



## TYNE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

**11 February 2020 9.30am – 12:30pm**

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

Present: Ceri Gibson(Chair), Sam Almond(NE), Abi Mansley(NNPA), Ben Scotting(NPAONB), Sarah Jackson(STC), Clare Deasy(NWG), Maria Hardy (RR), Katharine Birdsall(EA), Natalie Rutter(NCC), Alice McCourt(NWT), Duncan Hutt(NWT), Clare Rawcliffe (STC), Peter Shield(GMBC), Jimmy Young(GMBC), Liz Walters(TRT)

Apologies: Lynn Turner, Andy Large, Sian Atkinson, Chris Watson, Rebecca Hetherington, Robin Earle, Tony Baines, Rob Carr, Mark Dinning, Angus Collingwood, Hazel Leah

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

**2. Revitalising Redesdale update** Maria Hardy

See also attached document.

Since September the following events have taken place as part of the River Restoration improvement project:

Oct: Farming and Water Event, Otterburn attended by 21 including Farm Advisors

Nov: Riparian Planting Tree Planting with volunteers led by TRT at Dunns & Garretshiels, Otterburn 400 trees so far

Nov: *The Power of Partnership Working* Article in the Roebuck

Dec: Modular River Physical (MoRPh) survey Training

Coming up in March 2020

- Riparian Tree Planting
- Livestock exclusion fencing and tree planting
- Progressing Durtrees Burn and Shittleheugh plans

Peatland work including grit blocking, reprofiling, Sitka Spruce removal with Jennifer Care.

CD Could the Roebuck article be added to CaBA as a case study?

**ACTION** MH to send article to CABA to be included as a specific site case study. Link below:

Revitalising Redesdale Article :Currently showing in **News** on the RR Home page  
<https://www.revitalisingredesdale.org.uk/>, and direct link is  
<https://www.revitalisingredesdale.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Roebuck149-RedesdaleRiver.pdf>

### **3. Don sub-catchment update** Liz Walters

The Don partnership has used the NWG funding held by the DWT to employ Glead Ecological & Environmental Services to collect information on GIS, carry out a SWOT analysis and identify some potential projects.

PS Disappointed that this information has not been circulated amongst the partners.

This year's WEIF Don project has been completed.

PS Follingsby MAX phase 1 Reserve Matter application has been sent in for one of the development platforms.

**ACTION** EAW to contact Mark Dinning and send out the Don projects information from Glead.

**ACTION** ALL to look at Follingsby MAX planning application link below:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/5318/View-or-comment-on-a-planning-application> ref no DC/20/00021/REM

### **4. Ouseburn sub catchment update** - supplied by Rob Carr after the meeting

Highways England have been looking into creating a reedbed to deal with the discharge from the A1 east of the Ouseburn crossing. They have had problems purchasing the land and have decided to put to stop to the project.

### **5. South Tyne**

Vision document not yet completed, NWG will be recruiting to fill the South Tyne project post from April, there will be some delay as there is a need for business case approval. NWG is getting less money for the WINEP than they asked for but this will not be allowed to effect the delivery of the project.

BS NPAONB are carrying out tree planting with EA and CA to reduce the sediment load at Wellhope Burn. They will also be planting approximately 4,800 trees at Coalcleugh and Carrshield near the tailings dam in the next planting season 2020/21.

### **6. Team update**

- WEIF Rowletch 2019/20 EA, TRT, Groundwork – progressing, site visits mostly completed, EA are working with an in-house team looking at Westline Industrial Estate and NWG are investigating the possibility of a comprehensive misconnections survey.
- TVFAS grant funding progressing
- Hedley Hall Woods NFM scheme, progress made with Gateshead flood team and agreed to include as part of TVFAS for funding reasons.
- EAW meeting with Durham CC regarding Vision 13<sup>th</sup> Feb

- Following the above meeting, the Vision will be sent out to all partners and the next Team sub catchment partnership meeting organised

**PS** A1 Improvement scheme, Development Consent Order has been submitted and inspectors asking for feedback. GMBC are responding and looking at various issues including surface water. The submission is online, GMBC is reviewing it and have flagged concerns/issues. EA will be consulted.

