

Lower Foyle Catchment Stakeholder Group

# Note of Meeting

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**Venue:** Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady

## Attendees:

Alvin Wilson (Chairman)  
Caroline Steele (NIEA)  
Mairead Clarke (NIEA)  
Alan Warwick (NIEA)  
Simon Gummer (NIEA)  
Conrad McCormick (NIEA)  
Deaglan McBride (Road Service)  
Michael McAlary (NI Water)  
Art Niven (Loughs Agency)  
Marcus Austin (NIEA Natural Heritage)  
John Mc Cartney (Loughs Agency)  
Gareth Greer (Rivers Agency)  
Robert McCloy (Ulster Farmers Union)  
Nicole McArthur (NIEA)  
William O'Neill (Burn Dennet Anglers Assoc.)  
Norman Henderson (NIEA)

## Apologies

Des Nevin (NI Water)  
Angela Torrens (NI Water)  
John Curran (NI Water)  
Ian Wright Turner (Forest Service)  
Steve McCartney (Forest Service)  
Stuart Freeman (Planning Service)  
HEJ Montgomery (Bann Systems)  
John Kane (DCAL)  
Martin Kerr (EPA)  
Claire Vincent (NIEA)

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Alvin Wilson (proposed by Michael McAlary, seconded Mairead Clarke) has been appointed the new chair for this group while Caroline Steele is acting Catchment Officer covering for Joanne Livingstone. Alvin thanked Norman for his work as previous chair. The minutes from the last meeting held on 9 November 2009 were circulated and the points addressed.

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting

These were agreed to be an accurate account and are available on NIEA website on the following link:

[http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/lower\\_foyle.htm](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/lower_foyle.htm)

### 3. Matters arising

**Table 1:** November 2009 action point updates and summary of the action points from this meeting.

Ref	Action Point	Action	Update
AP1	1	In future any plume/cloudy discharge noted (from Carmoney WWTW) should be photographed and the details passed to JL who will pass them to NI Water.	<p>No incidents have been received at present. Due to changes within the River Basin Planning Group and JL absence, any discharges noted should be reported to the NIEA Pollution Hotline 0800 807060.</p> <p>JMcC explained there was a problem with the velocity of discharge exiting the pipe and mobilising sediments in the river. Also to point out the high velocity maybe in breach of new Lough Agency's regulations. MMcA asked does the consent stipulate flow.</p> <p><b>AP 1 MMcA (NIW) to contact JMcC (LA) re Flow concerns at the work. AW to be kept informed.</b></p>
AP 2	2	JL to provide an update on x-compliance visits for 2009 at the next meeting.	<p>CS reported that all cross compliances visits for 2009 were completed by December. In total 369 visits were carried out throughout NI. (approximately 1% farm population)</p> <p><b>AP 2 CS to contact Agri Regs team re availability of farm breach information.</b></p>
AP 3	3	NH to provide update on progress for river bailiffs to take samples for pollution investigations.	<p>NH reported that progress was still being made in this area and it is hoped to be rolled out across NI.</p> <p>Couple of aspects still to be clarified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Issues</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Concern</li> <li>• Training for angling clubs involved.</li> </ul>

AP 4	4	<p>AP 4: JL to ask Noel Bell to meet the Roe Anglers again or to invite them to any future Meetings or Forums where they would have the opportunity to discuss the proposal further.</p>	<p>NIEA met with the Roe anglers on 03 Dec 09 at Loughs Agency HQ &amp; presented an outline of the scheme design. Responses to issues raised relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were provided. The independent ecologist who carried out the aquatic ecology determination was present to answer queries. Planning Service attended to observe the discussion;</p> <p>Following discussions with the Regulators a design modification at the point of abstraction has been proposed. An addendum to the EIA will be submitted to Planning Service for additional consultation to reflect the revision (May 10). The revision is designed to further increase the level of fish protection and reduce abstraction volume.</p> <p>DOE Minister Edwin Poots (NIEA &amp; DCAL officials) met with the anglers on 26 Apr 10 to discuss their concerns. The Minister noted that as a planning decision had yet to be made, the scheme proposal should continue to be assessed as part of the process with continued ongoing stakeholder engagement.</p>
	5	<p>Barriers to fish movement particularly juveniles. JMcC asked was there an assessment criteria regarding bridge design - A5/A6 given as examples. <b>AP 3: DRD Roads Service D MacBride.</b></p>	<p>JMcC emailed point of contact details for Mouchel scheme consultants. 19/5/10</p>
	6	<p>See AOB pg 4. <b>AP 4: All comments to be forwarded to CS by 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010 re EIA Road Scheme.</b></p>	

