

Wednesday 8th May 2019

Moreton Village Hall

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	IR	Dorset AONB	N
Ali Quinney	AQ	DDC, Natural Environment Team	N
Jane Wright	JW	Natural England	N
Kath Burt	KB	EA	Y
Aly Maxwell	AM	EA	N
Giles Bryan	GB	EA	N
Kevan Connelly	KC	EA	N
Fiona Bowles	FB	Chair	Y
Ben Davis	BD	Lush Cosmetics Biodiversity Officer	N
Emma Sumner	ES	Catchment Partnership technician	Y
Tim Bowden	TB	FWAGSW	Y
Vicky Farwig	VF	Wessex Water Flood Risk Coordinator	N
Angus Menzies	AM	Riverfly Partnership / DWT	Y
Alison Turnock	AT	Purbeck District Council	N
Renny Hendersen	RH	RSPB	N
Chris Osborne/Becky Brookman	BB/CB	DCC, Flood Risk Engineers	N
Stephen Gregory	WB	GWCT	Y
Jez Martin	JM	Borough of Poole	N
Oliver Rendle	OR	West Dorset District Council	N
Paul Cottingham	LS	NFU	Y
Scott West	SW	Westcountry Rivers Trust	Y
Matilda Manley	MM	Litter Free Coast and Sea	N

Guests: John Aplin, Sarah Williams (SaW), Dylan Roberts, Adrian Pinder, Andy Harrison, Callum Jeffrey (EA), Hannah Amor (EA), Chair of Poole Harbour Agricultural Group

Apologies: Chris Osborne/Becky Brookman, Aly Maxwell, Nicole Cataeno, Charlotte Woodford, Chris Westcott, Vicky Farwig, Sarah Healey, Brian Richards, Ian Rees

1. Actions arising from the last meeting Wednesday 30th January 2019

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Working in partnership to improve the Poole Harbour catchment

www.pooleharbourcatchment.co.uk

Poole Harbour

Catchment Initiative

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

Actions from previous meeting;

- 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 this 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 and will be kept on file.

- In regard to the Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of PH WQ PhD report- the first draft of a non-technical summary has been sent for a first vetting. Hoping to have the signed off report distributed to the partnership by the end of May.
- Agriculture group has been suspended for the summer, until the PHNMS is developed. Beavers were discussed as a result of the presentation from the GWCT at the last meeting.
- Volunteers still needed for the working group for Lower Frome Vision plan, this will be an agenda item at the next Dorset Wild Rivers stakeholder group meeting.
- Stake Holder Engagement event still needs direction and buy in. Possible to focus talks with relevance to businesses and stakeholders such as the Poole Harbour Commissioners. There seems to be a lack of environmental commitment or recognition of its value within the business community. NH to meet with MC (LNP) to discuss potential join up.

Action PC; review the non-technical summary of PHD report on PH paleo-sediment analysis as part of the review panel before final sign off.

Action FB; After final sign off, distribute non-technical note on PhD report to the delivery group by the end of May.

2. Samarche update- Stephen Gregory GWCT

This international project joins UK and French partners, running from April 2018 until April 2022. The aim of the project is the build a better of picture of Trout and Salmon behaviour, especially their movements and to improving salmonid management in the channel.

The project involves 5 water bodies, two of which are in the UK; Frome and Tamar. The 4 focus areas of the project are tracking, genetics, stock assessment and policy.

Tracking;

Tracking was carried out to separate estuary and near-shore post smolt mortality. This was done by tagging the fish to track their movements in estuaries and coastal waters. This approach builds up a long-term pattern of sea trout movements- Data storage tagging currently can't be carried out in Salmon. The aim is to tag 50 sea trout kelts per year from each of the project rivers over a 4-year period.

1st stage: to use acoustic tags- 200m range only.

2nd stage: using a data storage tag- records temperature and pressure. These tags tend to wash up on beaches when the fish have died. They have a return address and reward to encourage the tags to be sent back.

Genetics;

Create a common genetic data base to identify the sea trout's river of origin.

