

WFD Implementation Working Group

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30 September 2008



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Northern Ireland  
**Environment**  
Agency

## WFD Implementation Working Group (16<sup>th</sup>)

Tuesday 30 September 2008, 10:30 – 3:30pm

Boardroom, EHS Lisburn

### Minutes

ATTENDEES:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dept / Agency</b>
Gabriel Nelson (Acting Chair)	NIEA WMU RBMP
Diane Arthur (Sec)	NIEA WMU RBMP
Alvin Wilson	NIEA WMU RBMP
Alison McCaw	NIEA WMU RBMP
Victoria Crone	NIEA WMU
George Alexander	NI Water
Angela Halpenny	NI Water
Randal Scott	NIEA DWI
Bob Davidson	NIEA NH
Tony Waterman	NIEA NH Conservation Science
Phillip McMurray	DOE PEPG
Norman Simmons	DOE PEPG
William Caldwell	DOE PEPG
Alan Morrow	DARD CMB
George Roddy	DARD Rivers Agency
Marcus McCauley	DCAL Fisheries technical
Keith Forster	DRD Economics
Julian Smyth	DRD Water Policy
Seamus Connor	FBCNI
Patrick Boylan	Loughs Agency

APOLOGIES:

<b>Name, Organisation</b>	<b>Name, Organisation</b>
George Butler - NI Water	Stuart Wightman - DRD
Paddy McCrudden - DARD Rivers Agency	Bridgeen Magorrian – NIEA Water Management Unit
Tom Adamson - NIEA Water Management Unit	Diane Stevenson – NH NIEA Conservation Designations
Dave Foster- NIEA Water Management Unit	Paul Byrne – NH NIEA Conservation Designations
Claire Vincent- NIEA Water Management Unit	Meharg, Mike – NIEA NH Biodiversity Unit
Ronnie Wilson – DRD RDS TEPU Engineering Policy	Raymond McCullough - Ports and Transport
David Wright – DCAL IW & IF Branch	Michael McSorley - DRD
Ian Irwin - Forestry Service	Brian Ervine - DARD
Richard Schaible - Forestry Service	Linda McGoldrick - DARD
Stuart Morwood - Forestry Service	Emma Neill - DOE PEPG
John McCartney - Loughs Agency	

## 1. Welcome

The Acting Chairman welcomed attendees to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group and offered apologies as detailed above.

## 2. Approval of draft Agenda.

The agenda for the meeting was approved with no AOB issues offered.

## 3. Approval of Minutes of (8th July) & Matters arising

One point of accuracy was raised and it was agreed that the amendment to be confirmed via email. All matters arising from the meeting were complete or were tabled for update on the Agenda for the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Minutes were agreed and approved for publication, following agreed amendment. Group members were reminded that the minutes will be uploaded to the website for public access.

## 4. Classification/Objective setting – update

GN notified the Group that we were going through the classification process and as per the tables provided, which summarised the river, lake, groundwater, transitional and coastal water body status. GN explained the tables to the group highlighting points on each.

Approx 30% of the 552 river water bodies are meeting good or high status. GN stressed that this took into account the different elements and if one element fails then the water body will not meet a good status. It was noted that this set the bar high to meet good status. The current classification has gaps and this is recognised in the table by 'limited information'. This will be progressed in the next year. The coastal classification in line with the other classifications is to be updated next year as more monitoring information becomes available. Transitional water bodies (estuaries) displayed signs of more impact due to the proximity with large urban areas and therefore bore the brunt of pressures; down grading is largely due to nutrient enrichment. Ground waters were divided into only two classes based on both chemical and quantitative status. GN advised the group that the ambition in the river basin plan is to lift the status by one class per cycle. The figures reflect this ambition and further work for the incoming weeks will confirm how achievable this is. The ambition of NI is higher than the rest of the UK e.g. Scotland has yet not examined what benefit new actions will bring. PMcM asked what the ROI classifications were and GN confirmed that the ROI objectives are currently being set and are not yet complete. The status classification will be revised in 2009 to allow updating of the final River Basin Management Plan. GA asked could a range of pessimistic and optimistic results be considered. GN explained that the confidence in classification will play into this and that we could be cautious but the Directive requires us to achieve good status. AW explained that the next stage will look at the Programme of Measures and how far this will take us to meeting the objectives. The confidence in classification status will play into the objectives. The aim is to develop SIMCAT model in order to run scenarios. Work in October will assess how far away from the chemical standards for good status we are and will be used as a means to predict how effective current measures are. This is a work in progress and we need flexibility in the plan over it's six year cycle.

