



Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

ACTION POINTS/ MINUTES OF THE FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP (FWMG) MEETING

05/10/2023

10:00-13:00

Held as a Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software

Present

Max Tant
Adrien Baudrimont
Alys Bishop
Andrew Smallwood
Anna Chataigne
Ben Dunn-Birch
Brian Richards
Colin Barrett
Daniel Lamb
David Uncle
Dhunya De Silva
Doug Hill
Emma Burdett
Kate Farmer
Innes Thomson

Jagjit Mahal
James Mead
Jessica Fox
Joanne Matthews
Johnathan Tebay
Kylie Russell
James Latham
Louise Bower
Mark Ogden
Matt Hullis
Matt Williams
Matthew Harrison
Mohamed Adamanie
Nick Claxton

Owen McGivern
Paul Maddison
Peter Dobson
Rachel Kilgallon
Richard Whelan
Rohit Singh
Saloni Paudel
Sanjay Johal
Terry McAlpine
Tim Simpson
Toby Jones
Steven Tupper
Vicki Westall
William Harrington

Apologies

Hayley Bowman – EA
Zara Scott – LB Camden
Melanie Bright – Bedford CC
Dermot Kehoe – Floodre

Item		Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & introductions	Apologies are as stated above.	
2	Actions and Minutes from the previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide specific examples and evidence of areas where Water UK Ordinary Watercourse protocol is not being applied by the local water companies. No examples have been shared yet. We need specific examples to build an evidence base before this can be taken up with the water companies. b) FCRIIP Item added to the agenda as a regular item c) Feedback to Angus on the timescale needed for Schedule 3 consultation responses to be done if you have not done so already. Will Harrington (WH) 	ALL

		<p>reported that some have been received and that there is no written update as yet. If there any more feedback, please send it through.</p> <p>d) The tender pack consultation has now closed.</p> <p>e) Vicky Westall to contact Matt Harrison regarding riparian responsibilities working group. VW to carry this forward as an action.</p> <p>f) Face to face meetings will be picked up towards the end of this meeting.</p> <p>g) Alys Bishop asked if this was Q4 meeting have we got any future meetings in the diary yet? MT responded that Becca would arrange future dates at the end of the year.</p>	VW
3	<p>Joint meeting with Natural Capital and Heritage follow up</p>	<p>The joint meeting with the Natural Capital Group has taken place. A follow up meeting is being planned for February 2024 and feedback from the recent meeting is requested.</p> <p>MT asked if the format of the previous meeting was acceptable and asked what people would like to see in future meetings.</p> <p>VW – the meeting was good but maybe more time with Natural England representative would be useful especially with BNG being in the news. SUDS will be statutory, so can they count toward 10% uplift? Clarification would be helpful.</p> <p>Some good examples of where this has worked well and not so well would be useful as well.</p> <p>There is a need to engage with Highways Authorities as well when considering BNG.</p> <p>A joint meeting with the Engineering group would be beneficial.</p> <p>MT reminded the group of the Live Labs that have been made that are predominantly set up around highways and innovation in the area. Is it possible the SuDS could be part of the next round of Live Labs?</p> <p>RS raised the fact that highways SuDS are a great opportunity for biodiversity but there needs to be some clarity as issues of safety have been raised. There is a need for proper guidance.</p> <p>Agreed to look to arranging a meeting with the Engineering Board and a follow up with the Nature Capital Board in the late winter / early spring</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MT</p>
4	<p>Resilient Together FCRIP Project – Toby Jones</p>	<p>Toby Jones presented a talk about the Resilient Together FCRIP Project.</p> <p>RS asked if there was a way to do a more localised approach to produce a localised model and boundary conditions as deploying flow meters across the catchment will prove expensive.</p> <p>TJ – The data collection project is being developed to collect data widely. The kits are temporary, and the data can be refined down once the initial information has been analysed. It is important to make sure that an evidence base is developed so that long term monitoring can take place.</p> <p>MH – Will this project be monitoring informing warning or will it be also monitoring any interventions that come along out of project. Once the funding stops will this be incorporated into day-to-day activity.</p>	