Map areas in the channel that are important for sea trout- this could provide data for management policies.

Stock Assessment;

Develop tools incorporating environmental and migration changes.

Use new and existing sex ratio, fecundity and growth data to improve existing stock assessment tools and develop new one- current methods have been under scrutiny, improvements should be made through this study.

Growth and length perspective- how do these measurements effect their movements/chances at sea- changes in life history traits- abundance. Looking at smolt-size and return rates.

Policy;

Improve and develop new policies for salmonid management in Channel waters

A Report was recently released with 2018 data of fish counts and pit tagging work- SG happy to distribute to the group. It is hoped that this work would be extended to other Rivers not just in the UK. Recent papers also published by GWCT indicating that larger smolts return more successfully. This means that understanding freshwater influences on smolt sizes is important too.

Action SG; send round salmonid report PDF for catchment partners

Discussion:

FB; a lot of this work involves national policy, looking at the behaviour of fish in estuaries, how do you get healthy smolts to grow etc. Can the partnership support this project and future projects by providing or collating additional information? e.g. water monitoring, PH studies. Other parameters could be used.

Action SG; feedback to PHD student to compile a list of data and additional parameters for study- partnership to help out where and when required.

JA- The water temperature in the rivers has seen an increase over the years- last year saw some waters recorded at 20 degrees. This is leading to, in some circumstances a complete failure in fish spawning and survival. Pre-emergence data can help detect these trends also.

JB; mentioned that smolt sizes are smaller in the south-west

3. Dorchester Fishing Club- Managing riparian habitats on the River Frome- John Aplin

Casterbridge Fisheries based outside Dorchester is celebrating its 35th year birthday. Fishing activity is mainly focused around the River Frome, which is famous for grayling- boasting the largest grayling in the UK even though they share the same genetic make-up with those found in the River Dove. The Dorchester Angling Club have become more and more concerned with the river environment and what is happening to fish stocks- the habitat must be right for the fish to be healthy with a varied riverine environment. Trout are found in the back waters of the Frome and the Stour also has good fishing areas where the Stour braids west of Canford. When the Tarrant dries up, the Trout tend to migrate to the Stour.

There is a high level of engagement ongoing in the area and improvements are being made to reduce the damage inflicted by late 60's land draining works:

- Many volunteers have been involved with projects taking around year to plan for around a week's build time. Gravels have been added to form pools and riffles.
- Trees have been planted to make a large wildlife corridor.
- Fish and invert. surveys were conducted before the works and have been monitored ever since.
- 400 tonnes of gravel- backed up the river but riffles were created.

The fishing industry is important for the catchment as it boosts the tourist trade with visiting anglers from far and wide- has a good reputation however the trade needs to be sustainable.

The DAC has seen a change in anglers' mindsets. Pike in the Frome were almost wiped out to protect salmonids, but after pike electro-fishing stopped, after 6 years surveys showed that the pike were bigger and in fewer number. Trout numbers were improved. The cost of fly fishing has become more affordable and stocking has reduced- from 1000 pa to about 100 pa.

The club has also worked with the DWT to improve the rivers- river fly, otters, fish etc encouraging partnership working.

Health and safety is a priority now with risk assessments, methods statements and planning for river restoration.

Soft engineering can be taken to urban environment to create better instream habitat such as the use of willow weave banks.

Access for fishing has led to a new approach whereby one side of the bank is maintained for angling, the other side managed for wildlife- there are many keen volunteers to help with this.

Another project was carried out on the Piddle at Bagshill which involved the following:

- Creation of islands and inputting woody debris
- Day lighting,
- Spraying of invasive plants- Japanese knotweed,
- Surveys carried out way in advance of works carried out.
- Reprofiling of banks
- Harvesting Willows

Discussion:

NH- residents of Cheselbourne interested in the potential for bank diversification - could some advice/link up be made?

SW- how long does it take to change mindsets of angling clubs? Experience that it takes a long time to, it's about compromise but angling has changed over the last 20 years. It hard to change a mind set when the environment doesn't react quickly to improvements.

