

River Team sub-catchment Partnership Notes

26th March 2018 at Gateshead Civic Centre

Attendees Rob Carr(EA), Gayle Wilson(GC), Peter Shield(GC), Jimmy Young(GC), Mark Dinning(DWT), Michele MacCallum(GK), Liz Walters(TRT), Matthew Ford (GC).

Minutes of the last meeting - ACTIONS BROUGHT FORWARD

EW to check if copies of annotated maps are at TRT or original images

ES to check priority areas for Northumbria Water

1. Discussions about whether Northumbrian Water should continue with ammonia testing for PR19 and that they want a catchment solution for the Team but focus is required for it to move forward.
2. A query was raised as to whether TRT could still lead the Team Sub-catchment partnership. Very likely but EW to double check with MN.

Governance of partnership

3. Discussion of other organisations/members that should be invited/involved including Durham County Council, Coal Authority. Possibility for an inner core who attend meetings with a wider email address list of relevant contacts. Recent changes at Team Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme (TVFAS) and need list of UK land managers. Durham County Council contact Brian Weatherall (LLFA), Zoe Thirlaway (LPA –policy) and Stuart Priestley (ecologist). Neil Wilkinson (GC) could chair Team meetings and would also provide a link to TVFAS. Helen Cheeseman from Team Valley Flood Alleviation scheme is engagement officer at who holds contacts for Team Valley Flood Alleviation engagement plan. Other contacts – landowners, developers, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Beamish Museum etc.

ACTION EW pull together partnership contact spreadsheet list – core working group and wider mailing list.

ACTION GW to check Neil Wilkinson will be chair, assist with GIS mapping of constraints/development within catchment, and assist EW with contact list.

ACTION RC to share GIS shapefiles and investigations for Rowletch Burn.

EW to speak to Paul Atkinson and Simone Price about the Wear DCC contacts

4. Sharing documents – use GCC Egress project management system and any reports from EA and GCC could be added.

ACTION GW to arrange Egress system for Team Catchment Partnership.

5. River Team Vision: A vision for the Team like the one for the Don would be very useful e.g. cross boundary planning.

Rob Carr: lessons learnt from Ouseburn/Don Visions. Key issues for Team Catchment Partnership: WFD failure- chemical investigations, Team Valley flood alleviation scheme, A1 widening, strategic economic and housing growth, minewater/groundwater issues, wildlife corridor, land management, ancient woodlands, industrial legacy and reclamation.

ACTION GW to circulate Peter Bell's diagram of opportunities/constraints from Team Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme to assist visioning and mapping.

ACTION EW to provide a draft of vision for the next meeting.

6. Funding from the A1 widening project. NNP could support any bids via Jim Cokill.

Communications. Important to establish communications strategy early as lots of good work being done through TCP generally but not much publicity. Might be able to utilise TVFAS communications for Team partnership? Invite Sarah Darling and Helen Cheeseman from EA to the next meeting?

Clare Deasy has created a 2 page poster for TCP, could we create a similar one for the Team.

Action EW to check if KM could be involved with the communications for TEAM.

7. When the vision has been created, an action plan should be written. Template for action plan should be agreed and then all partners can help populate action plan.

Action plan should have 3 time periods: short medium and long.

Short term 3 years, Medium term 5 years, Long term 10 years.

Items to include from the TCP action plan: Ryton Water, TV FAS including - Lamesley Water Meadows, Coal Authority, Rowletch Burn.

Could LAs share paragraph in their local plans about the River Team as they do for the River Don?

ACTION GW to look at this.

8. Discussion about Natural Environment and Biodiversity. River Team is in a NVZ and is more rural than the Don. It is more ecologically significant than the Don eg Woodland PAWS, reclamation / heathland SSSI and LWS. DCC has significant land holdings in upper catchment which is characterised by grazing, arable and forestry areas. Amount in Countryside Stewardship is unknown.

Other contacts for these meeting could include NE, FC, WT, Beamish officers.

DCC does not have too much development planned – **second tier** protected DCC land.

WT has acquired 13 ha land as an extension to their Hedley Hall site. They have £10,000 local levy money and plan work including deculvert piped water course and some woodland creation. They have also acquired a further extension of 5 ha to the south which includes Ridley Gill SSSI. Hedley Hall is a SSSI and a failing WFD waterbody along with complimentary projects. The SSSI is water dependent as it is a wet woodland. Feasibility already paid for already but WT needs an evidence base to underpin a WEG bid. Woodland Trust contacts are Sian Atkinson and Richard Wilson. The risk is that added benefits could be missed. Could we provide a letter of support from the catchment partnership?

9. Other funding. There is no WEIF money available for the River Team. Possibilities for WEG are: land management, invasives, obstructions bid to carry out similar work to the Don.

GCC would support a WEG bid.

10. Next Meeting should be arranged for early June. By then we need a draft of the Action Plan, to include a contacts from DCC, either:

- Natural Environment Stuart Priestly

- flooding Brian Weatherall

ACTION EW to create doodlepoll