		<p>TJ- Yes live modelling will be informing of interventions that are required. The plan is to have this alongside water quality and flow technology. There is a lot of kit installed and maintenance fees would be too much now. So, the most valuable data is being identified and then it will be scaled back, and will be a lot more manageable.</p> <p>SJ- What is being done regarding public engagement with this project and how is this going to be addressed going forward?</p> <p>TJ – The engagement in the catchment is very active. We are looking for a stand-alone property that can be used as an education hub that can be developed to have sensory play areas, learning experiences for the children to experience as well as developing a community space.</p> <p>RW - We are currently in the process of putting in our own water level monitors, it will be very useful to be able to monitor what your team is up to and learn from that.</p> <p>TJ – JBA have a team of people who are experienced in this field.</p>	
5	EA Emergency Responses Role – Peter Dobson	<p>Peter Dobson, Environment Agency Incident Management and Resilience Team presented on the EA's emergency response role.</p> <p>Questions arising from the presentation.</p> <p>MT – At the beginning of the presentation you said that EA only has a responsibility to respond to flooding from rivers and the sea. Where did this come from because the strategic roles in flood risk management are set out in the Flood and Water Management Act, but this doesn't say anything about incident response?</p> <p>PD - This is quite muddy. There need to be clarification and a strategic overview to define how we can help and support each other.</p> <p>DH - MT's point is an important one as we often get told that LLFA have operational response, as stated on the slide, but this is incorrect.</p> <p>PD will get some clarity and share this with the group.</p> <p>TM – A recent EA response regarding the deployment of pumps is interesting as my Authority is getting push back regarding the purchase and use of pumps from EA and the pumping of flood water. Can we get some clarity on this point.</p> <p>PD - will ask colleagues what can be done to make permits more available for this kind of operation.</p> <p>A recent EA Round Table on surface water flood response was mentioned. DH agreed to provide feedback from the Round Table discussions.</p> <p>MT – There is a need to be mindful that surface water floods are often small, and the water recedes quickly. It does not always need a large response. Understanding by the public of the role of various RMAs is the most important outcome.</p> <p>MT invited PD to come to a future meeting to keep the group up to date with the discussions.</p>	<p>PD</p> <p>PD</p> <p>DH</p> <p>PD / MT</p>
6	Break		

7	Asset and workflow management systems.	<p>MT opened a discussion about the systems that can be used in for Asset and workflow Management with a view to having a longer sessions with demonstrations of tools the group is interested in hearing more about.</p> <p>These systems were mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MasterGov • KarbonTech • Confirm • Alloy • Civica • Aurora <p>MT to arrange a Workshop in the New Year to demonstrate Alloy, MasterGov and any others that people are interested in. This will either be as a separate meeting or follow on from the next ADEPT meeting. Members were invited to volunteer to demonstrate these tools.</p>	MT
8	Defra update – Will Harrington	<p>Section 19 Guidance – The project has started and JBA will be running it until March 2024. It is supporting LLFA’s with investigations and enabling greater analysis of the sort of trends and lessons learned that come out of the investigations and data provided. There will be a project steering group that will meet 3 times a year. Volunteers will be asked for. It will be seeking wider input by means of a questionnaire that will be sent to all LLFA’s.</p> <p>Natural Flood Management – EA have announced a £25m fund that will build on the last programme that ended 2021. Expressions of interest are due in by 10 November 2023. Projects will be delivered 2024 to 2027 onwards. Below is the link to the guidance for the programme: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-flood-management-programme</p> <p>VW – It is very difficult for local authorities to respond funding announcements like the NFM fund, we do not have the resources to develop bids for projects that do not have funding streams.</p> <p>Storm Overflow Reduction Plan – There was consultation over the summer and the government has published its expanded plans and this is driving £60b of capital investment by the water companies over the next 25 years.</p> <p>There has been a flurry of announcements around the Coastal Transition. 3 deferrals have been announced for Charmouth, Bude and Swanage that have been allocated £6m to support adaptation to coastal erosion.</p> <p>There are a no updates on schedule 3. Itis continuing to develop and the final material for consultation are expected to be implemented during 2024. Angus will provide a written update as soon as possible.</p> <p>The NIC will shortly be publishing its second National Infrastructure Assessment. This will be published later this month and hopefully colleagues have been invited to an event on 18th October. Defra will be responding to the NIC surface water study later this year.</p> <p>NAO are working on a new report that will be published this autumn on Resilience to Flood risk.</p> <p>The Land Drainage consents review being undertaken by DEFRA has run out of resource and is paused currently.</p>	