4. Poole Harbour Fisheries Group

SW- Fisheries have been under represented on catchment partnerships across the country. PH is ahead of the game but can be built on. The Rivers Trust network is a shared vision for partnerships and fisheries- and could be the initial steer of Your Fisheries in Dorset. SW put a small group together in May 2017 to bring together wider stakeholders. They discussed water quality, invasive, barriers etc. The overall goal was to produce a pipeline of projects which could be tackled over the following years. Some opportunity maps were also created. With this group established where do we take it? Should it be Dorset Wide? Piddle centric etc. or similar to the strategy group?

Discussion:

DS- Stour is the one to understand, Jon Bass formed a group in the catchment which demonstrated that the fisheries interest on the Stour is very different from PH. With this in mind it was agreed to keep the two groups separate. There will be an inaugural meeting of key partners from across both PH and Stour catchments to discuss Dorset wide fisheries related topics and agree ToR.

Key tasks;

- Identify fishery projects and a lead partner for catchment bids
- Develop a wide fisheries network for communicating catchment issues.

DK- NE used to challenge angling clubs on their management and practices.

SW- Takes time to see change in surveying, monitoring- lag time from management which is hard to communicate to clubs.

DS- Wild Trout Trust is well respected -The benefit from this work and the message is getting out there.

JA- Chalk Stream Club meetings- The club meets once a month during the Winter with guest speakers, updates and issues around conservation. DWT sponsor the club which has now had its 7th winter. There were 35 at the first gathering but to date there are around 85 attendees. This shows the importance of partnership.

FB- How do we link fishers and landowners? - DK tenant farmers don't have an invested interest in the fishing side – This disconnect is hindering the process but can be changed. DWR and FWAG are trying to tackle this issue and make links between farmers/landowners and the nutrients they are losing.

TB- this could be an aim for the cluster farm group- better link in- lead in and raise awareness of both interests.

DK- still two separate groups- representative from both the fisheries and the agricultural group should be present at each other's meetings.

SW- fisheries and angling are two different things- need to encourage link up- vested interest.

FB- do we need a fisheries group? Chance of being siloed so it is important to keep it linked with the whole of the catchment partnership.

PC- never included slides on fish when talking to farmers- this is the start, start the link up and connection.

TB- Asker community project- this was not focused on agri. or fisheries. Ian Rees DAONB has done a good job running the project but it now needs to be led by the community- maybe this approach could be replicated.

NH- similar in the Stour headwaters- landowner engagement from the start.

Action SG, SW, JA; compile a general fisheries short fact sheet for NFU to including in presentation for the farming community.

Agreement;

PH to develop a PH fisheries task group, incorporating the WDRCs. Link up with Stour as well but keep separate groups. This could be based on the existing Barriers group as they are already established but their remit could be extended to cover other issues.

The first task is to generate a pipeline of projects. The new group and wider fisheries network would act as a virtual network once the key task is completed. Fisheries representative to sit on the agriculture group, when reconvened.

Action NH/SW; establish PH fisheries group- support from the partners required.

5. Project Update

Paul Cottington- NFU PHNMS update

PHNMS- currently the NFU are trying to create an alternative proposal with the EA will pose to Defra on deal with nutrients in the catchment including consent orders.

Engagement events have been successful in the area with 4x open meetings being held across the catchment with over 120 attendees. This covers approx. 60% of the land ownership. 70% of attendees have also filled out an expression of interest form. The events work though what data has been gathered and why farmers/landowners have their part to play in reductions. It encourages them to take ownership. Feedback has been mostly positive with some saying it was refreshing to be show up to date data than just historic data which has been used in the past.

There now needs to be more governance around the scheme including a revised legal structure.

Two tools are required one to calculate accurate nutrient balancing and the other being a trading platform. These need to be commissioned. Currently the tools will focus around nitrates but will also look to incorporate Phosphates, Green House Gases and Ammonia.

The scheme has looked for investment from Tridos Bank, with a final decision being made this week (9th May).

This will then allow the project to go to the pilot phase and then to a farm scale.

