

Note of Meeting

Island Civic Centre Lisburn

5 May 2010

Attendees

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|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1. | Dave Foster | Head Water Management Unit, NIEA (Chair) |
| 2. | Gary Houston | Iveagh Angling Club, Ulster Angling Federation & Inland Fisheries Forum (Presenter) |
| 3. | Bridgeen Magorrian | North Eastern River Basin Manager, NIEA (Presenter) |
| 4. | David Miller | Senior Water Quality Inspector, NIEA (Presenter) |
| 5. | Helen Nutt | Catchment Management Officer, NIEA (Presenter & Notetaker) |
| 6. | Tom Adamson | Water Utility Regulation Group, NIEA |
| 7. | Judith Bankhead | Conservation Officer, Rivers Agency |
| 8. | Jim Bradley | Belfast Hills Partnership |
| 9. | George Butler | Director of Asset Management, Northern Ireland Water |
| 10. | Paul Cannon | Water Quality Inspector, NIEA |
| 11. | Eddie Carson | Iveagh Angling Club |
| 12. | Daniel Clarke | Lagan Valley Regional Park |
| 13. | Brian Henderson | Hollywood Fly-fishers Club |
| 14. | Uel Irwin | AES Kilroot Power Station |
| 15. | Sam Jackson | Iveagh Angling Club |
| 16. | Jonathan Kerr | Iveagh Angling Club |
| 17. | David Knott | Belfast Harbour Commissioners |
| 18. | Wendy Langham | Project Manager, Connswater Community Greenway |
| 19. | Suzanne Lutton | Lagan Corridor Officer, Lisburn City Council |
| 20. | John Martin | RSPB |
| 21. | Stephanie McGee | River Basin Planning Group, NIEA |
| 22. | Kevin McGrady | Regional Operations, NIEA |
| 23. | Donal McLaughlin | Lisburn City Council |
| 24. | Philip McMurray | Environmental Policy Division, DoE |
| 25. | Gabriel Nelson | River Basin Planning Group Manager, NIEA |
| 26. | Trevor Ogborn | Local resident |
| 27. | Devina Park | River Basin Planning Group, NIEA |
| 28. | Michael Shanks | Dromore & District Angling Club |
| 29. | Roslyn Stewart | Water Utility Regulation Group, NIEA |
| 30. | Gerry Wilson | River Basin Planning Group, NIEA |

Apologies

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|-----------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1. | Orla Maguire | 5. | Brendan Kerr | 10. | Lorraine Heaney |
| 2. | Alan Cooper | 6. | Justin Forsythe | 11. | Robbie Marshall |
| 3. | Seamus Connor | 7. | David Garrett | 12. | Harold McBride |
| 4. | Jackie Flynn | 8. | Victoria Crone | 13. | Alan Morrow |
| | | 9. | John Todd | 14. | Deborah McLaughlin |

1. Welcome, outline of agenda and introductions

Dave Foster opened the meeting and welcomed all to the 6th meeting of the Belfast Lough and Lagan Catchment Stakeholder Group (CSG). Those in attendance were invited to introduce themselves to the group.

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

Presentation from Helen Nutt, North East Catchment Officer, NIEA; "Minutes and update on action points from the last meeting."

Helen Nutt gave a brief presentation detailing the updates on the action points raised at the last Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG meeting held on 7 October 2009 in the Island Civic Centre Lisburn.

Summary of actions from the last meeting:

Ref	Action	Update
2.1	Helen Nutt to add agreed minutes from the Spring 2009, and the presentations from the Autumn 2009 meetings, to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website.	Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website has been updated. http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_partic/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm
3.1	David Miller to provide a breakdown of pollution incidents for future meetings.	Breakdown will be provided at this and future meetings.
3.4	NIEA to provide an update on the misconnections project at the next meeting.	David Miller will include in Operational Actions update at this meeting.
4.1 (a)	Selection paper on Local Management Area Plans to be added to the NIEA website. ("Pearl mussel over-ride/conservation" table to be updated.)	The paper has been added to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website. http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_partic/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm
4.1 (b)	Link to the draft River Basin Management Plan consultation response document to be sent to CSG members.	Update email with a link to the draft River Basin Management Plan consultation response document sent to CSG contacts on 9 November 2009. http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/consultation_responses.pdf
4.1 (c)	Local Management Area Plan information sheet to be forwarded to CSG members.	Update on Local Management Area Plans and associated Information Leaflets sent to all CSG contacts 15 March 2010, copy sent with CSG invite and additional copies were available at this meeting. http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/lagan_lma-2.pdf
4.4	NIEA to provide Curriculum Vitae of accreditations at the next meeting.	Handout available at this meeting giving an overview and link to where more detailed

		information can be found on NIEA's accreditations.
4.5	NIEA to provide an update on the compliance of Shellfish Waters at the next meeting.	Handout available at this meeting giving an overview.
5.1	All to provide feedback on the venues, timings of meetings and implementation of the Local Management Area Plan through available feedback forms.	Ongoing: workshop at this meeting and feedback on the Local Management Area Plans and meeting format welcomed.

The note of the meeting has been issued by email and post to all parties who were present at the last meeting. Comments were received regarding one point of accuracy in relation to section 3.4 of the note. This has been corrected and the amended note of the meeting has been agreed.

ACTION: Helen Nutt to add agreed minutes from the Autumn 2009, and the presentations from the Spring 2010, meetings to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website.

3. Catchment Case Study

Presentation from Gary Houston, Iveagh Angling Club

Gary Houston gave a presentation on the work of the Iveagh Angling Club and what they have been doing on their River Lagan Enhancement project. He said that the club currently had about 100 members and 10 court appointed water bailiffs. Gary talked about the partnerships and affiliations that the club had built up locally and with UK based angling advisory bodies. He said that the objective of the Club was to improve angling and stock levels with the River Lagan and that they have a strong focus on restoring and preserving a good water environment within the river.

- 3.1 Gary mentioned a number of projects that the Iveagh Angling Club is involved in including work with the Wild Trout Trust and the Riverfly Partnership. The Club has had Peace funding to help install fishing groynes, carry out spawning enhancements and make improvements to fish-passage. The Iveagh Club have carried out electrofishing survey work on the River Lagan to inform their restocking of native fry programme, they've worked with local landowners to improve access to the river, have fenced 7km of the river and planted 10,000 native trees. Gary talked about the Club's work to manage invasive species like Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed and discussions the club had had regarding the re-introduction of the Mayfly and River Water Crow-foot (*Ranunculus*) to the river.
- 3.2 Dave Foster thanked Gary Houston for his informative presentation. The group discussed ideas for helping to promote the importance of fishing in rivers locally. The Salmon in the Classroom initiative was highlighted as something that angling club might be interested in pursuing. The importance of good access to river corridors and fishing rights were discussed. The group debated the pros and cons of the introduction of River Water Crow-foot and highlighted experiences others had had with the plant in river stretches elsewhere.
- 3.3 A member of the meeting asked Gary about the Club's success with fry survival and the impact of any poaching activity. Gary said that the success of re-stocking was picked up by AFBI and their own electrofishing surveys. He said that sea trout were present within the river but that they were not currently restocked. He said that whilst the Club mainly adopted a catch and

release approach that poaching did appear to be an increasing problem that their bailiffs had noted. Gary said that there was a need for more educational material to be available to promote awareness of the damage that poaching does to native and enhanced fish stocks and that information should be available in a range of languages. It was suggested that tackle shops should be used as locations to distribute this information.

ACTION: Helen Nutt to find out about the availability of anti-poaching awareness material and whether or not there is information available in minority ethnic languages.

- 3.4 Gary spoke about how the Iveagh Angling Club had been working with local landowners and that they had been able to provide fencing and drinking troughs for individual farmers and that they had built up a good working relationship with the Council Biodiversity and Access Officers.

