

Poole Harbour Delivery Group Meeting
15th April 2020 10.00 – 12.30, via MS Teams

Attendees

Fiona Bowles	Chair	Y
Natalie Poulter	Catchment Partnership Co-ordinator	Y
Emma Sumner	PHCI, Catchment Partnership Technician	Y
Ian Rees	Dorset AONB, Countryside Officer	Y
Ali Quinney	Natural Environment Team, Dorset Council	Apologies
Matilda Manley	Litter Free Coast and Sea Co-ordinator, Dorset Coast Forum	Apologies
Oliver Rendle	Dorset Council	N
Chris Osborne/ Becky Brookman	Flood Risk Management Team, Dorset Council	N
Jez Martin	Biodiversity Projects Officer, BCP Council	Y
Andrew Pollard (for Amanda Broom)	River Catchments Manager, DWT	Apologies
Angus Menzies	Riverfly Coordinator, Dorset Wildlife Trust	N
Dave Jones	Regulatory Scientist, Wessex Water	Apologies
Doug Kite	Conservation Advisor and water specialist, Natural England	Apologies
Louise Stratton	Dorset County Advisor, NFU	N
Paul Cottington	Environment Advisor, SW National Farmers Union	Y
Nicola Hopkins/ Tim Bowden	Farm Conservation Advisor, FWAG South West,	Y&Y
Charlotte Woodford	Catchment Sensitive Farming Advisor	Apologies
TBC	Farmer member of the Agriculture Group	N
Stephen Gregory	Salmonid Research Team, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	Apologies
Scott West	Fisheries Scientist, Westcountry Rivers Trust	Y
Dominic Stubbing	Chairman, Frome, Piddle & West Dorset Fisheries Association	N
David Brown/ Gen Crisford	National Trust - Purbeck	Apologies
Keith Calder	Catchment Co-ordinator for Dorset and Hampshire Avon, Environment Agency	Y
Aly Maxwell	NFM Co-ordinator, Environment Agency	Y
Correspondence members		
Renny Henderson	RSPB	Apologies
Alan Frampton	FCERM team, BCP Council	Y
Andrew Probets	Dorset Council	N
Jane Wright	Natural England	Apologies
Ben Davis	LUSH	N
Will Beaumont	GWCT	Apologies
John Humphreys	Chair, Southern IFCA	N

1. Actions from last meeting

Who	Action	Progress
ES & NP	Refresh the PHDG's membership list to ensure all members are current. Check on Alison Turnock's new position and in particular ensure someone from DC is a member.	Complete
ES & NP	To send the link for the latest CaBA conference presentations and to check the presentation slides from June's conference are now available online. https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/catchment-data-evidence-forum-2019/	Complete
VF & CO	Establish meeting to discuss DWMP integration with DC local plan.	Ongoing- follow up
NP & VF	Pull together a task group to discuss partnership priorities and DWMP.	Ongoing
AB	To check with WxW whether flow monitors will be established for the duration of the fenced Beaver project.	Ongoing-furloughed
ES	Circulate the latest PH catchment data from CaBA for on request due to large file size; partners please contact Emma if you would like access.	Ongoing
IR	To provide an update on ecological mapping exercise (Dorset AONB) at the next Dorset Strategy Group in November 19.	Complete
AM	Chase Rosanne Broome for the release date of the EA WFD data for 2019.	Ongoing
ES	Distribute the briefing note to partnership on EA new team structure for its Catchment Coordinators once obtained from AM.	Complete
NP	To send the link for the consultation on Local Industrial Strategy. Partners encouraged to participate and comment on what to include in a catchment partnership response.	Complete

Updates on actions from the previous meeting

- Please contact Ian Rees for a copy of the opportunity mapping data. Sharing the data may require a licensing agreement between partners but Ian suggests this need not be onerous or a block.

2. How are we working? Short term working adaptations and priorities for the partnership and partners

Updates on partners working status:

Partner	Working Status
Dorset Wildlife Trust	Andrew Pollard is working normal hours but little capacity. Amanda Broom and Nicky Hoar (Gillingham Royal Forest Project) already furloughed. Steven Oliver and Nicki Brunt to be furloughed at the end of April.
National Trust	Large amount of project work on pause- Gen Crisford furloughed and other staff at Kingston Lacy. Senior management still working.
Litter Free Coast and Sea	Working from home- normal hours
Wessex Water	Mostly working from home except keyworkers- some investigations halted

