



TYNE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

2 February 2022 9.30am – 12:30pm

Online Teams meeting

Present: Ceri Gibson(Chair), Zahra Ravenscroft (EA), Clare Ross (NWG), Ema Caskie (NNPA), Sarah Tooze(NPAONB), Jimmy Young (GMBC), Sophie Wild (NWG), Amy Ridgeon (STC), Natalie Rutter(NCC), Robert Frewen(CLA), Peter Shield(GMBC), Hellen Hornby (Groundwork), Becky Hetherington (NT), Stephen Thompson (NWG), Dave Cooke (CA), Mark Dinning (DWT), Rachel Penn(Woodland Trust), James Copeland (NFU), Phill Catton(DWT), Gayle Wilson (GMBC), Kate Adams (NFU), Duncan Hutt), Liz Walters(TRT)

1 + 2. Finish joining attendees, welcome from Ceri Gibson and attendees introduced themselves.

3. River Basin Management Plan - Tyne Catchment pages Ceri Gibson

Ceri reminded attendees that the RBMP spreadsheet was sent round prior to the meeting and that this document ultimately becomes the Tyne Catchment Partnership page. This page should detail the successes of the last 5 years and our ambition for the upcoming 5 years.

Comments were invited on the spreadsheet.

PS Commented on the entry for 'the required measure of a project TCP is confident of delivery' on line 61 – Gateshead Groundwater Mitigation of flood risk project, was ambiguous and difficult to interpret what the project involves.

ACTION PS to speak to Carl Hodgeson

Then Ceri shared revised text for the Vision statement (line 17) that she and Zahra have worked on and asked for comments.

DC suggested that the Vision should include an indication that TCP would actively respond to climate change and not just deliver resilience. He described the impacts of recent flash flooding on mine sites and his belief that the catchment would need more than an improved resilience to absorb the impact of increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

CG suggested the use of the phrase 'climate emergency'.

RP queried the definition of 'net gain' in the Vision. Is this broader than biodiversity and did the partnership think emotional and societal 'net gain' should be included?

In a 'show of hands' the majority thought that net gain should be broader and not just include biodiversity.

HH Suggested that the best way to demonstrate the scope of future opportunities in the Vision was to list the key projects.

CG Pointed out that the challenge was not to make the page too generic.

ZR Normally the opening statement initial paragraph was very specific to the particular catchment and then the 'Vision' tended to be more generic. Also, given we are only starting to measure biodiversity net gain now, in the 6 years of this RBMP, we might still not be measuring emotional and societal benefits.

ACTION Please email Ceri back by the end of this week with any other comments on the TCP Vision.

CG In the section requiring projects delivered in the past 6 years, there will be text on Follingsby MAX and the WAMM metals work. These two projects also highlight the two extremes of the catchment – rural and urban.

Discussions followed about which projects to include for the upcoming 6 years. Suggestions included DWT Healing Nature project.

DH gave details on the progress of the current Nature Recovery Pilot project. The draft was now with the steering group and needed to be finalised by the end of March. Each area now needed to produce their own strategy.

Discussions took place on whether to include the 'Blue-green cities', 'Revitalising Redesdale' and 'Naturally Native' projects.

MD Speak to Kirsty Pollard regarding Naturally Native.

DC The WAMM programme as a whole within the Tyne is more than the TRT programme. It is wider than water bodies and the South Tyne and beyond what TRT is doing now.

ACTION Dave Cooke to flesh out the WAMM entry.

4. NW update Sophie Wild

Who's who in the new Northumbrian Water Teams:

Waste Environment Team: Clare Deasy, Kim Wallis, Stephen Thompson - Working on the Drainage and Water Management Plan and the Northumbrian Integrated Drainage Plan.

Catchment Team: Susan Mackirdy, Clare Ross, Matthew Powell – Working with land managers and agronomists to ensure good raw water quality upstream of abstractions. Priority areas in Tyne are Whittle Dene (pesticides) and South Tyne (sediments).

Sophie Wild **Catchment Approach Coordinator** Engagement with catchment partners

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan overview – required every 5 years from all water companies to identify future issues and ways to address them, partnership approach essential.

For more information:

www.nwl.co.uk/services/sewerage/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plans

Ouseburn – Citizen Jury pilot

Improving the Water Environment – Customer Research project and Catchment Partnerships Workshop held in December 2020

More information in presentation available on Sharepoint:

<https://nwgcloud.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/TD0052/documents/Catchment%20Partnerships/Tyne/Tyne%20Catchment%20Partnership%20Documents?csf=1&web=1&e=Om3wLh>

Water Environment Approach Stephen Thompson

Working on the Water Environment Approach to improve publicly accessible water environments over the next 5 years. Feasibility up to the end of May 2021.

Discussions followed on the Citizen Jury project in Ouseburn catchment. This project is to engage local citizens in the management of water in their catchment. It will help EA to understand how to apply the RBMP and the 25 year EP.

5. South Tyne update Clare Ross NWG

The project covers the South Tyne including the Allen catchments and the Hadrian's Wall Loughs. The objective of this project is to improve the quality of the raw water which enters the (drinking) water treatment works at Horsley after abstraction at Ovingham. Whilst in some catchments there may be issues with pesticides and nutrients, this is not the case with the Tyne. But the flashy nature of the South Tyne creates issues with sediments. The fluctuation in mineral content makes the water difficult and more expensive to treat as dredging and replacing machinery needs to take place more often.

