

# Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group Meeting

## MINUTES



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (10am – 12.30pm)

Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

**Attendees:** Andrea Kelly (chair), Andrew Alston, Katy Anderson, Robert Camps, Richard Cooper, Donna Dean, Paul George, Sue Hogarth, Rob Holland, Simon Hooton, Matt Jones, Keith Lead, Karen Kramer-Wilson, Emily Long, Richard Mason, Joss Moore, Neil Punchard, Steve Scott, Tim Sievers, Chris Strachan, Sarah Taigel, Georgia Waye-Barker, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes).

**Apologies:** Ian Skinner, Richard Reynolds, Robin Twigge

	Action items
1.	<b>Welcome, introductions, apologies</b>
	Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies as above.
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017</b>
	<b>Minutes:</b> The minutes were agreed as a correct record. The actions were completed.
3.	<b>Water Environment Grant potential projects bids</b>
	<p>Chris Strachan, Environment Agency, gave a presentation on the Water Environment Grant funding. WEG's primary objectives being to improve the water environment in rural England in protected areas and to address WFD objectives.</p> <p>Multi benefit catchment scale projects with joined up smaller projects are likely to be more successful hence the reason for the BCP workshop to progress ideas.</p> <p>Further details on the WEG funding can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Following work on mapping potential projects in the Broads catchment area the following four project areas were proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Upper Bure</li> <li>2) Witton Run</li> <li>3) Ant Catchment</li> <li>4) Waveney Catchment</li> </ol> <p>Group workshop activity followed. Results to be analysed after the meeting.</p>
4.	<b>Diffuse Water Pollution Plan update</b>
	<p>Sue Hogarth Environment Agency and Joss Moore, Natural England, gave a presentation updating BCP on the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan. (Presentation attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defra proposes a 'fair share' approach to reaching the targets set to reduce pollution. All options to look at costs/benefits/dis-benefits.</li> <li>• The FARMSCOPER model was used to assess action needed. If 100% take up of all suggested measures the targets would still not be met so land use change also reported as required.</li> <li>• Viability of any proposals will also need to be assessed. This was affirmed by farmers at a workshop in November 2017 at Swanton Morley who suggested they would be happy to take on measures if there was business viability otherwise payment incentives needed.</li> <li>• Natural England is seeking advice from the BCP on costings feasibility, viability and any other issues for the land use changes and options proposed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without economic certainties some of the options are theoretical only and may be</li> </ul>

<p><b>Action:</b> <b>SH/JM</b></p>	<p>unrealistic. Vital information may be missing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better results may come from tackling specific, smaller problems on the ground at a local level rather than using a broad brush approach. Although the scope of this exercise is recognised.</li> <li>• Cover crops and tramline proposals are generally acceptable measures for farmers.</li> <li>• Professor Kerry Turner, UEA, has worked on NEA and cost/balance.</li> <li>• There are landscape implications for land use change proposals and this should also be factored into any cost/benefit/dis-benefit analysis. Important in the Broads.</li> <li>• Consumer change should also be tackled e.g. vehicle restrictions, encouraging change via social media campaigns, providing information on chemicals used in detergents etc.</li> <li>• The BCP agreed that this is important work. Sue and Joss agreed to look at the issues raised, particularly those on involving viability and effectiveness of options and to work with the BCP and to come back to the group to give an update.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Forestry Commission</b></p>
	<p>Steve Scott, Forestry Commission, gave a presentation on Woodland Creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland creation and tree planting is a current government focus.</li> <li>• The Forestry Commission produced environmental impact mapping showing low risk areas with potential for woodland creation (not including protected areas).</li> <li>• Further work is now looking at potential for woodland creation within National Parks.</li> <li>• The Broads has 4000ha of low risk land where criteria has identified tree planting might be a possibility depending on many factors. The principle of ‘right tree, right place’ needs to be considered with the obvious issues being land ownership and landscape change.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadland landscape character is important so the right locations are vital. Landscape Character Assessment for Broads (on BA website). People do not like change, but can adapt. The transition is difficult.</li> <li>• Longer term what are the created woodlands to be used for/management/climate change/funding considerations need to be made.</li> <li>• Smaller areas of planting could work better where they deliver multiple benefits.</li> <li>• Trees can be an issue for sailors in the Broads.</li> <li>• Rewilding at Somerleyton/Fritton, linked to Carlton Marshes – bordering areas could be an area of focus, although natural regeneration is likely to be the focus here.</li> <li>• Ecosystem services – certain habitats have minimum size for carbon storage etc. Species relevance is important also.</li> <li>• ‘Wedges’ – woodlands/hedges mix could be used.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>BCP website, newsletter and project database</b></p>
<p><b>* Action: ST</b></p>	<p>Sarah Taigel, Broads Authority, gave a presentation updating BCP on progress of the BCP website, newsletter and project databases.</p> <p><b>BCP website:</b> ST used feedback to make improvements. The website is due to be launched in May 2018. GDPR data agreements will be needed. Case studies, photos, site visits, WEG project proposals, inspiring links are welcomed to add to the site.</p> <p><b>April BCP newsletter:</b> To be sent to the mailing list along with a required ‘sign up’ and ‘unsubscribe’ option (GDPR). Please circulate to your organisations to gather ‘sign ups’.</p> <p><b>BCP Steering Group decision:</b> It was agreed by the BCP Steering Group that inclusion of local news articles was appropriate in the newsletters. A line to be added ‘third party content does not necessarily reflect the views of the BCP’.</p> <p>Sarah Taigel to draft a protocol for Communications for BCP sign-up - to be brought to the next meeting.</p>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Partner updates</b>
	Updates were provided prior to, and further additions supplied subsequent to, the meeting (see below).
<b>8.</b>	<b>BCP key activity since the last steering group meeting</b>
	Members were sent updates prior to the meeting.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
	None
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	Doodle poll to be circulated (May or June 2018).

