

## **Roman Wall Loughs sub-catchment meeting 1**

Heather Brittlebank (NE) Rob Carr (EA) Susan MacKirdy (TRT) Gill Thompson (NNPA) Ema Caskie (NNPA) Becky Hetherington (NT) Ian Everard (FC)

### Minutes & Actions

HB outlined the current state of the Loughs (see handout) and how current monitoring was carried out. There is more updated data available than the current monitoring indicates, an NE specialist has been working on providing a more up to date assessment. The Loughs are currently failing favourable condition and WFD good status on water quality (Phosphorus); and favourable condition on various macrophyte composition/distribution targets.

A query about species monitoring was raised. There is none formally, ad-hoc surveys have previously been done for white clawed crayfish and otters which are present in the catchment.

WEBS surveys on Broomlee Lough are done by Richard Lee; on Greenlee (and Grindon and Shield on the Wall) by Mike Smith.

- **HB to chase NE specialists on updated condition assessment and monitoring targets for Loughs;**
- **RC to query Russell Barber over potential re-classification by EA**
- **RC to look into potential further Crayfish monitoring**

The Roman Wall Loughs catchment straddles 2 operational catchments. Greenlee and Broomlee Lough are at the top of the Haltwhistle Burn catchment and quite a lot of work was done in this a few years ago through the Haltwhistle Burn project. Crag Lough is in the Brackies Burn catchment.

TRT have been looking at connecting Crag Lough to the Tyne for fish but there are significant barriers. The main one is at Vindolanda. Network Rail are looking at the lower part.

- **RC to query fisheries team over potential improvements for connectivity**

A summary of previous projects and actions was run through with the group.

- **RC to review Stirling University reports to identify any relevant points we should take forward as actions**
- **GT to circulate her notes from 2013 for Broomlee**
- **EC to find out if small dams and drain reprofiling works were done**
- **RC – something about diffuse pollution?**

There has previous been some concern about sediment potentially entering Greenlee Lough from the forested area to the north. The design plan is publically available so we can identify when any future felling will be that could impact on the inflows to Greenlee Lough and potentially tie this in with some monitoring on the inflow streams.

- **GT to look at design plan to see when next felling is due**
- **RC to look into costs for monitoring all inflows to Loughs**

Another potential source of nutrient input to the loughs has been cattle using it for drinking. NNPA installed cameras at Broomlee Lough to watch stock movements but unsure who has this data and nothing has been done with it. There was also a solar pump in use at some point but this was not very reliable so was decommissioned.

- **EC to find out about camera monitoring and what happens to data so the group can decide what to do with this**
- **EC to look into potential future use & costs of another solar pump**

The NE specialists after their visit in May 2017 suggested that a wet weather survey would be helpful in improving understanding of the hydrology of the Loughs catchments. HB has submitted a bid to NE for some funding for this although it may not be successful as it is currently just an outline idea. We should know in February 2018 and the outcome will be fed back to the group.

The new Water Environment Grant was briefly discussed – there is a workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> January where any ideas can be proposed. Ian Everard currently not invited to this – expected that Tom Dearnley would be.

- **IE to discuss involvement with Richard Pow to ensure FC knowledge and contributions at the event**

TRT will shortly be going through a re-structure and SM is likely to no longer be part of it. The group expressed sadness at this as SM has contributed a lot to the wider Tyne catchment works to date. Hugh Clear-Hill will continue with role as chair of the Tyne Catchment Partnership.

BH gave a useful update on NT plans over the next year:

- Draft management plans being written up;
- Long term 10 – 50 years
- Opportunity mapping being done
- Tipalt at Bellister considering flood management potential
- Cawfields farm in Haltwhistle catchment to be looked at
- Will be discussing with tenants in next 6 months

It was suggested it might be useful for Becky to give an update at the next Tyne Catchment Partnership meeting.

- **BH to give an NT update at a future Tyne Catchment Partnership meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**

It was agreed to have the next meeting in April, in order to then send an update to the Tyne Catchment Partnership meeting scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

- **HB to send round a doodlepoll for next meeting availability.**