The tools will also enable a benchmark for present nutrient use to be captured.

Discussion:

TB- FWAGSW are already using the Planet tool, who will make the decision on which tool to use? A tendering team will be pulled together with representatives from organisations such as EA, NE, WxW and farmers.
SG- will an experienced software developer be involved as this is a comprehensive tool and will need updating? Yes, talks are ongoing. At the end of the day it will all be about user experience and how easy it is to use.
FB- Can the project please use the strap line for PH Catchment Partnership on correspondence.

Action all; feedback to organisations on the PHNMS- are you supportive of the project and can you help?
PC to use the 'working together for Poole Harbour strapline

Sarah Williams- Wessex Water habitat opportunity mapping project for nitrogen offsetting in Poole Harbour

Wessex Water Catchment Management team are working on a mapping project to identify opportunities for improving biodiversity and for offsetting. This is being trailed for EnTrade looking at some arable revision- whole and part fields, hedgerow planting, woodlands and habitat link up. Land use changes are hoped to be permanent.

70ha of land for this project will be required, with work to take place over the next AMP. Farm advisors will be making visits to possible land owners from September 2019 with target areas being buffer strips by waterbodies. Advice on farm wetlands will also be offered.

Natural Capital assessments will be made when the methods have been approved.

Discussion:

DK- This project fits in for the reduction offsetting in which WxW's next business plan looks to offset 100 tonnes of P annually which could include treatment at Wareham STW, 40 tonnes is expected from safeguard zones. Cover crops are helpful but will only bring about a small level of reduction. These targets will bring about new innovations.

TB- also should be a focus on farm productivity- taking land out of farming could mean an increase in food in ports- this should be taken in to consideration.

Action SaW; share target areas of habitat project to the partnership in regard to the Wessex Water habitat opportunity mapping project for nitrogen offsetting in Poole Harbour.

Action all; feedback, help and advice on the Wessex Water habitat opportunity mapping project for nitrogen offsetting in Poole Harbour to be fed back to SaW.

Angus Menzies- Riverfly Partnership update

- 13 Individuals attended training at DWT HQ, Brooklands Farm on 09.06.18. These monitors are now surveying a number of rivers: River Frome, River Asker/Brit, River Shreen, River Cale, River Stour, Uddens Water, River Crane and at Upton Heath.
- We have 8 sites being monitored on the River Win by about 10 monitors: these volunteers were trained at a separate session in 2017.
- Kingston Maurward College (a River Frome site) has been involved and one of the attendees on 9th June is a lead on the land management course there. In February 2019 taught several students on two afternoon sessions at the College.

- As we develop the scheme further we shall run the second training workshop at DWT HQ on 29th June 2019. We have currently 15 monitors enrolled.
- A review of the extended riverfly monitoring on the Win (see below) with RICT scores showed that similar trends were identified, supporting this citizen science method.

Amanda Broom- Dorset Wild Rivers (DWR) project update

- Corfe project- no EA funding has been given however looking for possible funding from Imerys for some delivery this year. A walkover was carried out to prioritise areas along the rivers and to form part of an action plan. The main aim this year to keep the momentum going with farmer engagement- possible organise similar events to last year.
- River Win project- EA funding was received last year, ADAS are to supply surface water plans which will then be used for delivery. Monitoring will continue this year. A student from Plymouth has been offered to help with morphology and sediment.
- Hooke project- again no EA funding received for this year. Phase 1 is completed with a detailed sediment survey including flow paths ways and connectivity. This year will see continued work with farmers to drive the project forward.
- Lower Frome restoration? project- a broad consensus on the designs has been made and these have been submitted to the EA for internal and external viewing/discussion- further funding needed.

Action DS & AB; to contact with PT on Frome project about the designs, AB to send over the designs and consult with key partners (particularly fisheries interests)

Hannah Amor- EA Plastics and Sustainability Team

The new team was established last June and aims to bring innovation and awareness around the issue of plastics in the environment. The team are focusing on the South-West region for now but hope to roll out similar projects and teams across the country. Plastics in the Fishing and agriculture industries are being tackled first providing solutions for recycling fishing equipment and farm plastics that are currently difficult to recycle. Outreach events for the public and children are being organised with 4 workshops being rolled out in line with the National Curriculum.

