

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group Meeting

MINUTES



Thursday 23rd March 2017 (10am – 12.30pm)

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

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (chair), Robert Camps, Richard Cooper, David Diggins, John Hiskett, Sue Hogarth, Simon Hooton, Keith Lead, Joss Moore, Amy Prendergast, Neil Punchard, Rory Sanderson, Ian Skinner, Heidi Smith, Christine Stevens, Robin Twigge, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes).

Apologies: Kelvin Allen, Barry Bendall, Graham Brown, Geoff Doggett, Rob Holland, Matthew Philpot, Richard Reynolds, Ian Robinson, Will Robinson, Alison Smyth, Paul Sorrell

	Action items	Actions
1.	Welcome, introductions, apologies	None
	Apologies were received as above. It was noted that Geoff Doggett was stepping down from membership of the group. The Chair expressed thanks for his input to the BCP Steering Group. Keith Lead would now be the main contact from the River Waveney Trust.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2016	
	The minutes were agreed as accurate.	
3.	BCP key activity since the last steering group meeting	
	<p>BCP recap of activities: A slide was shown that highlighted work achieved by the Broadland Catchment Partnership since its inception.</p> <p>Wonder Wheel: This piece of equipment has been purchased and is being trialled. There is lots of interest and it is providing good engagement potential. The Wonder Wheel is being used as the project is working with potato growers. The Earthwake is still in prototype stages and will be promoted to cereal growers to trial. A postcard with information about how to take part in Wonder Wheel trials has been distributed.</p> <p>Publicity: Farming Today included a piece on improving run-off and reducing sediment to rivers. Rob Wise facilitated an article for the NFU 'Farmers & Growers' East Anglia. The Broads Authority is providing 1000 fliers to go out to IDB bill payers.</p> <p>Newsletter: The latest BCP Newsletter went out. Articles for the next newsletter requested (action).</p> <p>UEA NERC bid: A UEA NERC bid for monitoring effectiveness of Natural Flood Management and scaling up across catchments was unfortunately unsuccessful, however other options are available via NERC and these may be pursued.</p> <p>Recruitment for Catchment Coordinator: The water sensitive farming part of the role will be undertaken by Neil Punchard. A job description for the Catchment Coordinator role is going through the BA evaluation process an ad will go out at the end of March and recruitment will start in mid-April for a June start.</p>	All
4.	Natural Flood Management (NFM)	
	<p>Rory Sanderson gave a presentation on Natural Flood Management (NFM).</p> <p>Context: £1million of funding from the FCRM budget was announced at the end of last year for local groups (up to £50k per project). Defra also has a £15million settlement allocated to projects, part of which can be used to build the NFM evidence base.</p> <p>Methodology: The built environment is creating problems and projects are needed to</p>	

	<p>emulate what natural systems would have done in order to mitigate adverse effects created. Soft engineering solutions to slow the flow include grip blocking, shelter belts, woodlands, woody debris, reconnecting flood plains, coastal processes, removing certain hard structures. A move away from hard engineering solutions is needed.</p> <p>Links: This provides an opportunity to link to work already going on re water quality and has biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>NFM opportunity mapping: Number of properties affected is used to help define funding. This is also needed for NFM. Impacts of tree planting, water storage, alternating flows, land management and soil structure to be included.</p> <p>Comments summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another mapping tool to use to communicate effectively and target actions, but potentially duplicates mapping already done. • Suggestion that the model used for BCP GIS mapping using farmer input is more likely to achieve 'buy-in' to the project. • This highlights the need to have projects ready to go when such funding becomes available at short notice. Long term planning rather than year on year is preferable. 	
5.	<p>Diffuse Water Pollution Plan Update</p>	
	<p>Joss Moore and Sue Hogarth gave a presentation on the Norfolk and Suffolk Diffuse Water Pollution Plans that they are leading on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be 8 plans, but focussing on Wensum, Bure and Yare first. • Currently the project is at the development stage looking at how to work with others, sharing information, evidence gathering, planning local site meetings, farmer contacts, newsletters etc. • WEIF bids have been submitted for monitoring funding following water quality modelling. <p>Comments summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With negative messages there is a danger of 'finger pointing' and this needs to be avoided. Evidence based context of how farming fits into the overall problem needs careful management. Any actions arising need to be non-disruptive and beneficial to farming businesses. NFU happy to help with workshops on this basis. • Danger of overloading farmers with yet another scheme, particularly those who are already well targeted. FWAG can help with specific problems and talking to appropriate farmers. • Ground truthing data and workshops are needed to inform the plans. • Ensuring sufficient funding is identified will be crucial to ensure arising actions can actually be tackled. Transparency and 'fair share' approach needed when targeting any funding raised. • Independent research helps to provide non biased view that is more acceptable to those hearing advice. • Using and incorporating all aspects of monitoring and mapping is needed particularly at a sub catchment level. Highways data analysis and clarification of their role would help. 	
6.	<p>Upper Bure – Crayfish walkover surveys</p>	
	<p>It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.</p> <p>An additional item was discussed at this point: CANAPE update Andrea Kelly gave a presentation updating the group on progress of the CANAPE Interreg project bid for which Broads Authority is acting as lead. News about whether the bid has been successful is expected in May/early June. The project is looking at</p>	

	creating a new approach to peatland ecosystems with creation of peatland product and markets, wider engagement and furthering activity at Hickling Broad.	
7.	BCP Admin	
	<p>Working groups (Fisheries, Natural Flood Management):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of a Fisheries and a NFM sub-group of the BCP was suggested. This could be coordinated by the new Catchment Coordinator. • The fisheries transitional coastal water funding bid had been successful. AK gave a summary of the TRaC report and outcomes of the recent meeting. • Pressures on populations and an actions report would be ready by the end of April. • Andy Moore of CEFAS is working on a smelt project looking at DNA analysis above and beyond barriers • Production of an action plan re habitat improvements will link all fisheries groups and commercial groups. • A new bid for TRaC waters funding has been submitted to the EA from the RWT and subsequent to this meeting has been confirmed to be successful. An EA project is looking at tagging and tracking coarse fish in the Broads system to help with monitoring effects of prymnesium, saline incursion, habitats and populations. <p>Funding criteria: It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.</p> <p>Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016-17 was reviewed - a healthy position with carry forward for 2017-2018. • 2017-18: Income £15k from Defra CaBA host funding plus Water Sensitive Farming of £30k. This covers the cost of NP role (with on-costs). There could be NFM funding up to £50K subject to a successful bid in June 2017. 	
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	
	A free offer of a filter fence made of geotextile mesh, used to capture sediment, is available from the EA to be used by the BCP for trialling. A video was shown to demonstrate how the filter fences are used. There is potential for BCP to purchase further filter fences. An alternative to this method is using stacked straw bales incorporated in the soil at the end, a less labour intensive method.	
9.	Date of next meeting	
	20 th June 2017, Yare House, 10am.	

Action Summary

Who	What	Deadline
All	Provide articles for the next BCP Newsletter. Email to NP.	07/04/2017

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

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