

WWMF Minutes

Title of meeting: Wales Water Management Forum (WWMF)

Location: Tŷ Mawr Country Park

Date of Meeting: 10th March 2020

Present WWMF Members:

Attendees Present: Professor Steve Ormerod (CHAIR), Ceri Davies (NRW), Rhian Thomas (NRW), Ceri Jones (NRW), Chiara Caserotti (NRW), Richard Dearing (NRW), Helen Millband (NRW), Eifiona Williams (WG), Fergus O'Brian (DCWW), Liz Franks (HD), Richard Blakewell (WRW, covering for UU), Dennis Matheson (TFA Cymru), Ian Watson (CA), Rachel Lewis-Davies (NFU Cymru), Bob Gilchrist (CCW), Stephen Marsh-Smith (Afonydd Cymru for WEL)

Apologies: Sian Williams (NRW), Anthony Geddes (Confor), Luke Davies (WG Marine and Fisheries Division), Bernard Griffiths (FUW), Emyr Williams (Snowdonia National Park Authority, representing the 3 National Parks), Dave Throup (Environment Agency), Tony Harrington (DCWW), Carl Banton (Coal Authority), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales), Jean-Francois Dulong (WLGA), Kristian James (Public Health Wales),

Secretariat: Ceri Jones

Correspondence Members: Dai Harris (WG -Land, Nature and Forestry Branch), Peter Birch (Canals and Rivers Trust)

Other Attendees:

- Howard Stephens – River Alyn Project
- Rebeca Thrower and Matt Hemsworth – (speaker) JBA consultancy, River Alyn project
- Dominic Scott Water - (speaker) WG Water Branch, SUDs session

Item 1 Welcome and apologies (Professor Steve Ormerod, Chair)

An overview of the days agenda was given and member introductions. There were some last minute apologies (recorded above) due to the current health concerns and the impacts of Storm Dennis.

Item 2 Agree minutes and review actions from previous meeting (Professor Steve Ormerod, Chair)

Agreed minutes and actions from the last meeting, no actions were carried over. A final version will be circulated and made available on the NRW website page for WWMF <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/water/wales-water-management-forum/?lang=en>

Item 3 River Alyn Restoration Project (Rebecca Thrower – JBA consultancy)

The River Restoration work being undertaken in Wales and specifically in the Alyn catchment was presented including an overview of the work JBA are undertaking across Wales.

Discussion

There was a broad discussion following the presentation picking up the following points:

- How many surveys are being undertaken and when the outcome will be delivered, clearly understanding the limiting factors to deliver these needs to be included, for example gaining landownership permissions.
- How these fit in with the SMNR programme, including water quality and how we are targeting campaigns within catchments to improve water quality and quantity.
- Consideration of the impacts of minewaters, in particular with the Alyn study with the complexities of the historic tunnel.
- How are the outcomes funded ~ through flood risk management or land management work, other?
- Ensuring we link up across projects and work with landowners.

Item 4 Water Resources West (Richard Blackwell - United Utilities)

The work of Water Resources West was presented. The work includes all abstractions not just water companies and picks up both England and Wales, it is the only cross border Plan. The group is looking at 2025 and beyond, the draft Plan is expected 2021, final Plan 2023 with delivery from 2025.

Discussion

There was a broad discussion following the presentation picking up the following points:

- How does this work link in with the Drainage and Waste Water Plans ~ looking at consistency in language and opportunities for join up.
- Question in relation to the water transfer proposals rather than WRW.

Item 5 Update on Water Framework Directive (Rhian Thomas - NRW)

- Challenges and Choices Consultation
- Cycle 3 work
- Opportunity catchments and wider ambition for cycle 3

The Forum were updated on the now closed WFD consultation 'Challenges and Choices', the responses are currently being reviewed and the key points will be included in the draft RBMPs which are due to be consulted on in December 2020. The timetable to deliver the updated RBMPs was shared and the approach being taken. From the Challenges and Choices responses the links to how these deliver a Placed- Based Approach is being included. The Opportunity Catchments will be included alongside ambition towards 2027. Further detail of this work will be shared through the RBMP Task and Finish Group and included in the next Forum.

Discussion

- Query raised in relation to the ambition for this third cycle and what happens beyond 2027
- It was suggested that a broader view was taken and looked at 'packages of measures'

Item 6 Area Statements – Update (Richard Dearing - NRW)

Richard provided an overview of the Area Statements work focusing ahead of the April launch. They provide a snapshot in time and key is the discussions which will continue. Each includes Themes and the specific vision for the Area together with a list of the priorities.

Item 7 SUDS: one year on from legislation - making SUDS compulsory in Wales (Dominic Scott - Welsh Government)

From January 2019 SUDS came into place including standards for development, guidance and FAQs.

There has been about 400 applications , they had expected between 4,000 – 7,000. For 2020 working with stakeholders and looking at any issues to improve the approach, including a review of this approach. There was a request for the NFU to be involved so that any requirements for the farming community can be looked at. Some discussion on how this is working with the agriculture sector and the need for improvement.

ACTION: RLD to work with WG on the SUDs work

Item 8 Water Update (Paper 1) (Ceri Jones – NRW)

Paper 1 was provided in advance of the meeting and the Forum were invited to raise any questions.

The paper includes any relevant updates to the other Forums -

- Wales Land Management Forum
- Wales Fisheries Forum
- Wales Marine Advisory and Action Group (WMAAG)

Item 9 Any other business

- Water Company Updates – both Dwr Cymru and United Utilities provided a brief update on the Water Company programme

Close meeting @ 15:00 and next meeting 7th October 2020