

**Wetlands Biodiversity Delivery Group Meeting
Oxford Island Tuesday 6th May 2008**

Attendees

Mark Horton	(Ballinderry Fish Hatchery)
Alan Keys	(Ballinderry Fish Hatchery)
Hilary Kirkpatrick	(UWT)
Mary Gallagher	(EHS WMU)
David Griffiths	(University Ulster)
Robert Rosell	(AFBI)
Robbie Marshall	(Ulster Angling Federation)
Alex McGarel	(CNCC)
Bob Davidson	(EHS NH)
Paddy Boylan	(Loughs Agency)
John Early	(EHS NH)
Garry O'Neill	(DCAL Inland Fisheries)
Brian Daly	(DCAL Inland Fisheries)
Martin Bradley	(EHS NH)
Helen Paul	(EHS NH, minute taker)

1. Introduction

Bob welcomed Hilary Kirkpatrick and Brian Daly to the group. He also thanked Martin Bradley and Mark Horton for coming to the meeting to give presentations. He also reminded the group about the field trip to Portmore Lough in the afternoon.

2. Apologies

Phil Davidson (Freshwater Taskforce), Roisin Connor (NI Water), Richard Weyl (EHS), Judith Bankhead (Rivers Agency), Richard Crowe (DARD, CMB), Godfrey McRoberts (DARD, CMB), David Loughlin

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate account.

	Action Points C/F from meeting on 15/05/07	Progress
AP 2	Bob to advise the group when PPS2 is published for consultation	C/F
AP4	Anyone with information on lakes in NI should send Mary the information	C/F
AP5	Richard to cover Conditioning Monitoring	C/F
	Action Points C/F from meeting on 06/11/07	
AP2	All to email Bob with links and text for individual organisations.	C/F
AP3	Richard to circulate minutes of Species Delivery Group meeting to the group.	C/F

4. Matters Arising

Bob Davidson informed the group that the minutes of the Species Delivery Group are still in draft form but would be circulated as soon as they are cleared at the 2nd meeting of the Species Delivery Group.

John Early gave a brief overview of a potential contract that will be let soon to create a database that will hold information on lakes in NI. This database will be created in a similar format to that used by the UK Lakes database. Its purpose will be to bring together all lakes information into a single database.

5. BARS presentation

Martin Bradley gave a brief demonstration of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). He explained that a wide range of organisations are using it. He explained that the work programme would be input onto the system and the actions could then be reported against. The system can be found on the UK Biodiversity page, www.ukbap.org.uk. The question 'Where do we go from here?' was put to the group for discussion.

In the discussion that followed concerns were raised over who would be entering the information and whether all organisations would actually participate in using the system. Bob pointed out that the system had been adopted at a UK level and all Departments should use it. Robbie expressed concerns over the difficulty of quality checking the information provided. Martin advised that access can be limited to certain people but that there does need to be a certain amount of trust in individuals entering information.

Paddy Boylan expressed an interest in further training for Loughs Agency staff. Bob suggested that training days could be arranged for anyone who would be interested.

Action Point 1: John to arrange BARS training with Martin and send out invites to the group.

Mark Horton mentioned the PAIRS system used in relation to River Basin Management Plans and that there could be a possible overlap between the two systems.

Action Point 2: Bob to look into how BARS and PAIRS could possibly be linked.

6. Update on the UK Pond and River HAPs

Bob reported that draft copies of the Pond and River HAPs had been issued to the group via email. An open invite had been given to the group to attend a meeting to discuss the HAPs with EHS staff on the 22nd February 2008. Robbie attended this meeting. Bob advised the HAPs were still in an early draft stage and he would give updates at future meetings.

Bob informed the group that Pond Conservation staff had been invited to come over to talk to EHS staff this June. In the future they would be invited over to meet with a wider group of people.

7. Ballinderry Fish Hatchery Projects

Mark Horton gave a presentation on the projects the hatchery are involved in. He gave a brief history of the hatchery and gave an overview of their priorities which included, Improving Water Quality, Improving Habitat, Breeding & Conserving and Education.

He advised that they have a DVD they produced entitled 'Bridging Troubled Water' featuring Joe Mahon and copies were available upon request.

Alan Keys mentioned work that was being carried out to prevent flooding at a development in Moneymore. The development took place on a floodplain and he felt that something should be done to prevent development on floodplains in future. A discussion took place as how to best address this issue.