Discussions followed about whether NWG would be consulted and lack of attenuation and oil treatments on Highways England projects. It was also observed that Highways England have not fulfilled their promises on the Testos roundabout project and considerable sediment has entered the River Don.

**ACTION** EAW to provide link to DCO, ALL to feedback thoughts to PS

**ACTION** PS to ask why there is inconsistency in treating run-off to remove oil and about the multi-functionality of the attenuation ponds and to report back to the partnership.

**ACTION** KB to ask RC about the project

## **7. Hadrian's Wall Loughs Sam Almond**

NE are coming to the end of some enforcement action on an owner/occupier who had heavily modified the drainage. An Enforcement Undertaking has been agreed which will return the drainage to its former state. This work will be completed in summer 2020. The agri-environment schemes in the area all expire this year and SA is just beginning to work with all o/o to reinstate these and ensure suitable management is agreed and being carried out.

PS asked about the length of new Stewardship agreements, SA is certain that they will be guaranteed for the length of the agreement and that o/o will not lose out when compared with the new style ELMs agreements.

SM continued that the NNPA and TRT have been working on a feasibility study to look at the detail of the site management which is due for completion soon. NE are also looking at Crag Lough in a similar way to reduce nutrient input to the Lough by blocking or modifying field drains.

Discussions followed about best practice for modifying field drains, ditches and gulleys and getting the correct samples for water pollution. There are developments occurring for innovative collection methods.

**ACTION** ALL Share information regarding gulley blocking on Sharepoint

**ACTION** EAW to suggest water sampling is an agenda item for next meeting

## **8. Tyne Estuary Michele MacCallam**

After last year's feasibility report, Groundwork have been developing the Estuary Partnership further and encouraging organisations to sign up to the pledge. This year Groundwork are looking at seven priority sites to implement ecological improvements in estuary edge environments. These may include experimental floating pontoons but also reprofiling of banks using rock blankets to create intertidal habitats. Several permissions will be required including planning permissions, MMO permits and agreement from landowners and the Port of Tyne. Groundwork are also working to ensure these structures are insured.

KB stated that the Wear are starting a similar project to TEP, in the Wear Estuary and are able to learn from the work in the Tyne.

**ACTION** EAW to share link from MMC for Biomatrix

## **9. River Basin Management plan**

Challenge and Choices consultation led by the Environment Agency is looking at the third iteration of the River Basin Management Plan. It is a web-based consultation which closes on 24<sup>th</sup> April. It is not an onerous consultation, the questions are open ended and you do not have to answer every question.

EA's 25-year Environment Plan target is that 75% of our waterways will be clean and plentiful. However, this is a huge challenge particularly when climate change and population increase are taken into consideration. This is a huge issue for the government and the EA needs to be supported in order to close the outcomes gap. EA need catchment partnerships responses to move forward and tackle the challenges.

North East Challenges slide information is based on WFD and should be seen in the context of the 25year plan. This image shows issues in a certain way, which may not necessarily be representative of TCP's view of the most significant issues in the Tyne catchment.

MH Commented that climate change and biodiversity has reached the top of the government agendas which is a big step forward in the last few years.

KB The next 5 year EP(2021-2027) will be wider than just WFD so respond to the consultation with that in mind. There is also a series of films included in the consultation document which might be helpful. It is possible to see completed consultations from other sources which can help you to fill in your answers. All TCP partners are encouraged to respond on behalf of their organisations. We could also submit a catchment partnership response.

Discussions followed regarding submitting a discretionary consultation response and the pros and cons of submitting a catchment partnership consultation.

**ACTION** EAW to provide link to the consultation which includes the films and investigate the validity and practicality of a coordinated catchment partnership response

### **TCP Self – Assessment consultation** EAW

All catchment partnerships are required to complete a self assessment survey as part of the River Basin Management Plan process. This takes 10-15 minutes and will inform the future activity of the partnership.