South West Rivers Trust	50% staff furloughed; some projects ongoing
NFU	Focus around supporting members and supplying information to government around covid-19 and the impact on agriculture. Staff working from home.
BCP Council	Working from home
FWAG-SW	All Dorset team still working, some Somerset team furloughed- could be the case with Dorset later down the line. No on farm visits apart from Higher Tier applications with a deadline end of April.
Environment Agency	Working from home, could be redeployed into other areas within the EA. Welcome to Keith Calder, who started as Dorset & Hants Avon Catchment Co-ordinator for the Environment Agency on 23 rd March.
Natural England	Working from home, could be redeployed within NE or wider civil service.
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	Working from home, some night working, e.g. smolt surveys

Other effects of Covid-19:

- Challenges and Choices (C&C) consultation deadline looks likely to be extended. Nothing confirmed yet. Catchment Partnership response almost ready, so NP will submit asap anyway.
- Potential for impacts on other EA work (e.g. production of WFD data)
- ELMS trial consultation now suspended by Defra (as of 8th April); awaiting information on when this will be resumed.

Action AM: Feedback to the partnership with an update on WFD data from EA

Action all: Comments to NP on draft C&C response by 20th April for inclusion.

Action all: Please keep NP and ES informed as working patterns & practices change.

3. Beaver projects update

Both the National Trust and DWT Beaver projects are continuing but do not have the same capacities as staff are furloughed. David Brown (NT) and Andrew Pollard (DWT) are working; Steve Oliver (DWT) is working until end April.

National Trust Purbeck update (David Brown):

- Initial stakeholder consultation complete. NT has contacted over 60 landowners and met most of them face-to-face; meetings held with all relevant sectorial groups and 8 community events held meeting over 200 local residents.
- Following this consultation, support and opposition to beavers among landowners has been mapped. Features across the landscape requiring protection from beavers have been identified, and a detailed picture has been derived of the short-term and long-term management would be required in order to satisfy the concerns of landowners and stakeholders in general. NT have also highlighted 'red zones', where it wouldn't be acceptable for beavers to settle.
- Currently preparing several different options around scope and scale of the project for the project working group to consider in more detail; these consider habitat suitability, impact assessment and the stakeholder consultation work. Although Gen has been furloughed, NT are still hoping to agree on the

project scope over the next few weeks and start writing a management plan to accompany a licence application later this year

Dorset Wildlife Trust project (Andrew Pollard)

- Stephen Oliver is our Beaver Project Officer and is still in post. Work continues (best it can) to prepare the project. DWT has had useful discussions with FP&WD FA and DFC and have invited a rep from both organisations on the research and monitoring group when this gets established.

FB reported that the Beaver working group meeting to discuss the projects (March) was postponed so an update to be issued to Beaver WG members and a further meeting arranged as need arises. A beaver information note was developed as part of the communication role, which proved difficult to reflect the wide views, and this has been published on the PHCI website, along with a reference list for those interested in following up available publications.

Action ES: Circulate Beaver note with the minutes from meeting. <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/-/media/files/wessexwater/environment/catchments/poole/key-documents/beaver-file-note.pdf>

4. PHNMS update- Paul Cottington, NFU

Additional steps to put in place before funding for phase 1 of the scheme can be released 24th April. PC's time will be focused around covid-19 but the scheme will continue to develop. Governance structure and workstreams are up and running with key areas of work being around budget and governance. There is an owner for each workstream task to keep progress continuing.

There are now three main groups:

- Delivery Team- pushing the project forward and ensuring correct measures are in place
- Partners Group- key buyers, sellers and regulators
- Poole Harbour Agricultural Group (PHAG)

A 'lessons learnt' document is up and running already; this is a requirement of the funder and could provide valuable information for future projects. The Catchment Partnership has taken a communications lead in the scheme and have produced information material which will be distributed when the funding is released. If partners want to be involved in the scheme or think they can contribute, please get in touch.

Action NP & ES: Distribute further information **after 24th April** on PHNMS including Workstream document and project summary

5. Can PLANET Farmgate nutrient balance data help achieve 'Good Ecological Status' in Poole Harbour- Tim Bowden FWAG SW (PDF with minutes)

TB undertook an MSC study which used PLANET to assess the nutrient balance on a range of farms. PLANET is a software tool that calculates farm nutrient balances concluding in a short report determining the annual imports and exports of predominately N, P and K. The report also calculates the nutrient balances for each Ha of land farmed and can give a benchmark for most farm types. This report currently cannot be exported digitally. The differing farm types were compared, such as dairy vs beef, sheep or arable farms. 39 farm data

sets were reviewed from the Wessex Diffuse Pollution programme. There are a number of pros and cons for the software, but the tool can be seen as effective in giving an overall picture of on farm nutrient balances.

