

WFD Implementation Working Group (17th)

Draft Minutes

Tuesday 4th November 2008, 14.00 – 16.00

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Boardroom, WMU Lisburn

Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Name	Dept / Agency
Gabriel Nelson (Acting Chair)	NIEA Water Management Unit
Diane Arthur (Acting Sec)	NIEA Water Management Unit
Alison McCaw	NIEA Water Management Unit
Tom Adamson	NIEA Water Management Unit
Victoria Crone	NIEA Water Management Unit
Randal Scott	NIEA Drinking Water Insp.
Linda McGoldrick	DARD En. Pol. Branch
Ian Irwin	DARD Forest Service
Alan Morrow	DARD Countryside Management
Paddy McCrudden	DARD Rivers Agency
Paddy Boylan	Loughs Agency
Julian Smyth	DRD Water Policy
Ronnie Wilson	DRD Roads Service
David McCullough	DRD Ports/Public Transport
Angela Halpenny	NI Water
William Caldwell	DOE PEPG
Philip McMurray	DOE, PEPG
Marcus McAuley	DCAL Salmon & Inland Fisheries
Diane Stevenson	NIEA NH Conservation Des
Emma Neill	DOE PEPG

APOLOGIES:

Name	Dept / Agency
Dave Foster (Chair)	NIEA Water Management Unit
Seamus Connor	FCBNI
Raymond McCullough	DRD Ports & Harbour
Brian Ervine	DARD, Policy
Bob Foy	AFBI
George Butler	NI Water
Richard Schaible	DARD Forest Service
Keith Forster	DRD Economics Branch
Bridgeen Magorrian	NIEA Water Management Unit
Ronan Gunn	DARD
Stuart Wightman	DRD Water Policy
George Alexander	NI Water
Norman Simmons	DOE, PEPG
Brenda Cuning	DOE PEPG
George Roddy	DARD Rivers Agency
John McCartney	Loughs Agency
Alvin Wilson	NIEA Water Management Unit
Bob Davidson	NIEA NH Biodiversity

1. Welcome

The Acting Chairman welcomed attendees to the 17th meeting of this Group and offered apologies as detailed above.

2. Approval of draft Agenda.

The agenda for the meeting was approved with one AOB issue offered as attendance at the Advisory Councils in the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

3. Approval of Minutes of 16th IWG meeting (30th September) & Matters

No points of accuracy were raised. The Minutes of the 16th Meeting were agreed and approved for publication and addition to the website.

4. Programme of Measures

GN referred to item 5 from the 16th meeting agenda and thanked the group for the considerable feedback received on the Programme of Measure (POM). A log of comments has been collated to show how each comment has been addressed and incorporated into the draft plan. PB explained that comments from Loughs agency would be forwarded after the bilateral meeting that has been scheduled next week. GN noted the timeline the section were working to and requested that any outstanding comments should be forwarded as soon as possible to expedite the completion of this work. AMcC then drew the Groups attention to the current draft plan and explained how the POM had been further developed since the last meeting. The colour coding of the sectors was brought to the attention of the Group and discussion prompted on the local dimension sought for each of the sectors. AMcC continued to lead the group through the structure and content of the draft.

AMcC explained that 11 key sectors had been identified and that stakeholders were posed some questions at the start of the POM to put them on notice that we will require their input. A substantial sector by sector summary was covered by AMcC and generated feedback and identified a series of actions for members to complete in order to assist with advancing the Tier 2 document towards finalisation.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
Loughs Agency comments to be forwarded for inclusion in the working draft	PB	7 th Nov	Received 11 th
Provide information on future actions for agriculture	LM/BE	7 th Nov	completed
Provide examples of SUDS schemes that have been designed with new roads	RW	7 th Nov	completed
Provide information on restoration work carried out in Moneymore; clarify feet/metres issue	PMcC	7 th Nov	completed
Provide text on the Habitats Regs. and their implications for each sector of the POM	DS	7 th Nov	completed
Provide information on the Harbour works Regs. for marine morph chapter	DMcC	7 th Nov	completed
Forward adoption policy to AMcC	TA	7 th Nov	completed
Text on private sewage consents for sewage section; Text on sewage sludge regulation ref forestry	VC	7 th Nov	completed
Review title of 'Urban development' consider 'developed areas'	All	7 th Nov	completed
Review current forestry section	II	7 th Nov	completed
Review wording on GBRs	PEPG	7 th Nov	completed
Review waste section	PEPG	7 th Nov	completed
PEPG overall comments	BC	7 th Nov	completed
Review working drafts for developed areas, industry and sewage	JS	7 th Nov	completed
Supplement fisheries conservation	PB, MMcA, DA	7 th Nov 2008	Updated 11 th Nov

5. Draft River Basin Management Plans – update

GN provided an update on the current status of the plans and explained that the timeline was to finalise the writing of the plans by Thursday 13th November with the document going to printers at the end of November. GN explained that the POM chapter is a key part of this process and would be finalised during the week ending Friday 14th. GN assured the group that the document was on track for release to consultation on 22nd December.

