

WFD Implementation Working Group (14th)

Draft Minutes

Wednesday 21 May 2008, 14.00 – 16.00

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Boardroom, WMU Lisburn

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ATTENDEES:

Name	Dept / Agency
Dave Foster (Chair)	EHS Water Management Unit
Gabriel Nelson (Acting Chair)	EHS Water Management Unit
Angus McRobert	EHS Water Management Unit
Cate Murphy (Sec)	EHS Water Management Unit
Victoria Crone	EHS Water Management Unit
Bob Foy	AFBI
William Caldwell	DOE PEPG
Brian Ervine	DARD
Randal Scott	EHS Drinking Water Inspectorate
Angela Halpenny	NI Water
George Alexander	NI Water
Linda McGoldrick	DARD
Julian Smyth	DRD Water Policy
Philip McMurray	DOE, PEPG
George Roddy	DARD Rivers Agency
David Wright	DCAL
Norman Simmons	DOE
Emma Neill	DOE PEPG
Keith Forster	DRD Economics Branch

APOLOGIES:

Name, Organisation	Name, Organisation
Roger Walker - Ports and Transport	Alan Morrow - DARD
Tom Adamson - EHS Water Management Unit	Joyce Rutherford -DARD
Crawford Jordan, AFBI	Bob Davidson EHS Natural Heritage
Paddy McCrudden - DARD Rivers Agency	Stuart Wightman – DRD Water Policy
Marcus McAuley - DCAL Salmon & Inland Fisheries	Ian Irwin - DARD Forest Service
Michael McSorley - DRD Regional Planning	Alan Morrow - DARD Countryside Management
	Alvin Wilson - EHS Water Management Unit

1. Welcome

The Acting Chairman welcomed attendees to the 14th meeting of this group and offered apologies as detailed above.

2. Approval of draft Agenda.

The agenda for the meeting was approved with no AOB issues offered.

3. Minutes of 13th IWG meeting (16th April) and matters arising.

One point of accuracy was raised and amendment agreed. All matters arising from the meeting were complete or were tabled for update on the Agenda for the 14th meeting. The Minutes were agreed and approved for publication.

4. SWMI Digest and next steps

The SWMI Digest is now complete. The Chairman thanked all who had contributed to the document. As an EHS publication the Digest must receive Ministerial approval before publication. The Digest has been forwarded to the Private Office with expectation that the Minister will grant permission for the document to be issued to the Environment Committee this week. The Digest will be published on the EHS website along with the Independent Facilitators report (target 30 May). Hard copies will be available on request from Water Management Unit.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
1. Publish SWMI digest and Facilitators report to EHS Website	CM	30 May	Hard copies available 27 June
2. Notify publication to stakeholders and IWG (post & email)	CM	30 May	Complete

5. Objective setting - update.

The group was given an update on the progress in the objective setting process. WMU has completed a programme of 9 internal workshops. Using current status classifications and planning assumptions, objectives have been set for all the waterbodies. WMU anticipate that the objective set will result in uplift through one status class in all water bodies currently identified as being at Moderate status or worse, with the exception of those water bodies at Bad status where the objective has been set at Moderate for 2015. In some instances the pressures causing the suppression of water quality in a waterbody may need time in addition to resources to show an improvement e.g. Priority substances, eutrophication and in these cases extended deadlines have been applied which anticipate that an improvement will be observed in the second and third planning cycles (2021-2027)

The objective setting process is challenging work in progress and will be revised at agreed points in the planning process, as more information becomes available. While planning assumptions were applied to the process individual consideration was given to each waterbody except in the instances where 1 monitoring point serves more than 1 waterbody. WMU is populating tables presented in the Draft Plan with the details of the objectives set at the workshops. The Draft Plans are a high level document and will not go into in-depth detail about every waterbody. Development work is continuing on the web-based Tier 3 information tool which will provide information on a “my-back-yard” level. The plan will indicate the results that the public will see at the end of the planning cycle, although forecasting is a challenge.

Cost effectiveness is important and people (including Government) will want to see evidence of value for money. While WMU agree that there may be a need for a Catchment Management Plan for each of the Catchment Stakeholder Groups areas which will set out specific targets and programmes for every waterbody in the catchment this will be secondary to the Draft Plans and may be discussed over the next 18 months.

6. Draft River Basin Management Plan

The Draft plans will enter the formal sign-off process on the 2 June, when they will be passed to the Minister. The Environment Committee will hear a submission on 26 June. The document will not be complete – further iterations are planned for August and September. It was agreed that current version of the Draft Plan would be circulated for comment to the IWG and that a revised version would be circulated for comment by return on 2 June.

The Draft Plans will have to be presented to other Committees. DCAL and DARD have agreed to follow the same approach as DOE/EHS in this respect and have asked for copies of submissions and briefing notes. The Environment Committee may enquire about Stakeholder opinions of the plans. A meeting will be arranged with key stakeholders at which they will receive a verbal update on progress so far. As the Plans are complex they will be illustrated with maps depicting how we anticipate water quality improving over the planning cycles. This should create a valuable link for the public to understand the potential impact and benefits of our current and planned measures/actions. Although the Draft plans are not a tool for getting more money they can be used to produce informed estimates of how much Departments should be bidding for at the next round of Programme for Government. It was pointed out that there may be a need for legislative change to allow Agencies to broaden their remit to include e.g. river restoration work and this will take time. This being the case we can still quantify the value/ benefit to the aquatic environment of these schemes.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
3. Circulate latest version of Draft RBMP for comment	CM	22 May	Done
4. IWG to collate and forward comments from respective Organisations to	All	28 May	Complete

CM.			
5. Copies of all submissions and briefing notes to be sent to the IWG	PEPG through CM	2 June	Done
6. Arrange a meeting with Stakeholders e.g. UFU, Quarry Products Association and Fresh Water Task Force.	PEPG	Details by 28 May	Meeting held 10 June. Meeting with Fresh Water Task Force to be arranged

7. Programme of measures and other management plans.

The Programmes of Measures (POMs) for the Draft Plans are being compiled at present. It has been difficult to distil a list of measures. The document is a work in progress and will be redrafted. Input, comment and suggestion are now needed from the IWG so that the tables (Appendix 8) can be compiled with up to date information. It was suggested that measures could be corralled as per PFG spending period (1st, 2nd, 3rd cycle) to make it easier to show where cost and effort are being applied at any one time. This will be tested by WMU. Appendix 14 (supporting/complimentary plans, programme & strategies) is being drafted and will also require input and comment from The IWG. It is important that Government and Agencies are informed of each others plans and programmes. The latest version of Appendix 14 will be issued when complete.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
7. Circulate latest version of Appendix 8 for comment	CM	22 May	Done
8. IWG to collate and forward comments from respective Organisations on Appendix 8 to CM.	All	28 May	Complete
9. Circulate latest version of Appendix 14 for comment	CM	Lunchtime 22 May	Complete
10. IWG to collate and forward comments from respective Organisations on	All	28 May	Complete

appendix 14 to CM.			
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8. AOB

No items raised under AOB.

Date of next joint meeting

Tuesday 8 July 2008, 14.00-16.00 Boardroom, WMU Lisburn

Cate Murphy

Secretary

Implementation Working Group