#### Action Summary

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
SH/JM	Look at the issues raised particularly those on involving viability and effectiveness of options and give an update to BCP	Dec 2018
ST	Draft protocol for Communications for BCP sign-up - to be brought to the next meeting.	May 2018

Visit: [www.broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk) to download the catchment plan.

Email: [admin@broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk](mailto:admin@broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk) for further information.

## **Partner Updates: Broadland Catchment Partnership: 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018 Steering Group Meeting**

### **Broadland Catchment Partnership Officer update**

#### **Water Sensitive Farming**

A draft report has been produced by the Broads Authority and submitted to Tesco to evaluate the 2017 pilot project and provide recommendations for further work within the catchment and other Tesco sourcing locations. A short paper will be submitted to the Broads Authority at their March meeting. Tesco are keen to continue to support farmers in the catchment and neighbouring Cam and Ely Ouse catchment using the existing catchment partnership officers to facilitate this. The Wonder Wheel will once again be available for vegetable farmers to use free of charge in 2018. The new Creyke Wheel Track Combi will be purchased in April 2018 using remaining Tesco funding in the catchment partnership budget.

#### **Neonicotinoids**

I have continued to collate evidence around neonicotinoids and their had e-mail correspondence from a local farmer who was concerned about our newsletter article that referenced an EDP article on Neonicotinoids in the River Waveney and River Wensum, which he believed was alarmist. The farmer has requested that we do not reference news articles. This will be put to the Steering Group for a decision at the meeting on Thursday 8 March 2018. We may wish to consider having a review of evidence to inform actions and communications going forward as an agenda item at our next Steering Group meeting in June 2018.

#### **Events**

I attended the CaBA London workshop that looked at the Water Environment Grant, monitoring and performance. I manned the Water Sensitive Farming stand at the Wortwell Farm Business update where Jim Bacon provided the key note presentation on weather and farming. I also went to the Norwich Research Park for the Agri-tech East Natural Capital meeting where local farmer Poul Hovesen presented his perspective and approach. Paul Leinster, Cranfield University also presented his views as a member of the government's Natural Capital Committee. I attended the CSF Cultivations (Phillip Wright) and Soil Health (Stephen Briggs) and promoted our free kit trials to local farmers. The events were well received by farmers and two new farmers were keen to trial kit. I have been asked to attend the BAWAG AGM on 7 March to discuss future engagement between local farmers and environmental organisations and welcome any thoughts and suggestions from partners around this subject.

#### **Natural Flood Management**

I facilitated a meeting and site visit with a local landowner for a Natural Flood Management (NFM) project upstream of Buxton on the Camping Beck where the Environment Agency have allocated £35,000 towards the project and we have applied for another £50,000 from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Attendees included: Matt Philpot, Norfolk Rivers IDB who has done the preliminary scheme design and will oversee surveys and construction; Helen George, EA, NFM project manager, who will arrange pre- and post-scheme monitoring; and Sarah Taigel who will co-ordinate partners communications and help with fixed point photography. EA Flood modelling for the River Bure has been extended upstream into the Camping Beck. Detailed elevation and level surveys will be undertaken shortly.

