.

#### **Discussion**

- Has there been any contamination issues with the algae mats? Not an obvious sign of contamination, more concerned with the pollutants held up in the sediments once interventions are performed. Need to identify the chemical composition. Entrained plastics not found in large quantities. Does resuspension cause toxic pollutants.

- Can it be used in biogesters? Potentially but need to get rid of the salt water before use.
- What happens after March in terms of funding (BREXIT)? Government has said it supports funding
- How can the partnership help with RanTrans?
- A date still needs to be set for the kick off meeting and PHCI can support identifying the key stakeholders.
- Still need to utilise all the data sets, new and old and collate from numerous sources.
- Possible link up with other Interreg projects could be beneficial.

**Action NH;** pass on information on the RanTrans project to the monitoring group and Agriculture Group.

### 3. Flood and Coastal Risk Management- Borough of Poole Projects- Matt Hosie and Cally Barnes

Fresh water drainage into Poole Harbour can become locked by high tides and there is a rising sea level. There are four Flood and Coastal Flood (FCERM) schemes being implemented by the Borough of Poole area including:

- Sterte & Creekmoor flood defence schemes
- Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill business case
- Holes Bay saltmarsh regeneration feasibility
- Fleetsbridge & Hatch Pond feasibility

**Sterte and Creekmore flood defence schemes-** there were open channels running directly out into Holes Bay with concern over tidal locking. There was a high flood risk for residents in the area, so the implementation of flood attenuation techniques provided a control of water input into the harbour via the new flood defence asset.

**Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood defences-** there were 500 properties at risk in the area with the existing assets in a poor condition. The area also has multiple land owners and large number of development sites. Work was deemed essential for the long-term prosperity of the town and needed a lead from the council to get things going and try to encourage developers to uptake works to minimise tidal flooding. A Business case was created by liaising with stakeholders and an economic assessment carried out. £70k was needed to lead the project and £310k of Local Levy funding acquired to complete the outline business case later this year. The construction of the 3-metre-high defences is to take place 2020/21.

**Holes Bay Saltmarsh restoration-** The problem; sea level rise, reclaimed land, sea defences and development. The Salt marsh has declined since 1924- 1981 with a 62% reduction of spartina during the same epoch. Present day knowledge has brought about a greater awareness of habitat loss and predicting climate change. Regulations now also support the protection of important species and habitats. Policies and project business cases are now encouraging habitat creation. The railway embankment is under threat therefore National Rail are partnering.

A feasibility study- utilised £60k Local Levy funding and by July 2018 dredging from the Cobbs Bay area was replaced into Holes Bay. The aim was to be financially and environmentally viable with key benefits to include an increase in suitable habitat. The work has been influenced by experience in Solent MPA and there is a PhD study. Current operations: Cobbs Quay- 10,000m<sup>3</sup> dredged annually and deposited in Holes Bay.

**Fleetsbridge-** Hatch Pond Attenuation project- Balancing pond for the 1970s-80s housing developments. 122 properties at high risk within the area. Aim: to better understand the surface water flood risk and modelling of risk mitigation.

Next steps- workshops to decide the preferred method for pilot study, extensive monitoring for the habitat creation. Still be used as a pilot project so changes will be made all the way through.

**Discussion;**

- DK have you considered the implications on species that may be living on the existing hard structures? This will be raised.
- DK- we don't really understand the mechanisms surrounding the saltmarsh dieback- reed is taking over the salt marshes- so how can we predict the outcome?
- MH -Lack of guidance on hard engineered projects

**4. Project prioritisation; principles and outcomes- Emma Sumner**

**Discuss the outcomes from the workshop and prioritisation task group, potential project proforma.**

Discussion at the Stour Catchment Delivery Group suggested ranking at a catchment and Dorset level, and the top scoring projects for Poole Harbour were:

1. Win Win Project
2. Diffuse Pollution Advice projects
3. Hooke project, NFM upper Piddle Project

The outcome was that it felt that by only the catchment coordinators carrying out the prioritisation, the scoring was still biased and that maybe a final question needed to be posed to the wider partners for a score based on their priorities and visions. There also needs to be a project proforma in which case study information is inputted to then be scored.

**Discussion:**

- Need to encourage all projects not just riverine- these should be a more extensive list- there are a number already in the pipeline in the Wareham area.
- With the £10,000 awarded to the DWT from the Wessex Water Enforcement Undertaking, this should be used for delivery be a specific delivery element- could this be added to an existing project but be used for a specific element?
- Should projects be split in terms of scale? Larger projects should be weighted differently to smaller projects.

**Action ES;** Project Proforma to be created and distributed to the catchment partners ASAP

**Action all;** Updated project business cases please forward to NH (once form agreed)

**Action ES;** convene a small group to assess projects put forward to the Catchment Partnership

**5. Catchment Coordinators update-**

**AONB opportunity mapping update NH**

- Biodiversity opportunity Mapping is almost complete and Wider stakeholder meeting to be run shortly (Mar 7<sup>th</sup>)
- AONB team have yet to finalise how the maps are to be distributed.

