

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group Meeting

MINUTES



Thursday 15th December 2016 (10am – 12.30pm)

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

Attendees: Barry Bendall (chair), Kelvin Allen, Robert Camps, David Diggins, Geoff Doggett, Matthew Philpot, Amy Prendergast, Neil Punchard, Will Robinson, Rory Sanderson, Ian Skinner, Alison Smyth, Heidi Smith, Christine Stevens, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes).

Apologies: Rob Holland, Andrea Kelly, Keith Lead, Richard Reynolds, Robin Twigge

	Action items	Actions
1.	Welcome, introductions, apologies	None
	Apologies were received as above. It was agreed to add Web Mapping and Catchment Budget to the agenda.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2016	
	The minutes were agreed as accurate. Actions had been completed as per the action summary included in the agenda. SH had sent NP documents to be circulated.	
3.	BCP key activity since the last steering group meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCP newsletter was circulated in October. Request for articles for January edition. (action) Vicky Short (GIS Officer, Broads Authority) had been working on mapping with NP. Norfolk Rivers Trust data sharing agreement for farm advice set up. Buckenham/Rollesby site visits to look at potential silt trap. Tesco project to improve water quality: Funding received for 10-12 months for a Farm Liaison Officer (line managed by NP) and budget towards technological improvements/kit to offer to farmers. Pilot project that can potentially be rolled out to other catchments. NFU cautiously supportive (dependent on voluntary involvement, no effects on future contract terms, would be good practice for incentives to be available to all farmers not just Tesco suppliers). The group was supportive of a BCP focus on technological innovation around soil infiltration. Farm event 'Improve Soil, Water and Profits': 48 attendees. Short presentation on shared techniques, improving networks, objectives and outcomes, costings, local evidence. Kit and silt trap seen by attendees. Evaluation: worth attending, credible experts, 2/3s of attendees encouraged to try something new as a result such as tramline layout. 	All
4.	EA Priority Waterbodies	
	<p>Amy Prendergast gave a presentation on EA priority water bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA was looking at water quality and health of the river catchment, how to get best value and identify opportunities. Top priority water body mapping was shown and a form circulated for steering group members to highlight information to assist EA. <p>The following 5 areas were discussed and comments given:</p> <p>(1) Hellington Beck (stream takes water from Poringland) Issues: at risk from deterioration, status poor, Rockland Broad at risk of nutrient enrichment, affected by tidal Yare. Plant communities affected and expected fish species not present. Comments: Nursery has expanded a lot. Himalayan Balsam problem.</p>	

	<p>(2) Upper Bure (head waters of Bure to confluence at Scarrow Beck) Issues: Fish barriers need work, improving river habitat, smaller streams need improvements. Working with Upper Bure Valley Partnership. Comments: Norfolk Rivers Trust has done some work here with National Trust and locals and has a contact available. Project in for funding bid. Morphology of river re fish rather than water quality. Natural flood management also being looked at. Case study re fish migration and eels: Sophie's Stream/Wortwell – low cost (12 years ongoing), GD has contact available.</p> <p>(3) Tas (to Tasburgh) Issues: Problems with fish population and dissolved oxygen, sediment run off, low flows, needs more natural channel to improve. Deterioration over recent years. Comments: Dairy farmers close to Yare, Long Stratton sewage works, outdoor pigs have been moved.</p> <p>(4) Smallburgh watercourse Issues: Problems with fish population, low gradient, phosphate concentration (single discharge event at factory, action being taken), enriched plant community. Comments: Farmer perception that the land is totally flat, mapping has been really useful. Large dairy farm moved out of dairy recently (yellow section of map).</p> <p>(5) Blackwater (tributary of Wendling Beck) Issues: Invertebrates and plant communities, crayfish problem, poor habitat needing improvement. Comments: Norfolk Rivers main drain, funding available for work. Norfolk Rivers Trust approached by North Elmham landowner to offer funding to do total restoration re Atkins Report (EA) and is now signed up. River restoration and wetland improvements planned over 18 months. Exemplar project to encourage other local farmers to do similar. Fishermen undertook restoration and have reports (BB). It was confirmed that Mendlesham is being looked at by EA as priority re-funding for rural SUDS.</p>	
5.	<p>Your Fisheries and Waveney TRaC bid</p>	
	<p>Your Fisheries: Barry Bendall gave a presentation on 'Your Fisheries'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Fisheries is a partnership embedded into the catchment approach. • It is a web based evidence tool for fisheries management using information from fishing clubs, historical information, the public and organisations. Data and photos can be uploaded. • A user defined, GIS web tool provides potential for input of information and reporting at a catchment, sub-catchment or sections within sub-catchment scale. • Reports are user driven looking at all species or specific species and are produced in pdf format and on website. • A pilot has been hosted by 2 River Trusts catchments and was rolled out further in 2016/17. • The project has a dedicated fisheries technical specialist (Tom Sherwood, EA secondment) overseeing the pilot rollout. <p>Comments: Great engagement tool, extremely user friendly, huge need as hard to get hold of fisheries data currently.</p> <p>Waveney TRAC project: Geoff Doggett gave a presentation on the Waveney TRAC project. Presentation to be circulated by NP (action).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Waveney Trust was awarded £12k (with an extra £8k in kind contribution from partners) for the Waveney TRAC project. • Four species covered: eel, sea trout, smelt and lamprey with coordination of data 	<p style="text-align: center;">NP</p>