#### **Website and Data**

Sarah Taigel has been visiting partners to discuss data share and arrange agreements. Sarah is also auditing data and collating information to assist in opportunity mapping and identifying willing landowners for future floodplain re-connection schemes. Sarah Taigel has continued to develop the BCP website and collate and present project locations. Progress to date will be presented at the Steering Group meeting on 8 March 2018.

#### **Broads Agri-environment pilot proposal**

I have been working with Andrea Kelly and Simon Hooton to prepare a short proposal to Defra from the Broads Authority for a simplified, outcomes based, scheme to deliver multiple ecosystem services that could cover the Broads and catchment river valleys and possibly wider catchment. This has included conversations with local farmers and partner representatives. Pilot proposals from National Parks are being encouraged by Defra.

## **Environment Agency**

### **Consultations**

#### **Environment Agency charge proposals from April 2018**

The consultation on proposed changes to our charges from April 2018 ended on 26 January. Thank you to everyone who made comments. These will be analysed and will shape the final scheme. Our response to the consultation will be published in due course and made available on the EA Consultation Hub at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/engagement/environmentagency-charging-proposals-fromapril2018/>.

#### **The future for food, farming and the environment**

The Secretary of State Michael Gove has launched [a consultation](#) offering farmers, landowners and food producers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of English farming and the environment after we leave the EU.

The government's proposals will see money redirected from direct payments under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), which are based on the amount of land farmed, to a new system of paying farmers "public money for public goods" –rewarding their work to enhance the environment and invest in sustainable food production. This is outlined in DEFRA's [the 25 Year Environment Plan](#) as we look to use and manage land more sustainably.

Other public goods which could be supported include investment in technology and skills to improve productivity, providing public access to farmland and the countryside, enhanced welfare standards for livestock and measures to support the resilience of rural and upland communities.

The consultation is an opportunity for farmers to be more central to government thinking than any time for 50 years as the UK leaves the EU.

Among the range of proposals put forward by the government in today's consultation, [Health and Harmony: The Future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a Green Brexit](#), the Government is seeking views on:

- options for how to gradually phase out direct payments, starting with the largest landowners, whilst developing a new environmental land management scheme
- the range of public goods that could qualify for government funding under the new schemes, such as high animal welfare standards, wildlife protection, public access, and new technologies
- measures to move away from heavy handed enforcement which penalises farmers for minor errors, including a more efficient inspection regime to uphold important environmental and animal welfare standards
- new business models and incentives for industry to invest in innovation and new technologies to increase their profitability

The consultation opened for comments from all interested stakeholders on 27 February and closes on 8 May.

#### **Water Environment Grant (WEG)**

Recent news on the RDPE funded WEG scheme (this will form part of the meeting agenda)

- The WEG scheme will be allocated £9m per annum. Additional funding has been requested.
- The WEG scheme will run until March 2021. Projects must start before March 2019.
- Application details will be available on the gov.uk website from 19 March.
- You should have received an invite to an EA/NE WEG partner workshop on 26 March at Led Lodge Millenium Centre, Bury St Edmunds. The aim is to explore how the new scheme will work and look at the application process. Please let Rory or Chris know if you have not received this and would like to attend.

#### **RFCC Local Levy Natural Flood Management Allocation**

A number of schemes were received for NFM projects within the Broadland catchment. These are currently

being reviewed prior to a final funding decisions being made.

As part of the River Wensum Strategy with Norwich City Council, we are working with a group of final year Env students from UEA to develop a biodiversity enhancement plan for the stretch of river between Hellesdon Mill and Carrow Bridge. Please contact Rory Sanderson if you have any suggestions for improvements along this stretch, and I will put you in touch with the relevant student. This work will help us respond in an active way to some of the comments received during the second public consultation on the strategy. The draft strategy can be viewed [here](#)

Work continues with the River Waveney Partnership to better understand the eel distribution of the River Waveney. This work is using a DEFRA grant and will report on eel distribution in the river and marshes. It will aid a better understanding of where the eels are and compare this to where they should be. The results will be valuable for future management decisions and may also drive further engagement within the catchment. The project has raised awareness of the eel within the local community, many of whom have volunteered for eel related tasks in the future.

We have received confirmation of funding for the three WEIF capital projects we intend to deliver during 2018/19. This includes a project to remove a barrier to fish passage on the River Tiffey at Wymondham, further river restoration works by the IDb on selected watercourses to continue the great works delivered on the Scarrow Beck and Mermaid during previous years, and a river improvement project on the River Yare at Bowthorpe.