Discussion:

- There could be a possibility to use this software as part of PHNMS; it will be tried and tested along with other tools and needs to meet the EA's and the scheme's requirements.
- Could be an opportunity for the data to be analysed for farm effectiveness against different farm types. The outputs from the study had some interesting conclusions that should be shared with farmers further
- The Anchor Tool was used in Holland- similar software but only does analysis on dairy farms.
- Wessex Diffuse Pollution Programme, run by Giles Bryan EA- was additional funding obtained for this to continue? Update required.
- Not much scope to use on equestrian holdings as they are not usually producing food, however, can be discussed further.

Action NP: Invite Giles Bryan to delivery group to give update on Wessex Diffuse Pollution Programme

Action FB & TB: Discuss how to apply PLANET to equestrian holdings

Action PC: Ask PHNMS farmer group for interest on data from diffuse pollution and the use of PLANET and on indications of efficiencies learnt from the study

6. CaBA reporting and Catchment Page

The deadline is looming for the CaBA catchment reporting forms to be submitted. To make the process easier, NP has devised an efficient excel 'data collector' which has been sent to partners to enable the input of project data to be less clunky and more user friendly. All partners are encouraged to add their projects to the form which will also help populate the catchment partnership project list. **The deadline for project information to be sent to NP is 15th May** to enable all information to be checked and collated for submission by the 29th May CaBA deadline.

The Catchment Page for the latest RBMP will also be updated end of June but additional information on what this looks like and what information is required is still not known. All three catchments will be captured on the same page. (current advice from EA is that this deadline could move as a result of Covid-19).

Action NP: Share the existing catchment pages for the Stour and Poole Harbour with partners ahead of CaBA website update end of April

Action ES: Circulate CaBA reporting form (catchment partnership edition) to all partners, deadline 15th May for project data

Action SW: Send update on Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fisheries Association and to ask about any projects for the CaBA reporting

Action KC: Feedback to partnership on EA requirements for catchment pages update

7. Catchment Plan update- workshop to prioritise areas of focus

The catchment plans for both the Stour and Poole Harbour need updating and that process will start this month, taking a slightly different approach than in the past. The 'agreed key issues' from the May 2014 Catchment Plan were reviewed.

This discussion will be summarised separately along with additional opportunities for partners to feed in to the development of priorities to be agreed.

Workshops (probably virtual) will be organised in the near future to look at the details more closely.

Action KC: Feedback on EA's stand on priorities/issues for the catchment plan update.

Action NP: Circulate draft themes of catchment plan update for partners to feedback.

8. Partners' and Chair's updates

A) Partners' updates

BCP Council (Jez Martin)

- Still progressing with feasibility study into recreating salt marsh in Holes Bay. Main issue to be addressed is which method to use in relation to length of time to do work and cost, plus only one type dredging operation has current Marine Management Organisation licence.
- Poole flood defence Hunger Hill to lifting bridge Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been done, will need consultation with NE on specifics such as how to address potential impact on seahorses.
- New project is looking at having permanent sensors in Poole Harbour to measure water quality issues, such as N, P, E. coli etc. These would transmit data to base station so have constant stream of information. These would not replace laboratory statutory testing, but could highlight when there is a new issue, to instigate site sampling for laboratory testing. Several firms have expressed interest and 'interviews' will be held on 20/4/2020 and 21/4/2020. Karen Edwards (EA) will be part of panel. Lydia O'Shea (WW) is aware of this project. Depending on chosen firm and situation with coronavirus, first sensor might be deployed this year.

Litter Free Coast and Sea (Matilda Manley)

- Social media engagement; posting a mixture of positive posting, including **#bringthebeachhome** week of activities like beach noises for meditation and making surfboards for kids. Then also posting about some possible impacts at the moment such as: non toilet paper materials being flushed down toilets, increase in fats, oils and greases down drains as some people are cooking at home for the first time. Also encouraging washing (water-based paint) brushes off in the sink after doing DIY to reduce surface water pollution.
- The blackwater film for the sailing community in Poole Harbour (can be used elsewhere too) has been completed. Launch is not appropriate at current time, so teeing everything up to be ready in due course.
- New project officer started with LFCS team; Stuart Beckingham has joined us (previously of Visit Dorset).
- LFCS are now working on creating profiles for each of Dorset's Bathing Waters – these will be more detailed than the Environment Agency bathing water profiles and will include some public perception.