PMcM updated the group on the Executive sign-off process for the draft plans. The 'Write Around' had been completed and the Executive paper had been put through with a view to the Executive meeting. However as a result of this meeting and a further meeting timetabled for 31st October not having taken place the plan has now been referred to the 'Urgent Procedure' of the OFMDFM last week. PMcM reported, as of this morning, there had been no further movement. Nevertheless, it was anticipated that it would be cleared on the basis that this Plan is firstly, draft, secondly an obligation under the WFD and thirdly, considering the aspect of UK and ROI joint waters. PMcM assured the group that if there was a problem we would be considering an alternative procedure.

GN advised the group that the Tier 2 document would be published as a hard copy. Tier 1 would be taken forward as summary information and the web-tool would be completed by the end of November. A short discussion followed on the use of the UKTAG and NI guidance for classification. The NI approach is currently being written up and will be made available as part of the supporting documentation for the consultation.

GN talked to the Group about the Mechanism for Action (MFA) paper which had been circulated and any comments to be made. GN appealed for views on the MFA content and whether the group felt the POM could go into more detail to include the MFA. AMcC mentioned that other Agencies have provided weblinks and suggested a basic MFA. GN told the Group that a decision would be made during the following week on best way to utilise the MFA paper. The need to avoid replicating information which is currently held on dedicated existing information sources such as Netregs and CEDREC was noted.

6. Bids for POM 2011 - 2014

GN introduced this item highlighting that the draft plans contain new actions for a number of agency and government departments represented on this group. The success of the plan will depend on money being secured to take forward the measures.

PMcM stated that at the last meeting of the WFD Interdepartmental Board the advice from DFP was that cross Departmental bids for new POMs would be welcome. These joined-up bids would be more acceptable and suggested that a WFD branding be used for these bids in order to ease their identification and draw attention to approval of monies sought.

GN emphasised that during the next year and up until the final plan, each Department should bid and co-ordinate bids to create a momentum for a WFD brand. This Group

will review progress on this over the next six months. The bids, if successful, would be part of the next Programme for Government 2011-2014. Advice from DFP suggests that an indicative bid at the end of 2008 should be submitted.

PB asked if survey monitoring work was to be included in these bids. GN agreed that the enhancement and protection element may involve monitoring, but that the environmental protection aspect should be the overall key message.

PMcC mentioned that the WFD Administrative Arrangements paper would be helpful in terms of highlighting what the roles and responsibilities are of various Departments under WFD. GN suggested that consideration should be given with regard to reproducing this paper to assist with the bidding process. The Group will consider this further following clarification from DFP on the bidding process.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
Clarify with DFP if looking for the 2011-2014 programme for government?	PMcM	Jan 09	complete
Clarify with DFP, feedback on when bids are needed?	PMcM	Jan 09	complete
Group to work on this over the next 6 months	All	April 2009	ongoing

7. Supporting plans and programmes

AMcC explained that the supporting plans and programmes are specified in the annex of the WFD and that it is a requirement to produce a register of supporting plans and programmes. A draft register has been collated though it has not been circulated yet. The document is structured around 10 topics such as land use and forestry planning. It is acknowledged that there is a certain amount of overlap with this document and some of the information on the Tier 2 report. The Group were asked for input following finalisation of Tier 2 specifically to identify their relevant topic and provide feedback. The Group were reminded that this information would exist as a Tier 4 document for stakeholders to view.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
Review and quality assure the supporting plans and programmes document.	All	Post 14 th November	complete

8. Heavily Modified Water Bodies (HMWBs) update

GN updated the Group on HMWB designations. HMWB designations are a recognition that some water bodies function as particular uses for human activity e.g. harbours, ports and flood defences. Their impacts are recognised and the water bodies are classified based on their potential to achieve good ecological potential (GEP). A series of workshops have been held and attended by representatives from the key areas such as fisheries and Rivers Agency. Ports and harbours have not been completed to date and this will not be completed until next year.

9. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) update

AMcC gave an update on SEA following on from the SEA and River Basin Plans integration and awareness workshop attended by IWG members. The series of measures identified in the POM are now subject to SEA assessment. Consultants are currently looking at the impact of the measures on the wider environment. A document was circulated to the Group to demonstrate how each measure is being assessed against each of the SEA topics, such as biodiversity etc. The positive and negative impacts are identified to assess the impact of the measure on the environment. The consultants have received the draft plans and a separate SEA Environmental Report will be produced at the end of the year.

GN alerted the Group that this is a statutory requirement on an all Ireland basis to produce environmental reports for consultation at the same time as the draft River Basin Plans. The Group were invited to request the draft SEA Environmental Reports as they would not be circulated routinely to the Group. The opportunity to make comment would be at consultation was mentioned.

7. AOB

GN notified members that an approach had been made from the Advisory Councils to engage with NI. The Advisory Councils exist for each River Basin in ROI and our equivalent is the Catchment Stakeholder Groups (CSGs). It was noted that the Advisory Councils had indeed been invited to attend the CSGs as the opportunity to engage with important Agencies and Departments.

PB informed the group that Lough's Agency sit on the Public Authority Forum (ROI equivalent to this Group) with representatives of all the statutory agencies.

It was agreed that PB would report back to this Group on the meetings of the Public Authority Forum.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
Check details of ROI group requesting membership at this Group	GN	26 Nov	complete

8. Date of next joint meeting

A provisional date of 26th November 2008 was agreed with a working assumption that the POM and local plans and programmes would be finalised through emails. A timetable for 2009 meetings on a six weekly/ 2 or 3 monthly basis would also be circulated.

Diane Arthur
Acting Secretary
Implementation Working Group