And I have saved the best news until last. Amy had a baby girl on 14<sup>th</sup> January (just over 24 hours after she left work on maternity leave) weighing in at 6 pounds and 15 ounces. Mum, dad and Hazel Joanne Amanita Prendergast all doing really well.

#### **UEA/Wensum DTC**

Research funding bids:

- 1) £630k bid in response to NERC Strategic Call to improve understanding of how increases in soil organic carbon content can help to offset the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. 3 year research programme (2018-2021) will involve field trials on the Salle Park Estate focusing on cultivation practices and the role of soil disturbance in releasing ancient carbon from the soil. Bid being co-led by Dr Nikolai Pedentchouk and Dr Richard Cooper. **Deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> March.**
- 2) £750k bid for a 5 year (2018-2023) NERC Independent Research Fellowship to develop more accurate nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emission budgets for river systems in the UK and globally. Bid being led by Dr Richard Cooper. Cleared initial shift stage and through to interview panel on **15<sup>th</sup> March** when final decision will be made. Thanks to Neil Punchard and Jonah Tosney who provided letters of support for this bid.

#### **Internal Drainage Board**

- Completed the Trimmingham SUD for the Rivers Trust, which has prevented runoff and siltation.
- Start on Monday at Swannington completing a SUD for FWAG, which will also protect swannington beck from silts and runoff
- Working with the EA on the Buxton project to slow flow.

#### **Natural England/CSF**

**9 Farmer/stakeholder workshops in Broadland/ attracting Broadland attendees have been run.** Generally good attendance and very positive/appreciative feedback, c. 150 Broadland holdings engaged. (Soil Health/Biology; Tyres, traction & compaction; Cultivation/drilling techniques; Pesticide Handling & Biobeds.) Grateful to partner financial & other input help in running these, principally ESW, AW, AHDB, IfA.....

+ Contribution & stands at 2 very well attended local **Farm Business Update** meetings

**Countryside Stewardship 2019 start application campaign** – again somewhat slow and muted, even for Standalone Capital grants –partly due to Brexit uncertainties. Dealing with current enquiries. Proactive contact with ELS & HLS expiries ongoing:- pre notice of CS Events and clinics:

Event / Clinic	Date booked	Clinic / Event capacity	Area	Venues
Event	20-Apr	25	Norfolk	Norwich Family Golf Centre, Dunham Road, Easton, Norwich NR9 5GA
Event	18-Apr	15	Suffolk - Framlingham/Aldborough	Fram Farmers, Station Road, Framlingham, Woodbridge IP13 9EE
Event	01-May	15	Wroxham/Aylsham	New Victory Hall, Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk NR12 8XG
Event	10-May	15	Docking/North Norfolk	Knights Hill Village, Small Barn, South Wootton, Kings Lynn PE30 3HQ
Event	15-May	10	Brecks - Elvedon	Anglia House Business Centre, 24 Bridge Street, Thetford IP24 3AG
Clinic 1	10-May		Norfolk	Norwich Family Golf Centre, Dunham Road, Easton, Norwich NR9 5GA
Clinic 1	09-May		Suffolk - Framlingham/Aldborough	Fram Farmers, Station Road, Framlingham, Woodbridge IP13 9EE
Clinic 1	22-May		Wroxham/Aylsham	New Victory Hall, Street Hill, Neatishead, Norfolk NR12 8XG
Clinic 1	30-May		Docking/North Norfolk	Knights Hill Village, Small Barn, South Wootton, Kings Lynn PE30 3HQ
Clinic 1	31-May		Brecks - Elvedon	Anglia House Business Centre, 24 Bridge Street, Thetford IP24 3AG

Partners please share/promote as applicable – more detail will be on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mid-tier-events-2018-countryside-stewardship/mid-tier-events-timetable-2018>

**NORMAC – Cultivation demonstration day -6<sup>th</sup> September** – planning underway – enthusiasm & commitment good thus far but given CSF GIA limited budget more support needed please.....

**CSF** – Role/remit being expanded by Defra to include Ammonia Emissions/Climate Change and Natural Flood Management.

4 new Nth Anglia CSFOs in post/ up & running –So back up to full complement. Principally re Broads:

[Tim.Sievers@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Tim.Sievers@naturalengland.org.uk) (Wensum) & [Donna.Dean@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Donna.Dean@naturalengland.org.uk) (Yare). Do please include them in comms..... Confident they will make a very positive contribution to CSF & BCP.....

### National Farmers Union

The NFU has elected its first female President in its 110 year history. Minnette Batters is a tenant beef and arable farmer in Wiltshire. The Deputy, arable farmer Guy Smith, from Essex, and Vice President, arable and beef farmer Stuart Roberts, from Hertfordshire mean the Eastern region is well represented in the national team.

Anecdotally, interest in the new simplified Countryside Stewardship packages – 3 out of 4 of which will be relevant to East Anglia including Broadland – appears to be muted. The only firm queries received by the NFU in East Anglia are from members who are ineligible for the scheme.

February saw the Farm Business Updates meeting organised by a range of partners. Farmer attendance at the most local events was Dereham, 68; Wortwell 60; and Lavenham 102. March sees local NFU meetings to help members with their BPS applications, and April will see local meetings to garner member input to the NFU's response to the Defra command paper consultation.

### River Waveney Trust

Whilst we are still in the grip of winter we have been making progress with making the RWT 'fit for purpose'. I am pleased to say that the Board of Trustees have recently welcomed Hugh Taylor onto our Board. He has been Mayor of Beccles and involved in many local projects associated with our River so he is already making a big difference. We have also appointed Caroline Topping as our (part time) Administrator, who has a very

impressive CV. Caroline will be focusing primarily on fundraising and she will be writing to members shortly about her role and forthcoming initiatives. Watch out for a raffle which is being organised this month.

Our three main projects continue to progress, namely:

- 1) The second phase of Geldeston Lock restoration using the services of the Waterway Recovery Group is now planned for 2 weeks in July. Bernard Watson and Andrew Mackney lead on this project.
- 2) Frenze Beck wildlife reserve at Diss - our committed group of volunteers have continued to work through the winter tidying up after the storms and flooding, removing much of a large willow that fell across the channel. Come and visit this County Wildlife site at Sawmills Road, opposite the Animal Feed store.
- 3) The eel project has stalled over the winter as eels disappear into the silt in freezing conditions. Andy Hindes, our fisheries consultant, will be organising a meeting of the eel group to instigate a survey of the marsh dykes to go into a final Report in May.

Also, please continue to visit our website, which we are updating - <http://www.riverwaveneytrust.org/>

We also have our own Facebook page.

### **Essex & Suffolk Water**

Much of the year so far has been spent on attending farmer meetings in the guise of either co-hosting or presenting at:

- NRoSO workshops
- FBU meetings
- Tyres and Traction events with AHDB and CSF
- Machinery and Cultivations events with CSF and;
- Soil Health events with IFA
- Pesticide handling workshops with CSF

As with all water companies, Essex & Suffolk Water are working on their plans for PR19 (Pricing Review 2019) which will determine how and where we will invest in catchment management in the forthcoming AMP 7 (Asset Management Programme) which will run from 2020 until 2025. Deciding how to invest in the catchments from which we abstract in ways that support and improve water quality is made harder because we do not know how the government will be supporting the agricultural sector after we leave the EU.

Moreover, although they have said that funding levels will stay the same until 2022, this is less than halfway through AMP 7. In order to maximise the returns or benefits from what we spend in our catchments we need to identify projects which, at best will do things that the state doesn't do, or at least enhance some of the things it may do. We certainly don't want to duplicate things that are, or will be, funded through whatever support measures will be available to farmers through future agricultural support programmes after Brexit. Not knowing what these may be makes it a difficult and somewhat speculative process!

### **National Trust**

The Riverlands bid did not receive a HLF grant funding from the bid submitted August 2017. We have received feedback and were encouraged to re-submit this month (March 2018). Feedback included:

- Reduction in ask for the project, this has been achieved by reducing the National Programme to 5 catchments, including the Upper Bure. Other catchments will remain in the programme seeking alternative funding opportunities. This reduces the programme from £15m to £13m. No cuts have been applied to the Upper Bure.
- More targeted priority audiences, for the Bure we are focusing on mental health and wellbeing and the benefits that being in nature can provide. There is a focus of young people (14-25yrs) and older people suffering from social isolation.
- Increase in training opportunities and legacy planning.

We expect to hear the outcome of the bid in June 2018.

The restoration of 3 ghost ponds and 3 new ponds on the Felbrigg estate is planned for later this year. Planning permission has just been granted.

<b>Norfolk County Council</b> No update provided.
<b>Norfolk FWAG</b> No update provided.
<b>Norfolk Rivers Trust</b> No update provided.
<b>Norfolk Wildlife Trust</b> No update provided.
<b>RSPB</b> No update provided.
<b>Anglian Water</b> No update provided.
<b>Country Land and Business Association</b> No update provided.
<b>The Rivers Trust</b> No update provided.