Hilary Kirkpatrick suggested costing the damage and then getting in touch with Greg Lloyd at University of Liverpool who is looking at planning in NI and is preparing a report to the Environment Minister, Arlene Foster.

The Planning Appeals Commissioner process was briefly discussed and Bob pointed out that they want to be seen as impartial and therefore are reluctant to speak to civil servants. It was agreed the best way to take this issue forward would be by an independent body.

Action Point 3: Mark to find out if the Moneymore site went to Planning Appeals Commission at time of application.

Action Point 4: Alan to write to Greg Lloyd with details of development.

Action Point 5: Alex McGarel to liase with Mark and Alan to gather information and write to Planning Appeals Commission.

Action Point 6: Planning and Flood Plains to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Invasive Alien Species

John gave an update on the Invasive Species in Ireland contract. He advised that the Zebra Mussel signage was ready and would be distributed soon and that the Invasive Species Ireland web site was now available at www.invasivespeciesireland.com. He pointed out that there was a section called 'Alien Watch' where anyone can record any invasive species sighting.

He advised that the established invasive species field guide booklet would be ready in a couple of weeks and that there are 5 finn banners and 5 pvc banners promoting the new website available for loan for events by other organisations from himself.

He reported that there will be a conference in the autumn to review what has been done through the contract and what the priorities are for the next few years. An invite will go out to the group closer to the time.

Action Point 7: John to send out invite to the group

John also reminded everyone that the consultation period for the Wildlife Order closes on 6th June 2008 and that it is important for everyone to look at the Article 15 and Schedule 9 lists which deal with non-native species. Particular discussion took place around fish species inclusion.

Action Point 8: John to email link for the Wildlife Order consultation to the group.

9. TOR/Work Programme

As time was short Bob suggested that he and John would have bilateral meetings with individual organisations to look at the work programme. It was agreed to take this forward this way and to add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action Point 9: Bob /John to arrange bilateral meetings.

Action Point 10: Add Work Programme to next meeting agenda

Bob advised that the Terms of Reference (TOR) should be reviewed once a year. He asked if everyone was content with the purpose, scope and objectives.

The following amendments were agreed to the TOR:

- Add in Ponds to the scope,
- Add BARS to 3.2
- Add wording to include the WFD in 3.2.

The group then went through the Representation list and it was agreed that the Fisheries Conservancy Board should be removed.

Action Point 11: John to make amendments to the TOR.

It was also agreed that Mark Horton, from Ballinderry Fish Hatchery, should be a representative on the group along with Alan Keys and that Caroline Marshall should be invited to attend the meetings in future.

It was also agreed that Bob would invite NILGA to attend again and point out that not all councils are represented by Biodiversity Officers. It was agreed Forest Service should also be invited to attend again.

John advised that a representative from the Local Biodiversity Officers is still to be put forward by the LBAP Forum.

Bob advised that if anyone had any other comments on the TOR to email him with the details.

Action Point 12: Helen to include Mark Horton on membership of group.

Action Point 13: Bob to invite Caroline Marshall, Forest Service and NILGA.

10. AOB

Bob asked for anyone with any ideas / suggestions for a workshop / event to email him.

Action Point 14: All to email ideas for a future workshop / event to Bob.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting has now been confirmed as Tuesday 11th November 2008 at Oxford Island.

Summary of Meeting Action Points

Action Point 1	John to arrange BARS training with Martin and send out invites to the group
Action Point 2	Bob to look into how BARS and PAIRS could possibly be linked
Action Point 3	Mark to find out if the Moneymore site went to Planning Appeals Commission at time of application.
Action Point 4	Alan to write to Greg Lloyd with details of development.
Action Point 5	Alex McGarel to liaise with Mark and Alan to gather information and write to Planning Appeals Commission.
Action Point 6	John: Planning and Flood Plains to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
Action Point 7	John to invite the group to the conference being held to review the Invasive Species in Ireland contract.
Action Point 8	John to email link for the Wildlife Order consultation to the group
Action Point 9	Bob/John to arrange bilateral meetings.
Action Point 10	John to add the Work Programme to the agenda for the next meeting
Action Point 11	John to make amendments to the TOR
Action Point 12	Helen to include Mark Horton on the membership of the group
Action Point 13	Bob to invite Caroline Marshall, Forest Service and NILGA
Action Point 14	All : to email ideas for a future workshop / event to Bob