

WFD INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION BOARD (WFD-IIB)

**Draft Minutes of 5th meeting, held on Wednesday 16th May 2007
Conference Room 601c, Clarence Court, Belfast**

Present:

Paul Simpson (PS)	<i>DOE (Chairperson)</i>
George Alexander (GA)	<i>NI Water</i>
Pat Aldridge (PA)	<i>Rivers Agency</i>
William Caldwell (WCa)	<i>DOE EPD</i>
Dave Foster (DF)	<i>DOE EHS Water Management Unit</i>
Mark McCaughan (MMc)	<i>DARD Fisheries & Rural Development</i>
Ian McKee (IMc)	<i>DARD Environmental Policy</i>
Philip McMurray (PMc)	<i>DOE EPD</i>
Alison McQueen (AMc)	<i>DCAL Fisheries</i>
Philip Mehaffey (PMe)	<i>Rivers Agency</i>
John Mills (JM)	<i>DRD Water Policy</i>
Mark Pinkerton (MP)	<i>DETI</i>
Jim Thompson (JT)	<i>Planning Service</i>

Apologies:

Roy McClenaghan	<i>DARD Service Delivery Group</i>
Mary McIvor	<i>DFP</i>
Roy Ramsay	<i>EHS</i>
David Small	<i>Forest Service</i>

1. Minutes of 4th meeting

- 1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 December 2006, were agreed. It was noted that, given the review of water charging, DRD would postpone its paper on economic-environmental regulation to a future meeting.

2. Updates on Water Framework Directive implementation

- 2.1. A short 'updates' paper was circulated prior to the meeting, providing a summary on a range of policy, technical and public participation issues. Paul Simpson (PS) highlighted 3 issues from the paper:
- 2.2. PS advised the Board that the WFD Stakeholder Forum would be asked for ideas for the 2007 WFD stakeholder event at their next meeting. He asked the Board to consider ideas, suggesting that the event could focus on the SWMI report and the next steps towards producing River Basin Management Plans (RBMP).
- 2.3. PS referred to the Catchment Stakeholder Groups being established by EHS Water Management Unit. Dave Foster (DF) said that the aspiration was to set these up by summer, fitting in where possible with existing groups.
- 2.4. PS told the Board that consultation on a UK Marine Bill was taking place, with NI keeping in line with this at present. It was noted that Scotland was proposing a separate bill and marine management organisation and that while

it might make more sense for NI to partner with a Scottish MMO, the policy development was not far along and there was not much detail on the exact proposals yet. Mark McCaughan (MMc) highlighted some differences between NI and England/Wales which would need to be addressed (e.g. DARD holding additional or different functions).

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1. A revised Terms of Reference (and membership of the Board) were circulated before the meeting. The revised ToR would take into account the proposed expansion of the Board's remit to cover coastal and marine issues for an interim period. Such an expansion would mean additional members would be invited to the Board, from DSD Housing / Urban Regeneration, DRD Ports & Harbours, Crown Estate and Maritime & Coastguard Association. In addition, the chairperson of the Coastal & Marine Forum would attend.
- 3.2. It was agreed that under the expanded remit, government representatives would attend as usual, while non-government representatives would be invited for particular items, when relevant for the agenda. It was also agreed that NI Water should remain a Board member.

4. Follow-up to Economics Workshop

- 4.1. Philip McMurray (PMc) advised the Board that a Questions & Answer paper had been circulated following the workshop on economics in February. He said that some concerns had been raised that work on economics was premature, but stressed that the development of Programmes of Measures (POMs) would be a fundamental step in producing RBMPs, and that such measures would need to be looked at on an economic basis. He said that the POMs sub-group required economic input, in addition to technical and policy, but that response to establishing the group had been disappointing.
- 4.2. DF said that the Implementation Working Group (IWG) was due to discuss the POMs sub-group, but that the meeting scheduled for early May had been postponed due to the number of apologies received. He said it was important to emphasise that the IWG and POMs sub-group would be developing the Programmes of Measures, which would reflect expenditure and workload.

5. Significant Water Management Issues report

- 5.1. DF advised the Board that the SWMI report (one for each river basin district) was being published on a joint North-South basis, with the final draft being 'polished' by an editor to make it more readable by a non-professional audience. The aim was to set the scene for the RBMP, by being informative without listing all legislation or policies.
- 5.2. PS asked what publicity was being arranged for publication of the SWMI report, and what issues might be raised by it. William Caldwell (WC) replied that the publication was relatively low key, with the reports being widely circulated but no large publicity campaign carried out. DF said that stakeholders would pick up on 'gaps' or have their own view of the issues, and that a real debate was needed. Philip Mehaffey (PM) said that it was important to get to POMs, the operational side of things, and the next steps to address the issues.

6. Floods Directive

- 6.1. Pat Aldridge (PA) gave a brief presentation on the Floods Directive, highlighting the risks and affects of flooding, the role of Rivers Agency and the requirements of the Directive (including timescales, and its non-application to flooding from sewerage systems). There would be a high level of 'synergy' with WFD, with the first flood plans fitting in with the second cycle of river basin planning.
- 6.2. Alison McQueen (AMc) queried whether coastal flooding would require a connection to Integrated Coastal Zone Management. PA said that Rivers Agency was approaching the Coastal and Marine Forum, and that there was currently a policy gap on regulation of the coast for flood risk. He said the proposed Marine Bill would also probably have an impact.
- 6.3. During a brief discussion on the number of houses likely to be at risk of flooding, and the insurance implications for home-owners, PA advised the Board that maps of flood risk areas would be available publicly and that the risk of recurrent flooding in NI was not as high as in GB (due to more protection and less building on flood plains). He concluded by highlighting the evolving nature of flood risk management.

7. AOB

No other business.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held in November 2007.