Natural England (Doug Kite)

- Currently updating Poole Harbour SSSI/SPA condition assessment on macroalgae from EA 2019 survey data. Technical results attached for info. This will feed into update of overall SSSI/SPA unit assessments including assessments on other aspects of supporting habitats for the SPA/SSSI bird features and habitats that are of special interest in own right.

Environment Agency (Keith Calder)

- Recently started in role with extensive experience of catchment working in New Zealand. Keith is keen to get to know partners and understand the catchments in his patch; he considers a key aspect of his role to be providing a conduit for a single point of contact for the EA, so please get in touch with him directly to discuss key projects for the catchment. He is having regular meetings with NP and ES to make sure there are strong links between the partnership and the EA moving forwards.

Action all: contact Keith to introduce your organisation and key projects: keith.calder@environment-agency.gov.uk.

B) Chair's update

- PH Aquatic Management Plan- still waiting for an update. PH Commissioners are responsible for coordinating the plan for the whole harbour.
- PH fisheries plan is being pulled together; another meeting was held in February. Trialling the 'Your Fisheries' tool for collating data.
- ELMS consultation is currently paused due to covid-19
- Stage Zero projects- a webinar is being organised to discuss possible scheme designs with American counterparts. The EA Stage zero feasibility contract is still being carried out but Amanda Broom, who was leading, is now furloughed. Input will be requested from members to ground truth the long list and to support the criteria for selection of a short list of sites to develop further.
- National Natural Capital Atlas: Mapping Indicators is now available- interesting read for waterbodies.
- Next round of Wessex Water Grants information is now available with the scheme opening for applications later in the year. DWT have already indicated that they will put Dorset Wild Rivers forward for funding.
- Dorset AONB are currently delivering a Defra test and trial on a landscape scale- more details to be sent.
- CP team investigating alternative means of collating information from partners and allowing flexible iterative working whilst physical workshops are not possible.

Action all: Respond to NP if you want a catchment response to ELMS consultation

Action ES: Circulate link for National Natural Capital Atlas: Mapping Indicators

<http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/4578000601612288>

Action ES: Circulate Wessex Water Programme information.

Action IR: Share details of Defra ELMS test and trial. <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/project/defra-tests-and-trials-project/>

8. AOB

Date of next meeting: July 2020.

Action ES: Distribute Doodle poll for DONM- w/c 13th July

Action Summary

Who	Action	Progress
AM	Feedback to the partnership with an update on WFD data from EA	
All	Comments to NP on draft C&C response by 20th April for inclusion.	
All	Please keep NP and ES informed as working patterns & practices change.	
ES	Circulate Beaver note with the minutes from meeting. https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/-/media/files/wessexwater/environment/catchments/poole/key-documents/beaver-file-note.pdf	Complete
ES & NP	Distribute further information after 24th April on PHNMS including Workstream document	
NP	Invite Giles Bryan to delivery group to give update on Wessex Diffuse Pollution Programme	
FB & TB	Discuss how to apply PLANET to equestrian holdings	
PC	Ask PHNMS farmer group (Wakely Cox) for interest on data from diffuse pollution and the use of PLANET	
NP	Share the existing catchment pages for Stour and Poole Harbour with partners ahead of RBMP inclusion deadline end of June	
ES & NP	Circulate CaBA reporting form (catchment partnership 'Data collator') to all partners, deadline 15th May for project submissions to NP	Complete
SW	Send update on Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fisheries Association and to ask about any projects for the CaBA reporting	
KC	Feedback to partnership on EA requirements for catchment pages update	Complete- NP
KC	Feedback on EA's stand on priorities/issues for the catchment plan update	Complete
NP	Circulate draft themes of catchment plan update for partners to feedback.	
All	Contact Keith to introduce your organisation and key projects: keith.calder@environment-agency.gov.uk .	
All	Respond to the catchment partnership if you want a catchment response to ELMS consultation.	Consultation paused by Defra
ES	Circulate link for National Natural Capital Atlas: Mapping Indicators http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/4578000601612288	Complete
ES	Circulate Wessex Water Small Grants Programme information.	Complete
IR	Share details of Defra ELMS test and trial. https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/project/defra-tests-and-trials-project/	Complete
ES	Distribute Doodle poll for DONM- w/c 13 th July	Complete

Documents attached

- Beaver information note
- PDF FWAG SW Planet presentation- Tim Bowden
- Catchment page for 2015 RBMP
- CaBA 'Data Collator'
- Wessex Water Grants Programme information

DRAFT