4. Operational Actions

David Miller gave a presentation with an overview of the pollution incidents that had been reported since the last meeting, giving a breakdown of their source and the outcomes of recent cases. He highlighted routine and ongoing work that NIEA Regional Operations were involved in in the catchment.

- 4.1 David gave an update on the work that his team had been carrying out into widespread local household misconnections. He gave some details about the West Belfast Pilot study that his team had been working on and said that 8 out of 10 of the first houses they had looked at had had a problem. He described how typical problems arose with the end problem being that miss-plumbed pipes discharging foul water directly to the surface water system which ultimately ended up in the river environment. He said about the work that had been carried out in England where the Environment Agency had worked in partnership with the water companies to produce good practice guidance and raise awareness of the problem in areas affected.
- 4.2 David said that there is no easy solution to solving pollution caused by misconnections and that a lot of survey work, by dye testing for example, had to be carried out to find the source of the problem. He said that where problems were noted that letters were written to the householder to make them aware of the pollution that was being caused and requesting that remedial work be carried out. He said that a successful approach would require the involvement of Northern Ireland Water, Building Control and other agencies and that promotion of the problem through an awareness raising campaign was required. He said NIEA would be looking closely at the Environment Agency model.
- 4.3 Dave Foster thanked David Miller for his presentation. The meeting discussed the range of people who could be responsible for causing misconnections; homeowners, developers, plumbers, NIW, Planning Service, Building Control etc. and David highlighted that the issues usually arose through ignorance of the problem or carelessness. He said that general houses built before the 1960's didn't cause problems as they were often plumbed entirely to the sewer but that there are problems in some more recent buildings.
- 4.4 David Miller was asked about the relatively low number of successful pollution prosecutions since the last meeting. He highlighted the weight of evidence needed to take a prosecution and that all high and medium severity pollution incidents were considered for enforcement action by NIEA.

4.5 Trevor Ogborn raised a number of concerns about Northern Ireland Water's proposed upgrade work at Dunmurry Waste Water Treatment Works. George Butler said that NIW had preliminary Planning permission to carry out major upgrades to the works in Dunmurry and Newtownbreda. He said that the work would cost between £6-7 million, that a contractor had been appointed and that work was due to finish in 2012.

4.6 Gary Houston highlighted his concerns about the number of hydroelectric schemes planned in Northern Ireland. He said that he had written to NIEA and would be writing to DCAL. He asked that other angling clubs also highlight their concerns to government on the matter. The meeting broke for tea and coffee.

5 **Local Management Area (LMA) Overview and Workshop on Lagan LMA Action Plan**

Bridgeen Magorrian gave a presentation highlighting NIEA's programme for River Basin Management Plan implementation. She said that the Lagan LMA had been selected as one of the 9 areas that were being focused on in 2010. She showed maps of the area which highlighted that there are significant improvement required in the Lagan to reach the Good Ecological Status required by the Water Framework Directive.

5.1 She said NIEA was developing Local Management Area Action Plans and that NIEA was keen to have local input into shaping these. She said that Helen Nutt had held a series of meeting with local stakeholders to make sure local concerns were addressed by the plans. Bridgeen said maps and information would be available at the meeting and that through the workshop session and available feedback forms that NIEA was keen to receive any additional comments. Bridgeen said that the feedback received through the workshop session would be used to help develop the Lagan LMA Action Plan. The meeting broke into the workshop sessions.

ACTION: All to provide feedback for input to the Local Management Area Action Plans and the format of meetings to Helen Nutt.

6. **Close**

Dave Foster thanked all for attending and for their input to the discussion.

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3.3	Helen Nutt to find out about the availability of anti-poaching awareness material and whether or not there is information available in minority ethnic languages.
5.2	All to provide feedback for input to the Local Management Area Action Plans and the format of meetings to Helen Nutt.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
 17 Antrim Road
 Lisburn
 BT28 3AL
 Tel: 028 92623164
 Email: Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk
 www.ni-environment.gov.uk