**PH Monitoring group meeting**

- Was held 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- Once minutes have been agreed, will be distributed to the group

**Action NH;** distribute agreed minutes of the Monitoring Group meeting

## **Beaver Report FB/DB**

- The redacted WW Beaver Feasibility report has been circulated and discussed at the Dorset Steering Group.
- Scoping for the project was done 18 months ago and concluded there were a number of possible sites for beaver reintroduction.
- There was a meeting of partners in September 18 and organisations interested in pursuing projects were invited to come forward.
- National Trust are funding a project officer for 2 years in order to build local consensus and support with stakeholders. There is a visit planned in March to the Devon projects with relevant local landowners and stakeholders. A study into potential spread has been contracted.
- Important to get people involved from the beginning- local consensus currently has shown 50% are in favour and 50% against.
- Further work required with the wider partnership to get the engagement right, wealth of knowledge etc.
- The River Otter trial release was licenced for 5 years - Defra will then decide what happens with future applications. Important to watch the outcome as could be similar for Beaver reintroduction. SW and PC sit on the management group for that trial.
- DWT are also considering a potential release project.
- DSG agreed that they would like an overview of beaver release in the Dorset catchment and a working group would be set up to oversee the implications for management, working with any release programmes (30/1/2019).

**Action NH;** take the Beaver report to the agricultural group for discussion- feedback at the next meeting

**Action NH;** distribute the notes from the monitoring group meeting

## **Wessex Water Enforcement Undertaking**

Due to a Wessex Water incident last year, the company submitted an enforcement undertaking to the EA in which instead of being handed a fine, a sum of £10,000 is instead put back into environment to make improvements. The money is to go to the DWT (co-hosts) and must be used for a project in the Purbeck area. Discussion to be had with the group on which project to be supported by this money.

**Action NH;** check timescale with RB on the spend target for the Enforcement Undertaking

## **Project update:**

### **Hooke Business case**

- Project is ongoing but still awaiting approval of funding for delivery later this year.

### **Frome Business case**

- Hoping to bring forward wetland creation plans and link up with developers for their contributions
- Waiting on the Dorset Council changes before pursuing further

### **Piddle Valley/ Devils Brook**

- Not discussed due to overrun of meeting (carry over)

### **Lower Frome Vision**

- DWT progressing group and discussions with developers planned.

**Action all;** volunteers for the working group for Lower Frome Vision plan to NH to be forwarded to Andrew Pollard.

**Fisheries programme**

- SW/DS keen to progress the Fisheries programme that started 3 years ago. NH to set up a meeting for fisheries sub group to finalise action programme.

**Action NH;** Work with WRT to coordinate a fisheries sub-group

**6. Plans for stakeholder engagement workshop/conference**

**Theme, location, objectives**

There are discussions on running a catchment partnership event later in the summer 2019 to showcase what is going on and future projections. This is an opportunity to show off successful projects and how working in the partnership is worthwhile. The event will link into promoting the work that all partners do to deliver multiple benefit projects. The focus suggestion is to showcase farmer engagement.

Suggestions on venue, themes, scale etc will be appreciated and should be forwarded to the catchment coordinators.

**Action All;** suggestions, guest speaker ideas for the summer conference to NH to discuss at next meeting

**Action NH & ES;** Start to plan stakeholder engagement event; research potential venues, dates and agenda ready to feedback to the partners at the next meeting.

**Action all;** feedback to NH any events happening throughout the summer to aid the organisation of the stakeholder engagement event- avoid clashes

**7. AOB**

**Theme of next meeting-** Fish, in particular; The year of the Salmon

**Date of next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Venue TBC**

**Actions Summary**

Who	Action	Progress
All	Check with your organisations that our partnership policies conform with GDPR (either names or initials and organisation appear on the meeting notes posted on the website). If your name needs to be redacted, please let us know.	complete
NH & FB	prepare and distribute shortened version of the Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of PH WQ PhD report to the delivery group.	Ongoing
NH	pass on information on the RanTrans project to the monitoring group and Agriculture Group.	Ongoing



<b>ES</b>	Project Proforma to be created and distributed to the catchment partners ASAP	<b>Complete/Agenda</b>
<b>All</b>	Updated project business cases please forward to NH (once form agreed)	<b>Agenda</b>
<b>ES</b>	convene a small group to assess projects put forward to the Catchment Partnership	<b>Agenda</b>
<b>NH</b>	distribute agreed minutes of the Monitoring Group meeting	<b>Complete</b>
<b>NH</b>	take the Beaver report to the agricultural group for discussion- feedback at the next meeting	<b>Deferred</b>
<b>NH</b>	check timescale with RB on the spend target for the Enforcement Undertaking	<b>Complete</b>
<b>All</b>	volunteers for the working group for Lower Frome Vision plan to NH to be forwarded to Andrew Pollard.	<b>None?</b>
<b>NH</b>	Work with WRT to coordinate a fisheries sub-group	<b>Agenda</b>
<b>All</b>	suggestions, guest speaker ideas for the summer conference to NH to discuss at next meeting	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>NH &amp; ES</b>	Start to plan stakeholder engagement event; research potential venues, dates and agenda ready to feedback to the partners at the next meeting.	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>All</b>	feedback to NH any events happening throughout the summer to aid the organisation of the stakeholder engagement event- avoid clashes	<b>Ongoing</b>