9	EA Update – Steven Tupper	<p>Your Watercourse Rights and Roles document – is due for publication in November 2023.</p> <p>Supporting Flood & Coastal Projects Sharepoint site – There is a good number of people using this. If you are not registered, please do.</p> <p>Streamlining and strengthening – making it easier to get projects on the list. Under £3m is a local agreement business cases where risk is least.</p> <p>Claiming GIA funding – Can’t claim twice for the same outcome but they recognise that information and data changes so the guidance has been amended to reflect that and you can now go for additional grant in aid funding in locations where previously you could not because of previous schemes.</p> <p>Adaptation Pathways / NAFRA 2 – This will be published next year but may be delayed by elections.</p> <p>Last week changes to how you can apply for GiA for property flood resilience projects it’s now a single stage business case approved straight on into delivery. The options and appraisal for PFR projects have been simplified and no modelling associated is needed. Also, rather than needing to use the PF calculator to understand how much partnership funding maybe available, there is a simple look up table. So, Becca circulated the form, but it is on Sharepoint: https://defra.sharepoint.com/sites/Community3943/SitePages/Home.aspx</p> <p>The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan engagement survey is out, and it would be great if people can complete it: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DWMPengagement/</p> <p>Timescales for implementing BNG have been moved back to January 2024 and the guidance for all risk management authorities delivering projects under the Capital programme to explain BNG within delivery will be coming out soon. It will be on the Sharepoint page when it is available.</p>	
10	ADA update- Innes Thompson	<p>ADA continues to push government about the need to increase focus of spending on routine maintenance and management of all forms of flood risk asset.</p> <p>ADA is being told by its members that EA Area teams are being asked to review the indicative allocations for capital projects and several IDBs have been made aware that projects originally scheduled to receive some FDGIA funding in this spending revue period have been shelved. Further clarification is being sought from the EA.</p> <p>ADA will be hosting a rekindled APPG for sustainable Flood & Drought Management on 17th October with speakers covering local authority funding (Christine Marshall), Suds (Glen Westmore) and Maintenance (Andrew McGill).</p> <p>Work has commenced on updating the first edition of ADA’s Good Governance Guide for IDBs, published back in 2018. It is expected that the second edition will be available in November.</p> <p>ADA has been awarded a grant of £5m to be spent by IDB members on a range of measures to improve water level management in lowland peat areas.</p> <p>Defra officers have completed work on an SI which would provide a legal framework for land ratings to be established outside current internal drainage district areas. This has considerable potential in areas where low and medium</p>	

		<p>risk EA assets are lacking funding and could be transferred to local Internal Drainage Boards, importantly where there is local agreement to do so.</p> <p>ADA Flood & Water Conference – 21st November – ICE, London ADA’s annual Flood & Water Conference is taking place on 21st November at the ICE, London, featuring a top-link line up of speakers this year. Tickets are available via the ADA website at https://www.ada.org.uk/events/ada-conference/</p> <p>ADA is embarking on a piece of work to update the operating platform for the IDB Drainage Rating System (DRS) in conjunction with the current system owners.</p>	
11	Update from Chair	<p>Schedule 3 consultation. One of the ASA groups has approached ADEPT about issuing a joint statement. We will still make our own statement as well as a joint one with this group. This will obviously depend on the time frame.</p> <p>Are there any ideas for future for future meetings. Any ideas will be welcome.</p> <p>FEH22 is now available is there any interest in a conversation with the developers?</p> <p>Email chat – please can we keep chat out of the email stream. Questions and feedback can be shared on the Knowledge Hub: https://khub.net/group/flownet</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
12	AOB	None	
13	Confirm Date of Next Meeting	This will be in January 2024 and will be set up in due course.	