

Strangford & Lecale Catchment Stakeholder Group

Note of Meeting

13 April 2011

Venue: Down County Museum

Attendees:

1. Claire Vincent Head of Marine Assessment & Licensing, NIEA
(Chair)
2. Kevin McGlynn Water Quality Inspector, NIEA
3. Aideen Kelly Strangford & Lecale Catchment Management
Officer
4. Stephen Kennedy Dibney River Trust
5. Billy Watson Dibney River Trust
6. Tom Breeze NI Pike Society
7. Keith Bradford Friends of the Earth & Lecale Conservation
Society
8. Alan Morrow Countryside Management Branch, DARD
9. Kevin McGrady Regional Operations, NIEA
10. John Peacocke Lecale Conservation Society
11. Jim Haughey Ulster Angler's Federation
12. Gordon Smyth Northern Ireland Water
13. James Brown Ulster Farmers Union
14. John Reid Ulster Farmers Union
15. William Corry Lecale Conservation Society
16. Wendy McKinley NIEA
17. Devina Park NIEA
18. Jo Campbell NIEA

Apologies:

1. Anne McAleenan Down District Council
2. Judith Bankhead Rivers Agency
3. Dermot Devaney Northern Ireland Water
4. Ian Kittle Inler Angling Club

1. Welcome, outline of agenda and introductions

- 1.1 Claire Vincent opened the meeting. Round room introductions.
2. Minutes & Update on Matters Arising from last meeting
 - 2.1 Minutes were published to NIEA website 3 December 2010.
 - 2.2.4 CV is continuing to liaise with DARD and has reported the Group's concerns that Shellfish harvesting is on the increase. CV has also been in contact with NIEA, Natural Heritage regarding the harvesting within an ASSI.

- 4.1 The Enforcement policy has been published and can be accessed via the following link:
http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/niea_enforcement_policy.pdf
- 5.1 No response received, however any group can contact AK at any time.
- 5.2 Response received from 1 stakeholder group regarding the positioning of the Water Pollution Hotline Signs.
- 6.4 WMU is currently developing guidelines for hydroelectric proposals.
ACTION: CV will update at the Autumn CSG meeting

3. Talk by Stephen Kennedy from Dibney River Trust

The Dibney River Trust was formed in 2007 by a group of people from the Killyleagh area aiming to clean up the river and change the mindset of local people. The River Dibney was heavily polluted, mainly due to the tannery which has since closed down. The Dibney River Trust organises clean up events in the river and targets young people to look after their local river through angling and fly tying workshops. This culminates in the annual Irish International Fly Fair which will be held on the 2nd and 3rd July 2011. The fair attracts a large number of Fly Tyers and Casters from all over the world and is supported by the Wild Trout Trust. More details can be found on the website:
www.internationalflyfair.com

The fair has become important in the local economy as 700 people attended the fair last year. It is run with an £1800 grant and sponsorship from local companies.

The Dibney River Trust has encountered a lot of difficulties during the organisation of its events, this ranges from accessing grants, navigating through red tape and bureaucracy, although the Catchment Stakeholder Group Meeting has helped to provide useful contacts within Government Departments.

Issues which haven't been dealt with to the satisfaction of the Dibney River Trust include the removal of gravel from the Dibney, removal of Japanese Knotweed and removal of waste collected during river clean ups.

ACTION : Aideen Kelly (AK) to produce a list of key contact people and put them in touch with Stephen Kennedy (SK).

Jim Haughey (JH) informed the group that the Planning PPS23 and PPS24 consultation was closing on Friday 6th May and that the Ulster Angling Federation (UAF) will be submitting a response and urged other stakeholders to do likewise.

4. Update on Actions from Quoile Working Group

CV reported that she has had meetings with Rivers Agency and there is now an accepted understanding of the problem caused by the barrage. Rivers Agency are currently building a computer model to carry out work to comply with the Floods Directive. NIEA are exploring

the prospect of using this information to build a sediment morphological and water quality model which would be able to model different management options in the Quoile system.

5. Operational Actions

Kevin McGlynn (NIEA) gave an update on Pollution Response within the Strangford and Lecale catchment.

6. Update on Strangford LMA and Workshop on Quoile LMA

AK gave an update on the Strangford Action Plan (which can be accessed

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/strangford_lma_actionplan.pdf) and

gave an overview of the Quoile LMA. Comments were sought during the workshop and representatives attending the meeting were encouraged to bring a copy of the Quoile LMA map back to their Group so information could be gathered from a wider range of people. Information gathered will be used in the development of the Quoile LMA Action Plan. NIEA is keen to work with groups to identify issues and AK would welcome the opportunity to meet with groups within the Quoile LMA to discuss any issues of concern.

ACTION: Groups providing further comments to return them to AK by 30th June 2011.

5. Close

Claire Vincent thanked all for attending and for their input. The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 13th October 2011. Venue tbc

Summary of actions from the meeting:

Ref	Action	Update
2.1	CV to update on WMU guidelines for hydroelectric proposals.	The revised guidelines have not been published to date. Action on AK to circulate link to revised guidelines when available.
3.1	AK to produce a list of key contact people and put them in touch with SK.	Down District Council guidance procedure on community litter picks and details for the Association of River Trusts. Also details of responsible bodies for the control of invasive species have been e-mailed to SK (May 2011 and September 2011)
5.1	Groups providing further comments to return them to AK by 30 th June 2011.	No additional comments were received. Concerns regarding water quality in the Quoile system can be submitted to AK at any time.

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