	<p>and a report with deliverable actions being produced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one day workshop at Yare House is planned to present the findings (10am – 4pm March 22nd 2017). • Hypothesis: Eels spend their entire life within Breydon Water. • Dr Mike Pawson, River Waveney Fisheries Advisor (Marine and Freshwater), retiree of CEFAS is leading the project bringing together scientific data and referencing solutions. Any information relating to estuarine, tidal and river Yare please forward this to m-pawson@sky.com (action). <p>Comments: Great to see members’ initiatives working well and a focus on fisheries is excellent for BCP. A fisheries working group may be needed including EA, Broads Authority and Defra to discuss how fisheries work in the Broads will be funded since EA funding withdrawn. NB: If part of an organisations statutory duty HLF will not fund so this needs clarification. It was agreed to include this as an agenda item for BCP Steering Group March meeting (action).</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>NP</p>
6.	BCP budget spending proposals	
	<p>‘Your Fisheries’ officer for Broadland Catchment Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Your Fisheries officer role involves gathering information, coordinating stakeholders and coordinating data to produce integrated management strategies. Partnership between Angling Trust, Rivers Trusts, EA, NE, Fishing Clubs, NTS, private estates and the public. The project involves four stages: gathering information, analysing data, populating the website and fisheries management solutions. • Funding of £5k from WEIF matched by Angling Trust. Request for £5k funding from BCP budget. <p>BCP Steering Group decision: Following discussion the Steering Group agreed to match funding of £5k from the BCP budget. Funding will need to be spent by the end of March 2017.</p> <p>Earthwake tramlines disruption tool: It was noted that the Earthwake tramlines disruption equipment purchase was being postponed until further trials undertaken/farmer feedback received.</p> <p>Upper Bure walkover survey: Christine Stevens gave a presentation on the Upper Bure walkover survey project proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal was for walkover surveys (using tested and proven methodology) to identify project opportunities for river restoration, invasive species management and fish management (barriers) on National Trust and beyond to the whole Broadland catchment. • The need for this work had arisen due to poor ecological status, chalk stream priority, Bure Broads and Marshes SSSI unfavourable status. Some data was already available but a fuller picture was needed. • Outputs would include GIS mapping, project proposals and costings, plus a final report. • Project funding: £26k. National Trust was offering £6,570 in kind and £11,160 cash. Request for £8,500 funding from BCP budget. <p>BCP Steering Group decision: Following discussion the Steering Group agreed to an ‘in principle’ award of £8,500 funding from the BCP budget subject to RS exploration of potential funding assistance via Defra for walkover surveys (action).</p> <p>Following the funding decisions regarding the BCP budget it was agreed to draw up a set of criteria, with consideration of the BCP Broadland Rivers Catchment Plan, for any future project proposal submissions (action).</p>	<p>Decision</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>RS</p> <p>NP</p>

7.	Partner updates	
	Round the room updates were given (see attached sheet). A reminder was given to submit partner updates prior to the meeting.	
8.	Any other business	
	The Environment Agency Waveney Catchment Partnership event had gone very well and had been well attended by farmers.	
9.	Date of next meeting March 2017 - please complete Doodle poll - http://doodle.com/poll/esezdnhbw8d3vp2u	

Action Summary

Who	What	Deadline
All	Send newsletter articles to NP	23 January 2017
NP	Waveney TraC presentation to be circulated	20 January 2017
All	Any information relating to estuarine, tidal and river Yare please forward to: m-pawson@sky.com	23 January 2017
NP	Include fisheries working group discussion as an agenda item for BCP Steering Group March meeting	20 January 2017
RS	Explore potential funding via Defra for walkover surveys	20 January 2017
NP	Draft funding criteria for catchment budget	01 March 2017

Visit: www.broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk to download the catchment plan.

Email: admin@broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk for further information.