Discussion:

PC- Farms have a lot of plastic on site but there is nowhere for it to be disposed of- the recycling options are restricted; A farm in Loddington is thought to have a thorough recycling scheme.

Action all; ideas for plastic recycling/reuse in the fishing or agricultural industry please forward on to the EA Plastics and Sustainability team- alternatively send on to NH or ES.

Action HA; send over information on recycling schemes to the partnership from the EA's Plastics and Sustainability Team.

6. Catchment Coordinators and Chairs update (short on time)

Nicola Hopkins

- Congratulations to Jon Bass for being nominated for as a River Champion for all his hard work.
- CaBA reporting has now finished, with Emma Sumner bringing together all partnership project information. This will be used for future communications starting with the creation of new infographics.
- The main focus this month is how to decide which projects should receive the Wessex Water enforcement undertaking money. How do we select suitable projects and what process do we use to choose? A task finish group was suggested but this would have to be a select group with no ties to the suggested projects.

Action NH & ES; Organise a task and finish group for projects going for WxW enforcement undertaking funding. This to include the selection of the panel.

Action all; projects to put forward for the enforcement undertaking money- end of the week deadline

Action NH& DK; discuss the NE project list for enforcement money projects

Action ES/NH; Convene a small group to allocate EU funding

Action AB; circulate notes from DWR steering group.

Fiona Bowles

Attended the River restoration conference- lots of American insight on more significant restoration of river and flood plain by removing the channel and letting the river reset itself. A reminder that rivers are not all about channels. It would be good to pull the information together to present to Dorset Angling Club. The conference also gave an insight into good examples of flood protection from this more thorough approach.

7. AOB

- Two job roles have come available:
Dorset Wildlife Trust River Catchment Officer (closing date 17th May)

National Trust Engagement Officer- Countryside (closing date 12th May)

For more information please visit the Wessex Water Catchment Partnership page [here](#).

- The partnership newsletter will be circulated by the end of May- the newsletter now combines both catchments but will contain further links to projects, news, websites etc. Any comments, articles etc welcome. Please forward to ES.

Theme of next meeting- Plastic's and other concerns in the Riverine Environment

Date of next meeting: 17th July 2019. Venue TBC

Actions Summary

Who	Action	Progress
PC	Review the non-technical summary of PHD report on PH cores as part of the review panel before final sign off.	Complete
FB	On final sign off, distribute shortened version of the Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of PH WQ PhD report to the delivery group by the end of May.	Complete
SG	Send round salmon report PDF for catchment partners	Complete

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SG	Feedback to PHD student to compile a list of data and additional parameters for study- partnership to help out where and when required.	Complete
SG, SW & JA	Compile a fisheries short fact sheet every couple of months for NFU to take to farming community.	Agenda item for fisheries group
NH/SW	Establish PH fisheries group- supported from the partnership.	In progress
All	Feedback to organisations on the PHNMS- are you supportive of the project and can you help?	Ongoing
SW	Share target areas of habitat project to the partnership in regard to the Wessex Water mapping project.	Complete
All	Feedback, help and advice on the Wessex Water project to be fed back to SW.	Complete
DS & AB	Contact with PT on Frome project about the designs, AB to send over the designs	Deferred to fisheries group
All	Ideas for plastic recycling/reuse in the fishing or agricultural industry please forward on to the EA Plastics and Sustainability team- alternatively send on to NH or ES.	Ongoing
HA	Send over information on recycling schemes to the partnership from the EA's Plastics and Sustainability Team.	Complete
NH & ES	Organise a task and finish group for projects going for WxW enforcement undertaking funding. This to include the selection of the panel.	Complete
All	projects to put forward for the enforcement undertaking money- end of the week deadline.	Complete
NH & DK	Discuss the NE project list for enforcement money projects	Complete