#### **4. Art Niven (AN) – Water Framework Directive Freshwater Fish Monitoring Programme in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas**

AN gave a presentation on the monitoring work Loughs Agency have been involved with for Water Framework Directive, including methodology description, example mitigation measures and work with the Roe Anglers. He explained how the final fish classification tool for NI and Scotland is still under development and the Loughs Agency hope to commence lake monitoring in the summer.

**The full presentation is available on the website at**

[http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/lower\\_foyle.htm](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/lower_foyle.htm)

Discussion after this presentation included:

- Filling the gaps in the fish monitoring data. AN explained that all 28 surveillance sites would be monitored over a WFD reporting cycle (6 years) 2009 – 2015, while fish would be monitored triennially, so twice in each WFD cycle. In addition to these sites some 500 semi quantitative site (less data collated) also existed so it is hoped to possible incorporate some of the information into Water Framework to address the gaps.
- Once the reports published how are action to be addressed. Help through public participation, to develop plans for action on the ground. Very much need to pull together and have partnership in working.
- Sea trout numbers. Sea trout are not easily identified from Brown trout at a young age so basically need to maximise all trout potential in a river. Sea trout numbers throughout the UK are decreasing, currently a large project Celtic Sea Trout Project happening, awaiting information from the research.

Further information: <http://www.celticseatrout.com/>

- Barriers to fish movement in the rivers particularly juveniles. If they are unable to redistribute themselves then stocking densities would be wrong. Concerns were raised about bases of bridges. Was there an assessment criteria for bridge design particularly now with the A6/A5 schemes? See action table above.

#### **5. Mairead Clarke (MC) – Regional update on pollution incidents and investigations in the Lower Foyle Catchment.**

MC gave a presentation on the local management issues and activities of the Water Quality staff since November 2009, detailing the number and severity of pollution incidents including the city waste fire in March. MC thanked the WQIs for all their hard work during this time.

Discussion after this presentation evolved around the fire at city waste and the handling of the fire water to avoid water pollution.

## 6. AOB

*Information and Assessment Requirements for inclusion in an Environmental Statement for Major Road Schemes to Ensure Impacts on Aquatic Environment are Adequate Assessed.*

This is a guidance document produced by Water Management Unit with input from other agencies to provide developers with timely and consistent advice as to what should be included in their Environmental Statements, with regard to the environmental impact of the proposed project on the aquatic environment. It is currently in draft form and available for comment.

**AP** Any comments should be forwarded to Caroline Steele by COP 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

## 7. Caroline Steele (CS) Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA Workshop.

CS provided a brief introduction to the development of the implementation plan for the Local Management Areas (LMA) within the North West River Basin District, to deliver the obligations of the Water Framework Directive. Information had already been collated to begin developing the plan and any further information on pressures, areas of concern and improvement measures would be welcome. The meeting was split into smaller groups for a workshop to allow discussion around the Burn Dennet and Foyle LMA map to mark and collect local information on the issues of concern in the area, to add to the action plan.

## 8. Close

AW thanked everyone for attending and for their input.

Northern Ireland **Environment** Agency  
Water Management Unit  
17 Antrim Road  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL

Tel: 028 92633499  
Email: [info@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:info@doeni.gov.uk)

[www.ni-environment.gov.uk](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk)