

Note of Meeting

13 May 2010

Venue: Armoy Community Association, Armoy

Attendees:

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| 1. Claire Vincent | Head of Marine Assessment and Licensing Team, NIEA (Chair) |
| 2. Conor Symington | Regional Manager, NIEA (Presenter) |
| 3. Sharon Morrow | Friends of Larne Lough, (Presenter) |
| 4. Devina Park | Bush and Glens Catchment Management Officer, NIEA (Presenter & Note-taker) |
| 5. Helen Nutt | Belfast Lough and Lagan Catchment Management Officer, NIEA |
| 6. Garry O'Neill | Inland Fisheries, DCAL |
| 7. Roy Carton | North Antrim Angling Association |
| 8. Dave McCrum | NIW |
| 9. Tom Lavelle | Glens Angling Club / Ulster Angling Federation |
| 10. Rachel Bain | Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust |
| 11. Maxime Sizaret | Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust |
| 12. Gareth Greer | Rivers Agency |
| 13. Donald Walker | North Antrim Angling Association |
| 14. Brendan Kerr | Natural Living Assets & Ballycastle District Angling Club |
| 15. Lisa Kirkwood | WWF |
| 16. Paddy McCrudden | Rivers Agency |
| 17. Michael Oliver | Countryside Management Unit, DARD |
| 18. Lyle McMullan | Ballymoney/Moyle Times |
| 19. Campbell Tweed | UFU |
| 20. Caroline Steele | Lower Foyle Catchment Management Officer, NIEA |
| 21. Stephanie McGee | River Basin Planning, NIEA |

1. Welcome, outline of agenda and introductions

Claire Vincent opened the meeting and welcomed all. Those in attendance were invited to introduce themselves to the group.

- 1.1 Claire apologised for the delay in issuing the last set of minutes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and update on progress made in addressing the issues raised at the last meeting.

Devina Park gave a brief update on the actions raised at the last meeting on 10 November 2009, The Coastal Zone, Portrush.

Ref	Action	Update												
2.1	Confirm average response times to pollution incidents reported through the Water Pollution Hotline.	<p>NIEA will respond to 90% of incidents as shown:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Severity of Incident</th> <th>Response Time (if report received during standard working hours)</th> <th>Response Time (if report received outside standard working hours)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>High</td> <td>2 hours</td> <td>4 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium</td> <td>2 hours</td> <td>4 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Low</td> <td colspan="2">Within 1 working day</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Statistics relating to water pollution are available on the NIEA website: http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/waterpollution/pol_respon.htm</p>	Severity of Incident	Response Time (if report received during standard working hours)	Response Time (if report received outside standard working hours)	High	2 hours	4 hours	Medium	2 hours	4 hours	Low	Within 1 working day	
Severity of Incident	Response Time (if report received during standard working hours)	Response Time (if report received outside standard working hours)												
High	2 hours	4 hours												
Medium	2 hours	4 hours												
Low	Within 1 working day													
3.3	Raise importance of feedback to the reporters of pollution	Conor Symington confirmed that he had reminded Regional Operations staff of the importance of feedback to the reporters of pollution.												
4.5	Hold a meeting with North Antrim Angling Association, DCAL and Rivers Agency to discuss the Bush Local Management Area plans and weed management trial in spring 2010	Meeting held 20th April 2010 at Bush Salmon Station.												

Donald Walker said that feedback on pollution incidents could be improved. This was followed by a discussion on the type of feedback that should be provided to the reporters of pollution incidents. Conor Symington said that when an incident was reported, NIEA staff contacted the reporter to clarify the details of the pollution, and to inform the polluter that action is being taken.

Roy Carton asked about progress of the weed management trial proposed for the River Bush. Garry O'Neill indicated that funds had been secured, but that discussion with the landowner was needed.

3. Catchment Case Study

Presentation from Sharon Morrow, Friends of Larne Lough

Sharon Morrow gave a presentation on the impacts of human activity and associated development on water quality in Larne Lough. Sharon said that the Friends of Larne Lough was formed in 1999, and that it aimed to protect the natural and non-built heritage of the Lough.

4. **Regional Manager's update on notable pollution incidents and investigations since the last meeting.**

Presentation from Conor Symington, Regional Manager, NIEA.

Conor Symington gave an update of local issues dealt with by NIEA Regional Operations since the last meeting. He gave a break down of the number, source and severity of water pollution incidents reported through the NIEA Water Pollution Hotline (0800 807060), and associated enforcement actions taken. He also provided information on some of the other work his team is involved in, including the processing of domestic consents, inspection of wastewater treatment works, industrial site visits, river monitoring and cross compliance farm visits.

5. **Our Rivers Campaign**

Lisa Kirkwood provided information on the 'Our Rivers NI' campaign hosted by the Freshwater Taskforce, and explained how stakeholders can adopt a river. Further information is available at www.ourriversni.org.uk. Devina Park stated that all pollution incidents should be reported through the Water Pollution Hotline (0800 807060).

6. **Local Management Area (LMA) Overview and Workshop on Bush LMA Action Plan**

Devina Park gave an overview of the implementation of River Basin Plans in Local Management Areas and outlined the format of the workshop. Attendees provided information about the concerns they had about water quality in particular areas, and also highlighted where work had been carried out recently. There was also discussion about topics for discussion at future CSG meetings.

ACTION: Devina Park to use the comments generated by the workshop to develop the Bush Action Plan.

Summary of actions from the meeting:

Ref	Action
6.1	Devina Park to use the comments generated by the workshop to develop the Bush Action Plan.

7. **Close**

Claire Vincent thanked all for attending and for their input.

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