



**8 February 2022 9.30am – 12:00**

**Online Teams meeting**

Present: Ceri Gibson(Chair), Sophie Turnbull (EA), Sarah Smith-Voysey (EA), Jimmy Young (GMBC), Becky Hetherington (NT), Cara Callingham (CA), Dave Cooke (CA), Mark Dinning (DWT), Gill Thompson (NNPA), Gayle Wilson (GMBC), Rachel Jackson (STC), Jayne Lovegreen (NWG), Michelle McGinn(GMBC), Clare Deasy (NWG), Jack Philipson (TRT), Bruce Wilkinson (NE), Sarah Tooze (NPAONB), Richard Woodhouse (NWG), Shaun Hollern (STC), Liz Walters(TRT)

- 1. Finish joining attendees**
- 2. Welcome from Ceri Gibson and brief introductions from attendees.**
- 3. Introduction to Sarah Smith-Voysey and Sophie Turnbull continuing responsibilities in the Tyne Catchment**

Sarah Smith-Voysey has worked for the EA for 2.5 years. Previously she worked for Newcastle University and Ordnance Survey and her specialism is in mapping and GIS. She would particularly like to look at the spatial distribution of project and future funding opportunities.

Sophie is the Tyne Catchment Coordinator until the end of March 2022. Sophie is continuing her involvement with WEIF projects in the Tyne, which this year are: Native North Tyne, Tarsset Burn, Tipult Burn, Tyne Estuary Project, Team and Ouseburn Climate Emergency Project. Sarah will be taking over the Tyne WEIF project management for EA from April 2022.

- 4. River Basin Management Plan Consultation and Flood Risk Management plan update**  
Ceri Gibson (Chair)

Suzanne Bennett, EA, facilitated a workshop on the RBMP and FRMP consultation on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The notes from that have been circulated to the TCP. There is still some time to go before the consultation period finishes but there is a need to ensure no opportunities are missed for the Partnership.

Discussions followed and these points were raised:

Further updates are likely to be required due to the new Environment Act

Coal Authority has submitted a Flood Response and has drafted the RBMP but not submitted yet.

Updating of TCP information available on the internet, Catchment Pages updated last year, TCP website still up and running and funding identified for story mapping exercise. A link may be possible from the Catchment pages to the story Map.

#### ACTION

Any further feedback from partners on the RBMP needs to be with CG by the end of February.

EAW to remind partners not present at this meeting to feedback by the end of February.

#### **4. TCP Story Mapping** Ceri Gibson (Chair)

To contain the same information as the Activity Log/CABA reporting Spreadsheet but in a more accessible format. NRCP are looking at doing a similar exercise.

##### Next steps

- Work out how to keep data current and deciding what to include
- Create of a working group from TCP partners
- Decide on audience, is it an outward facing tool or solely accessed by partners?
- Decide on functionality and connections to other information
- Decide where to host the Storymap

#### ACTIONS

Partners to provide project updates and images, videos etc

Volunteers to make up steering group

Comments from the Partnership included:

MD Storymap produced for Naturally Native advice from Wear Rivers Trust and access to ARC GIS online required

CG The Rivers Trust provides TRT with access to ARC GIS online and the Story mapping app

ST Abi Mansley has now moved to NCC as an Environmental Analyst. She carried out the Local Nature Recovery Strategy story mapping, Abi is now looking at prioritising nature recovery projects. Abi has offered her services to the NRCP.

MD There needs to be a good understanding of who needs to do what and the ongoing requirements.

CG It is not for the host to dictate how to proceed but will come back with a bare bones structure having approached some likely project leads and the Story map subgroup to identify what to include.

#### **5. Sub-catchment Partnership updates ALL**

##### **5.1 Revitalising Redesdale Bruce Wilkinson**

RR project work has been delivered by Groundwork and TRT, in a total of 7 sites, 6 river sites and one a peatland site. The Rede is a large catchment of 347km<sup>2</sup> dominated by agriculture, forestry and

a large MOD range. The river projects have mostly included bank stabilisation and stock enclosure. There has also been some peatland restoration at Whitelee Moor.

At Birdhope, east of the National Park, the river was undercutting its banksides, this has been improved through stock enclosure and tree planting. At Ravenscleugh some track realignment and fencing has taken place.

At Brownchesters there has been stock enclosure to reduce erosion and 300 trees planted by TRT. On the Cragg Estate, land drains have been closed to improve water quality before it enters the Rede, in addition some scrapes and settlement ponds have been created. At The Hole, some bank reprofiling and stock enclosure has taken place to remedy the change in gradient created when the course of the Bog Burn was changed.

At Whitelee Moor stone check dams have been created to recreate peat.

Post Lottery planning, work has started on the NLHF project report and the legacy of the project which ends in December. There are some small-scale works planned for this year and further ROW works.

ACTION EAW to circulate the RR presentation

## **5.2 Clare Deasy NWG**

Following a workshop 18 months ago and development work with partners across the reiohnn, NWG haver finalised their new Blue Spaces scheme(previously referred to as Water Environment Approach), which focuses on improvements to accessible water environments – areas close to water that people can get to and enjoy the benefits of being around water. NWG are looking to invest in these areas through partnership projects, with funding available each year. There are no deadlines. Please see the presentation attached for more information. There are a number of partnership projects being developed in the Tyne Catchment for example at Whitelee and Greenlee Lough.