**ACTION** EAW to circulate self-assessment link again

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BT62DZQ>

You may wish to look at our Activity Plan and Terms of Reference (containing our Objectives) while completing the survey, both of which can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.tynecatchment.org/about-the-partnership/>

**ACTION** ALL to submit self-assessment response by the end of the first week in March

## **11. MTP update** EAW

Tyne projects likely to be funded through WEIF in 2020/21:

Tyne Fish Passage Obstructions

Tyne Estuary Habitat Enhancement

River Team

Rive Don Land Management

Ouseburn Land Management

Carr's burn fish easement

Ouseburn habitat creation

Tipult Burn

Chainly Burn

KB The decision is with the national EA at present and the funding should be confirmed by the end of EA's financial year. There is due to be a budget announcement on 11<sup>th</sup> March so KB suspects the confirmation may be pushed into early April. However, the project business cases need to be developed as soon as possible and be ready to go once the funding is confirmed to reduce delay.

## 12. NWG Update CD

See also attached document.

There is currently a 'Water without the Worry' scheme to pull customers out of water poverty. Also 'Just add water' and 'Bin the wipe' to tackle the issue of blockages which is the main priority for NWG because blockages cause flooding into homes and gardens. NWG has 15,000 blockages a year which are normally a combination of wet wipes and grease.

Sharepoint Clare has not had many requests for assistance.

Discussions around the flushability of wipes and the effect of paving over front gardens.

**ACTION** EAW to send link again and circulate the NWG full update.

**ACTION** ALL to tell us if they have access to Sharepoint, link below:

<https://nwgcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/TD0052/SitePages/Home.aspx>

## 13. Activity plan and Update

Activity Log updates will be required before the next meeting. In September there will be an agenda item to update the log with current activities.

## 14. AOB and Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be arranged via a Doodlepoll

### a. Northumberland Crayfish Strategy

Ian Marshall spoke at the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 meeting about the work to protect white clawed crayfish in the North East. He has now completed the strategy and has asked organisations to sign up and

support the strategy. The strategy is on Sharepoint, if you need an emailed copy please email e.walters@tyneriverstrust.org

#### b. Farming Rules for Water

The Farming Rules for Water legislates management of muck on farms but does not cover stables. Tyne Rivers Trust have found that pollution of water courses from equestrian establishments is a major issue in the Tyne. The government will consider changing the law to include the stables but have requested evidence to support this change. Tyne Rivers Trust have submitted evidence, on Sharepoint, but if other organisations could submit further evidence it would strengthen the case for change.

#### b. Adopt a Stream

CG updated the meeting on this project and expressed concern that no funding from TCP partners had been forthcoming. TRT would continue with this project but would consider rebranding as a TRT project.

Several partners were concerned about this and idea that if they could not contribute funding, they were not able to be involved with projects. One partner pointed out that staff in control of funding might not be those who attend TCP meetings and in addition, that not all partners were present when TRT gave a presentation about the project so were not aware of the request.

Several partners expressed the view that Adopt a Stream was a valuable project and should still be seen as a TCP project. The idea of a steering group for the project was put forward.

#### d. Naturally Native

An application for Naturally Native funding will be submitted in March 2020. This project will be about improving habitats and controlling mink to support the continued survival of Water Voles in the North East.

Restoring Ratty are also working up another bid for funding to deliver further reintroductions in the North Tyne.

#### e. North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Recently set up representatives tend to be sought from each group of organisations for example one from all relevant wildlife trust or rivers trusts in the regions. Could be good support for our work.

**ACTION** EAW to send out Doodlepoll for next meeting

**ACTION** EAW to send TRT Farming Rules for Evidence by email

**ACTION** EAW to circulate TRT Adopt a Stream presentation

**ACTION** CG to investigate a steering group for Adopt-a-Stream

