**Roman Wall Loughs sub-catchment meeting 2**

The Sill, 4th April 2018

*Heather Brittlebank (HB); Rob Carr (RC); Ema Caskie (EC); Gill Thompson (GT); Jack Bloomer (JB); Becky Hetherington (BH). Apologies: Ian Everard (IE).*

Minutes and Actions

HB shared the draft report from the specialist visit to the Loughs last year and picked out the following summary points:

* Plant species targets to be slightly tweaked to better reflect local conditions
* TP target to stay the same
* P concentrations driven by external supply
* No real change since 2008
* Hydrological pathways wet weather walkover useful next step
* Blocking ditches also a recommendation
* Cattle grazing at Broomlee not thought to be causing a problem

Everyone thought it was useful to have clarification on these points. RC confirmed that the EA would not be changing the targets in the foreseeable future. The next river basin management plan (RBMP) cycle is 2021-2027.

* HB to circulate final report when available
* HB to ask specialists to clarify conclusions for Greenlee Lough
* HB to update favourable condition tables (used for monitoring) in Q3/4 and share with all. This will clarify lake classifications.
* HB to ask if the fish in Crag Lough are considered a concern

It was agreed that it would be very useful to have an overview map of the Loughs area showing all the various projects that have taken place. HB mentioned ‘story maps’ as a new way of presenting information and said this could be useful for the Loughs.

* GT to start mapping projects for the NNPA then circulate to all to add projects
* HB to find out what information Newcastle University have for the Loughs

Rob updated the group that the Crayfish specialist (Ian Marshall) was not aware of any surveys and there was nothing planned. The group did not consider this a priority for the time being, as anecdotal evidence showed that crayfish were still present on the site.

* RC to have a further discussion with specialist to see if there are any suggestions

JB updated the group about Chainley burn which is being looked at for fish passage (Chainley leads up to Crag Lough).

RC had looked at the recommendations in the Stirling University reports which are slightly dubious in some of the facts (such as fertiliser use or arable land!).

* RC to circulate a summary of the recommendations in a table for the group to comment on, this can then be taken forward at the next meeting.

Gill had circulated her reports for Broomlee and it was thought that there could be potential for some further grip blocking above Dove Crag.

* *Was there any action here?*

HB updated the group that the funding bid for a ‘hydrological pathways’ project had been unsuccessful. GT said that she had been in discussion with their GIS person and thought they may be able to do something with drones. The group thought this could be a good way forward, and it was decided to submit a WEG bid to try and get some funding assistance. The drone survey in wet weather would be checked against a walkover to identify where the main flows into the loughs are, and what measures could be undertaken to reduce these. RC offered to help with the WEG bid.

* GT to submit a WEG bid for drone survey/walkover/follow up work.

There was a discussion around the forestry aspect of the catchment and the group looked at the forest design plans that Gill had provided.

* JB to send forest streams report to group
* HB to ask Bob Cussen about sunken vehicle in Bell Crag flow
* RC to speak to Tom Dearnley to clarify next felling period so we can consider putting in a sonde (monitoring device) in the inflows to Greenlee at the same time.

RC confirmed that sondes were £235 a month to install.

EC updated the group on the cameras that had been installed. They had a number of technical difficulties and the results were not analysed but a quick look had shown the cattle did not seem to spend a lot of time in Broomlee Lough. They are available if it is thought useful to use again but this was not a priority for the group at present.

* EC to add location of the cameras onto project map

EC updated the group about the solar pump which was trialled; it was not very effective and has now been broken up and no longer in use. The technology is still not very reliable and it was agreed that it was not cost effective to follow this up further at this point in time.

BH gave an update on the National Trust Estate Management Plan:

* Draft ambition agreed
* Next step is discussions with tenants

RC mentioned some new ‘farming rules’ that had just been released which the group were not yet aware of.

* RC to circulate new farming rules to the group

GT explained that a decision on the tenancies north of Greenlee Lough was expected later this year, around June/July.

* HB to do a doodle poll for the next meeting, scheduled for end of September as the summer months are very busy for everyone.