The project seeks to restore eco-system services:

- Creation and restoration of priority habitats for example peatland restoration
- Conservation of priority species
- Slowing the Flow initiatives
- Support for catchment sensitive farming

The steering group was set up in November and a call out for project ideas. There are limited funds for such a large catchment.

The success measures are:

- Reduced incidence of sediment dredging requirements at Horsley intake.
- Less variability in water quality e.g. turbidity, conductivity, sediments.
- Improvements to priority habitat quality and extent.
- Wider priority species distribution and resilience in the catchment.
- Increase in ability for catchment to adapt to climate change.

Clare is interested in anyone who can think of a better name for the project and who has project ideas. Contact her at clare.ross@nwl.co.uk

Discussions:

ZR Have you modelled where the high inputs of sediments come from? There was sediment modelling done on the lower estuary as part of the Tyne Estuary project.

CR No, The Innovation Team are currently supervising an undergraduate project looking at sediment release in the catchment which will be reporting around April. We are exploring the possibility of carrying out some simple inhouse modelling.

JC Is the issue extreme or particular magnitude events? Is the list of partners exclusive? Land Managers are missing.

CR We haven't looked at different flood events and the intention is to build on the existing partners. We are looking for new projects and new partners.

RF We can help the project to engage with landowners. The upcoming ELMS scheme will have a big emphasis on water quality.

RP Tree planting and agroforestry for NFM but reliant on the interest of landowners.

FR Good contact for the tree planting scheme in Northumberland is Ed Millbank.

EC the AONB has contact with lots of farmers and land managers in the South Tyne catchment.

6. Tyne Estuary Update Zahra Ravenscroft(EA) and Hellen Hornby (Groundwork)

In 2018 WEIF money was successfully bid for by Groundwork to carry out feasibility studies on the Tyne Estuary. The estuary is failing EU WFD standards and is a heavily modified waterbody. Bankside typology was looked at for opportunities to create habitat through managed realignment and engagement with landowners.

Seventy options were found and included in a prioritisation matrix. A five-year business case was written and seven pilot sites have been selected for habitat restoration which will also be used for future engagement.

Now there is a good partnership of 150 members and Groundwork aims to have 2 engagement events per year. The prioritisation of capital delivery changes depending on partners and funding opportunities but the aim is to create a network of habitats.

Priorities for 2021 are the following delivery projects: Newcastle Quayside, Royal Quays Marina and Prince Consort Bay.

Prince Consort Bay, South Tyneside is a project to directly colonise the remains of the old docks with saltmarsh species. This project is planned for delivery before the end of March 2021.

Royals Quays, North Tyneside is a project to place a floating island ecosystem (15m²) planted with native species. There are benefits to below-surface species as the Liverpool docks project has shown that they are swiftly colonised by vast array of marine life. Groundwork is currently seeking permission to install the ecosystem with funding from WEIF.

Newcastle Quayside, Newcastle is a project to install floating ecosystems aligned to the quayside edge. This is a significant project as these interventions have not been installed on a significant estuary before and the range of the tide, debris and currents all represent engineering challenges. This project is seeking private finance, there is lots of licensing to progress.

Other possible sites include Gateshead Kingfisher Court and Dunstan Staithes. There is a wide partnership of 70 members of which 34 are signatories of the partnership agreement. There are 200 people on the mailing list and they are currently developing a community consultation.

ACTION Hellen to provide links to surveys to the TCP.

The project has been impacted by Covid through a lack of survey volunteers for baseline monitoring, Groundwork is hoping to attract new students for this work after April.

ZR Important not to silo the estuary from rest of catchment part of a 'wholescape approach' to catchment management.

7. Tyne Sediment Facility – presentation cancelled due to the need for further discussions on the project before speaking to this group.

Healing Nature Phill Catton DWT - Phill kindly stepped in at short notice to update the TCP on this project.

This project is a partnership of Durham Wildlife Trust, South Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council and Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council.

It is funded by the Green Recovery Challenge fund and the object is to carry out habitat management work on 20 sites in the region over 166 ha of which 120 ha are Local Wildlife Sites.

There are 2/3 work streams are follows:

1. Practical conservation
 - i. Bringing back sites into active management
 - ii. Changing management
 - iii. Habitat creation
2. Community Engagement
3. Digital output
 - a. Supporting promotion of the project
 - b. Producing media content

Part of the project is to engage with local people and promote appropriate use of the sites.

It is a very tight timescale, the application was in September, success was announced in December, the team was created in January and the project staff are now in their fourth week. The team comprises 2 project officers, 2 part-time community engagement officers, a digital output officer and 4 'Kickstart' interns over the course of the project.

The team are initially looking at the logistics of site visits and the practicalities of completing the project over 15 months, finishing at the end of March 2022. The project has lost one winter of volunteering as the DWT is not currently working with volunteers. Although it is possible to work with contractors, some of sites require assessment in the spring before deciding what management is required. Management techniques will include:

- grassland - fencing, green-hay, conservation cuts, grassland, INNS management;
- hedgerow – improvement and planting;
- woodland – improved management, coppicing.

ZR Have you engaged with the Port of Tyne regarding the Don saltmarsh? There was a feasibility report produced on saltmarsh habitat compensation for a project in the tidal Don which might add value to the project.

Phill Catton contact – pcatton@durhamwt.co.uk

8. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting Tuesday 7th September 2021

ACTION EAW to send out 'Save the date'