Actions	By Whom	Target Date	Status
None			

## 5. Programmes of Measures

### a. Summary Programme of Measures (POM)

The two documents circulated for the meeting (a) POM briefing note and (b) Northern Ireland dRBMP Programme of Measures Main Report (dated 25 September 2008) were discussed. AMcC explained the POM main body has been developed from the initial 'Appendix 8 POM appendix'. The POM has been moved forward and developed and refined through the series of departmental agency bilateral meetings. PB asked if these meeting were being continued and if Lough's Agency would be invited. It was agreed that they would need to be involved and engaged as legislation may overlap. It was made clear that the document now circulated was a "repackaged" version of the earlier appendix and that any gaps now needed filled and quality assured by the Group. This includes the pressures, assessment of impact, action to be taken in the first cycle and in future and also need to quantify the benefits of these actions. AMcC emphasised that the tables in this document are similar in content to those distributed earlier. This work is required to be finalised by the end of October and comments should be returned to DA to collate. PB indicated that there had been a circulation problem at the early stages of circulation of early draft papers. DA confirmed that the mailing address problem had been picked up and rectified. GN offered apologies for these problems. GN advised the group that the updated document titled 'Northern Ireland dRBMP Programme of Measures Main Report' would then be incorporated into the documents titled 'Summary Draft Neagh Bann, North Western and North Eastern River Basin Management Plan; September 2008'.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Review of document titled 'Summary Draft Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan September 2008' for Write Around	All group members	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2008	complete
Review and QA of document titled 'Northern Ireland dRBMP Programme of Measures Main Report 25 September 2008' and 'track change' comments to DA	All group members	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	Majority complete with some outstanding

## **b. Mechanisms for Action**

The document circulated to the meeting 'Northern Ireland dRBMP Mechanisms for Action 25 September 2008' was discussed. A further document containing a table titled 'Northern Ireland Supplementary Measures\_29Sep08' was issued to the group and it was explained that this document would form part of the draft River Basin Management Plans. AMcC explained that the document highlights in yellow NI specific supplementary measures. The Strategic Environmental Assessment process requires that when new measures are being considered a range are to be picked and the options assessed on impacts on the wider environment. The Group were advised that there would be scope for further amendments as this is a draft which goes out for a six month consultation. As a result there may be changes for the final River Basin Management Plans.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Review of document 'Northern Ireland dRBMP mechanisms for Action 25 September 2008'	All group members	31st October 2008	To be completed

## **6. Draft River Basin Management Plans – Current Version**

The following documents, which had been circulated by TRIM links, were discussed – “Summary Drafts of the Neagh Bann, North Western and North Eastern River Basin Management Plans, dated 19 September 2008”. Some members of the group pointed out that there were technical issues with the TRIM links used to circulate these documents. GN agreed that this problem would be noted in any future correspondences. The purpose and layout of documents were explained to the group. The format needs to “tell the story” of the process that is underway with the reader in mind so it is stand alone and informative. It is a work in progress and the group were asked for observations on this. GN explained that there would be a better connection with the web based part of the River Basin Plans and considerable effort was being put into this. The web mapping tool would allow the user to pull up a water body and get the information on classification and in future any actions associated with it. GN explained that this document is still a work in progress and in response to stakeholder feedback further changes would be made to improve the graphical presentation of information, present information at a local level where possible e.g. river catchment and make a clearer link between actions and expected Improvement.

It was explained that these documents are subject to the departmental write around process so deadlines were tight. It is hoped that the draft RBPs will go to the meeting of the executive on 16<sup>th</sup> October. If the Executive do not meet then this would fall back to 30<sup>th</sup> October, otherwise they would be referred to 'urgent procedures' and go to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) for sign off. PMcM agreed to keep the group up-to-date with any developments. MMcA commented on figures in the draft RBMP Executive Paper relating to fish barriers and costs. GN clarified that these figures are indicative figures at present, based on figures in the Scottish Impact Assessment on Supplementary Measures, which would need to be more detailed for the final RBMP. BD asked how similar this approach was in comparison to that of the UK. GN

explained that this was a similar approach to that across the UK, though there were differences due to for example data availability or models.

From a publishing perspective views were requested on how the Group felt distribution of the draft plans should be dealt with. It was felt that to engage the commitment of the public and encourage comment hardcopies were a requirement. The NIEA thinking was to undertake a limited print run with a targeted circulation list and make hardcopy available at regional offices. Suggestions from the Group ranged from promotion of electronic versions online (printed copies on request) to a wide circulation as for the SWMI reports. GN confirmed that stakeholders would be put on notice that the draft plans would be coming out in December through the next round of CSG meetings. In addition it is planned to use flyers at the launch of the consultation period, with a possible Ministerial launch in January 2009 and information days during February/ March to communicate key messages supported by a communication package. The requirements of the legal deposit list would be met and it was suggested supplementary copies be distributed to the regional parks.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Review of dRBMPs as part of departmental write around for Executive approval	All	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2008	completed

## **7. AOB**

No Items raised under AOB. Members were invited to attend the SEA Information Awareness Session which was timetabled to follow lunch.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

A provisional date for the 17th meeting had been placed in calendars for 12th November 2008 however considering the timeline for the production of the RBPs and finalisation date of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008 GN suggested there was merit in a meeting of the IWG at the end of October/early November. A provisional date of 4<sup>th</sup> November was agreed and would be confirmed in due course.

**Diane Arthur**

Acting Secretary

Implementation Working Group