



## TYNE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

**24 September 2019 9.30am – 2.45pm**

**St Andrew's Church Hall, Lamesley**

Present: Ceri Gibson(Chair), Hazel Leah (NWG), Abi Mansley(NNPA), Michelle Hogg(STC), Dorothy Fairburn(CLA), Peter Shield(GMBC), Jimmy Young(GMBC), Clare Deasy(NWG), Becky Hetherington(NT), Lesley Silvera(Groundwork), Mark Dinning(DWT), Luke Hemmings(FC), Lynn Turner (KFWP), Maria Hardy(NE), Graham Holyoak(TRT), Liz Walters(TRT)

**1. Welcome and introductions** Ceri Gibson Tyne Rivers Trust

**2. Team update** Liz Walters(TRT)

The Vision is nearing completion, partners' comments have taken longer than predicted to include in the document.

**ACTION** EW to arrange a sub-catchment partnership meeting before the end of the year.

There is lots of activity in the catchment, TRT and Groundwork are delivering an engagement project through WEIF funding in the Rowletch catchment. TRT are visiting all land holdings in the area and will write pinpoint reports on each location. Groundwork are engaging with industrial units, prioritising those thought to be most risky for a visit and report.

### **Peter Shield GMBC**

Birtley Ibstock update, discharge of detailed ecological conditions with planned positive management in the future.

Team Valley FAS involves a broad range of interventions, project has been quiet for some time but renewed impetus recently. A business case is being put forward for deculverting works at Eslington Park, a raft of small NFMs and creating additional flood storage at Lamesley Pastures.

Discussions followed on regarding where the funding for these projects would come from and whether organisations can be asked to carry out the work rather than fund it.

The A1 road improvement scheme was also discussed and Peter Shields confirmed that timings meant that this work would not be carried out in conjunction with the improvements to nearby tributaries.

**ACTION** Rob Carr (Graeme Hull?) to speak to HE about funding for this work.

Further discussions took place about a possible HE funded project to restore grassland at Penshaw monument. DWT have received some funding from HE for Brightwater and suggested that having firm plans was a great benefit.

### **Lesley Silvera Groundwork**

Lesley provided an update on the St Bede's and Ibstock works there is still engagement work to do with the local community here and monitoring of the interventions.

### **3. River Don update** Ceri Gibson (on behalf of Rob Carr)

RC had a constructive meeting with JBA regarding the IAMP development. The Planning Inspector is confident a good few kilometres of river restoration will be paid for by the developer.

**ACTION** more detailed update from RC will be provided after next IAMP meeting.

MD developing project with NWG money, consultant, Mark Parnell is collating data from Don partners. Keith Bowey will pull this together and look at developing 6 or so projects to discuss with DCP. The intention would be to choose two to take forward, DWT would work up a funding bid. Options include habitat creation and engagement and the next stage is a meeting between the consultants, RC, MD and TRT.

**ACTION** RC to arrange DCP and include Keith Bowey for end October

### **4. Ouseburn update** Lesley Silvera (Groundwork)

Sub-catchment partnership held 2 weeks ago and attended by Newcastle City Council, EA, NWT, NU and TRT.

Ouseburn trust are updating their Management plan for 2020-2030 and are asking for consultation until mid October.

**ACTION** ALL comment on management plan <https://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/news/2020-30>

Other projects include IGLOO brownfield site developed with ecohomes (link below) and the NWT wild city project which is also being consulted on.

[http://www.iglooregeneration.co.uk/portfolio\\_page/the-malings-newcastle/](http://www.iglooregeneration.co.uk/portfolio_page/the-malings-newcastle/)

Discussions followed on the NWT wild city project which is being led by Elaine Moor at NWT and involves consultant Katherine William.

There has been lots of new developments in the upper catchment eg Banks open cast coal mine application to mine 75m lower, there is an issue with water flow. Callerton remeandering project is under review. HE will buy land from NCC and use a pond east of the A1 as a water cleansing facility. It has been a difficult legal process which is nearing conclusion. TRT Facilitation Fund ongoing.

### **5. South Tyne** Hazel Leah (NWG)

Sub catchment meeting proving difficult to arrange so will now wait until the draft determinant has been finalised. NWG has been told that WINUP, which includes the South Tyne project, has been fully funded so there should ultimately be funding available. The next stage will be to reinvigorate the project.

**ACTION** HL to organise catchment partnership meeting in Nov/Dec and develop the Vision document.

Discussions followed on the scale of the potential funding and what the project could deliver. The initial funding could total £1/2 million and match funding would be sought in addition to this. Which projects receive funding is open for discussion but each one would need to address WQ and sediment issues but also 'slow the flow', NERC project, and habitat improvements in the upper catchment.

#### **Hadrians Wall Loughs** Abi Mansley (NNPA)

The sub-catchment partnership met on 9<sup>th</sup> May. The NNPA WEG UAV (drone) project has been successfully completed, surveys took place in April. Gill Thompson, NNPA Ecologist has produced a report. The survey found poor farming practice including cattle fed near watercourses and inappropriate drainage, enforcement action is taking place.

**ACTION** send round report and online footage links

Sam Almond (NE) is contracting work to remedy the drainage work but this has not happened yet. A programme to monitor phosphates and sediment from forestry land has been costed at £11,000 but FE does not have the funding available currently. There is a possible link here in the short term to the Adopt a Stream monitoring programme.

Videos and still photographs are saved in a folder for each lough in the following Google drives:

Crag lough <https://photos.app.goo.gl/SSidGBkq9REF3WsR9>

Greenlee lough <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xDngwB5cgE3s9ZhL9>

Broomlee lough <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7KGSiNT6CnpTj1HNA>

NNPA has a feasibility study on improvement on NNPA land to north which is currently still being decided. Also EA are looking at creating a white – clawed crayfish ark site at Broomlee and possibly also Crag Lough. Ian Marshall is carrying out water sampling to check the suitability of the sites.

#### **6. Revitalising Redesdale** Maria Hardy (NE)

This is an HLF project with cultural and ecological projects all based within the Rede catchment which extends from Catcleugh reservoir down to Redesmouth. It is 24 miles length and there are 12 different project themes and 20 projects in total. The Rede catchment improvement project is a key project and RR wants to include as many farmers as possible, with Otterburn a main focus. RR has been working with OS ecology to protect freshwater pearl mussels during this project to carry out the following works:

- Re-establish natural river processes
- Slow flows and capture sediment
- Build rapid and riffle features
- New wetland areas
- Plant trees or riverbanks and manage grazing.

Projects worth £1/2 million

1. rapid bank erosion at Dunn's houses, Otterburn was eroding a historic site and creating a severe sediment source. Groundwork working with a contractor has put in a back water

channel, deflector and a larch matrix, rooted willow and coir matting on the eroded bank. This was tested in August with the highest flows ever recorded in Otterburn and survived.

2. Rattenraw has severe erosion resulting from upstream management issues, Groundwork has worked with the contractor on moorland to hold water back during flood events. Anecdotal evidence reported that about 50% of water was held back during events in August and it has increased the number of waders breeding locally.
3. Smoutel ford project – the river has been modified and over deepened in this stretch resulting in a canal-type situation. Some parts of the river are readjusting naturally and there has been some minor work carried out by TRT to diversify the river geomorphology.

Michelle MacCallam has led this project to improve the river and reinstate the ford. The ford now consists of raised areas of underwater rock creating an artificial riffle and stepping stones. There are also plans for further riffles downstream.

Discussions followed regarding the nature of the right of way at Smoutel Ford. There is an event on 9<sup>th</sup> October work – liaise with MH.

### **7. Adopt-a-Stream** Graham Holyoak Tyne Rivers Trust

The idea for this project came through TCP, where a need for monitoring by local groups of their stream was identified. The My Tyne app has been developed which allows volunteers to record their data eg invasives, WQ and wildlife.

Water quality tests include phosphates, nitrates and nitrites which are mainly indicative but give a picture long term. The volunteers are asked to test on a fortnightly basis and the test takes 10-15 mins, they are also asked to record, rainfall, water level, blocked drains and flooding with photos. The images are uploaded and TRT are alerted to any information that needs action.

Each volunteer needs to be trained and given a personal login before having access to the water quality section of the app. The app is designed not just as a communication tool but also as a device to get people engaged with their local river. The app gives information about who to report things to and provides the following benefits:

- Long term record
- Plan volunteer tasks more efficiently
- Raise funding from corporates
- Some surveys link directly to LAs and ERIC

Since January, 60 volunteers have been trained to monitor for water quality and there is a total of 185 users. There are three further training days coming up.

#### **ACTION** EW link to Bellingham volunteers

There is potential to work with Newcastle University to test My Tyne kit against scientific equipment.

Success so far has been finding keen new volunteers who can't commit to conservation tasks but can 'adopt a stream'. Several partners have been keen to involve their volunteers and it fits very well into existing projects and is a good legacy project. The project received 'highly commended' at the Love Northumberland awards last month.

The set-up funding was obtained through an enforcement undertaking and small grants for kits and training are available from small grant funders. Further core funding is required for data

management, recruiting and managing volunteers and website costs. The initial idea was for each TCP partner to contribute a small amount annually to fund the project. Larger funding bids to grant funder are being explored.

Discussion followed on the need to manage access to monitoring sites carefully, quality of data, need for volunteers in specific locations and the huge potential advantages of a network of volunteers regularly monitoring waterbodies. Also opportunities to learn from the Catchment in crisis project and to expand Adopt a stream into Redesdale and potential to link with 'Dragonfly'. Dragonfly is an output of the Enabling the Rural Revolution sprint at the NWG Innovation Festival, which would provide a network of water sensors that can bring 5G connectivity into rural areas.

NWG are committed to exploring the concept and supporting initial development of this technology with business partners.

**ACTION** GH to investigate linking Adopt-a-Stream

CG to send reminder to partners for funding

### **8. Medium Term Plan (MTP) update** Ceri Gibson on behalf of Rob Carr Environment Agency

The MTP budget for the region for next year is £500,000, there will be additional funding for revenue projects later in the year and Rob Carr already has a list of potential projects which don't all score highly for natural capital. In this region there are projects submitted which total £750,000.

It is likely that there will be a second round of WEG which will be funded with underspend from the first round.

Woods for Water funding is entering its third year, it is funded through both EA and FC and encourages new woodland creation focussing on river improvement, high flood risk zones. A list of advisors for the scheme is available. It acts as top up funding to CS and applications can be supported by EA Catchment Coordinators and EA catchment sensitive farm advisors.

Discussions followed on Woods for Water funding including the following points:

- New schemes on public register
- Maximum funding is £2,000 per scheme on top of CS, on delivery of project
- can be urban
- minimum hecтарage is 0.5ha, if less than 2 ha the application is an abridged process.
- The minimum density on riverbanks is 1600 stems per hectare (approx. ¾ metre spacing) and spacing doesn't have to be uniform, trees can be thinned following the sign-off period of 10 years.

**ACTION** EAW to circulate Woods for Water public register

### **9. NWG Water Environment Scheme and Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) updates** Clare Deasy Northumbrian Water(NWG)

Rob Carr has been raising awareness regarding CSOs since last year.

CD presented an update from NWG (see attached document).

Discussions followed about the CSO at Shibdon Meadow. CD will take the enquiries back to operations teams.

**10. Activity Plan and Log** Liz Walters Tyne Rivers Trust

The Tyne Catchment Partnership Activity Log and Plan need updating, this is a requirement of all catchment partnerships. These documents were sent out prior to this meeting, please return any further comments to me by the end of September.

**ACTION** EAW to put updated Activity Plan and Log on website

**11. AOB and date of next meeting**

Abi Mansley promoted the NNPA connectivity YOGA event. This is run by EA staff, volunteering, for NNPA staff who are struggling to understand WQ info. There are spaces available for staff/volunteers from NGOs if required, contact Katharine Lewis. It is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October and will take two hours.

**ACTION** EAW to promote this, there are 10 spaces for NGO vols and staff.

This year's Rivers Trust Conference concentrates on Resilient Partnerships

Date of next meeting: February 2020, please participate in the Doodlepoll for the most convenient date, link in the email with this document.