The next NWG Business Plan will cover 2025-2030 and ‘bluespaces’ will be a part of that, it will include a programme of environmental investment through the Water Industry National Environment Plan (WINEP), which could be linked to DWMP. Planning for this is currently taking place through PR24, and will be developed between now and July 2023. The partnership will be included in planning work (more information TBC).

Big Waters on the boundary of the Tyne and Northumberland Rivers Catchment Partnerships areas is the focus of a small investigation with Lancaster University. A meeting is due to take place to discuss and consider the relaunching the Hartley Burn and Big Waters Catchment Partnership as a subgroup of the NRCP.

Partners who wish to be involved in this, should contact Clare Deasy.

## **5.3 Richard Woodhouse NWG**

DWMP Option Development and Appraisal (ODA) stage is more complex with 14,000 short term options. The constrains that allow movement from the unconstrained to the constrained list is approved and being worked on. ODA is planned to be complete on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. The Strategic Environmental Assessment proposal is out for consultation. NWG next task is to take the findings of the ODA stage and appraise the whole programme waste water. This will inform the business plan for Periodic Review 24(PR24).

Government guidance on storm overflows is not out until June/September 2022 and this causes problems for the DWMP as the draft of the DWMP will be published in June 2022 with the final version in March 2023. The draft report will contain scenarios of the most likely government guidance on storm overflows. When the final guidance comes out between the draft and the final version, changes will be made to reflect the new government guidance.

ACTION Richard Woodhouse to present the new RBMP to the partnership when it is finalised.

#### **5.4 Mark Dinning DWT**

The Healing Nature project was a Green Recovery Challenge Fund project and it now has 2 months left. A number of interventions have been delivered at Local Wildlife Sites in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The major bulk of habitat work has been undertaken already and the engagement targets of the project have all been met.

Naturally Native is a region-wide water vole recovery project partnership project funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The partners are the 3 NE Wildlife Trusts and the project has just reached the end of its first year. The project aims to tackle the decline of water voles by reducing both predation and habitat loss. In total 70 mink have been trapped by the project and the impact of this will be seen in the following years.

The project is now moving into a phase of habitat restoration and delivery work with a number of interventions taking place on water courses in the region. There are a number of opportunities in the Tyne Catchment in the Don and Team. Kelly Hollings has stepped into the project's lead role to cover Kirsty Pollard's maternity leave.

#### **5.5 Gill Thompson NNPA**

Roman Wall Loughs, the Greenlee Project Officer, Steven Lipscombe, is looking into placing mink rafts and mink control in place around the Loughs. Access is an issue because of fluctuating water levels in the Loughs and water vole introductions are a possibility.

A contract has sent out to tender looking at opportunity and habitat mapping of water dependant habitats and peatland. This will add to the work carried out by TRT into the wider Loughs catchment. The tender is on a general portal, the deadline is the end of February and the successful contractor will be carrying out survey work in spring and summer.

Steven Lipscombe is also drafting a vision for the project, this will be presented to the project board and will be shared with the farmers and TCP. The emphasis is on 'renaturalising' rather than 'rewilding'.

The National Park has FIPL funding to help farmers fund improvement projects within the Park for example farmyard improvements, but they are also looking for innovative ideas.

ACTION GT to circulate vision to TCP when appropriate

#### **5.6 Sarah Tooze NPAONB**

The AONB have funding for £1 million of FIPL grants to be spent between July 2021 and March 2024. The money can be spent on a variety of types of projects including sustainable land management, biodiversity, farm water management plans and sustainable tourism initiatives. A panel of farmers, local representatives and history experts judges the projects.

The AONB are looking for new, novel and innovative projects to fund, the maximum cost of each project is £100,000. At present lots of smaller projects have been suggested for example repair of stone walls but larger projects such as the Eden Rivers Trust river re-meandering are also required.

## **5.7 Gayle Wilson GMBC**

David Werner and his student Aom Plaimart presented their research into the Birtley sewage treatment works and the outcomes of the natural water treatment processes at the works. David has applied for engagement funding to investigate the water quality of urban Tyne sub-catchments, working with the EA on the best practice monitoring strategies for CSO impacts on rivers. This is anticipated to be a partnership research project between EA, NWG, GMBC and NU, with Phd students carrying out some strategic monitoring of storm overflows on the Team and the Ouseburn. The TVFAS project is creating detailed designs for the Eslington Park deculverting and TVTE mitigation likely to include small walls and changes to kerbs. There is a fish passage issue at the Kingsway culvert and some issues with delivering planned water storage at Lamesley in connection with archaeology. The proposal for NFM at Hedley Hall does not provide enough storage to impact the flood risk downstream.

The A1 widening project habitat compensation will include some woodland creation at Beggars Wood and Highways England's contractors will share surface water and groundwater monitoring data with the Team SCP. The next meeting will include an update on the Northumbria groundwater flood resilience innovation project.

## **6. AOB**

DC The South Tyne WAMM (Water and Abandoned Metal Mines) project is continuing, the budget is not fixed for next year yet.

RW There is a proposal to reintroduce beavers into the upper Team in the Birtley/Ouston area.

Proposed date of next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September. Potential for in-person meeting?

Any partner with potential site visits please get in touch with EAW