

**Eighteenth Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group Meeting
12 March 2015
SEPA Office, Edinburgh**

Draft Minutes

Present	Organisation
David Harley (DH)	SEPA (Chair)
Stephen Field (SF)	SEPA
Darrell Crothers (DC)	SEPA
John Gorman (JGo)	SEPA
Lisa Webb (LW)	SEPA (Coordinator)
Ian Speirs (IS)	Scottish Government
Joyce Carr (JC)	Scottish Government
Neil Henderson (NH)	SGRPID
David Lister (DL)	SGRPID
Sarah Hutcheon (SH)	SNH
Julia Garritt (JG)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Zoë Frogbrook (ZF)	Scottish Water
Andrew Bauer (AB)	NFUS
Anne Gray (AG)	Scottish Land and Estates
Jenny Mulgrew (JM)	Confor
Paul Fotheringham (PF)	Forestry Contractors Association
Sheila George (SG)	RSPB Scotland
Chris McDonald (CM)	SAC Consulting
Alan Bell (ABe)	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park/ Cairngorms National Park
Carolyn Hedley (CH)	Scottish Golf Environment Group
Apologies	
Brian Davidson	Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
Chris Horrill	RAFTS
Jannette MacDonald	CREW
Andy Vinten	The James Hutton Institute

Item	Discussion
1.	<p>Introduction (DH) DH welcomed all and introduced the meeting. He noted that a number of attendees were at DPMAG for the first time (Chris McDonald, Paul Fotheringham, Alan Bell, John Gorman) and welcomed back Jenny Mulgrew on her return from maternity leave.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes/ actions from last meeting (LW) Outstanding actions were reviewed (see table). The action log has been updated accordingly and included at the end of these minutes.</p>

No.	Action	Progress
17.1	SEPA and Scottish Government to consider use of the term 'Action Area'.	Complete – term changed to 'focus area' in consultation.
17.2	SH and BMcC to further discuss SNH queries around catchment prioritisation, operational areas and Natura/ SSSIs.	Complete – SH has been discussing queries with BMcC
17.3	LW to invite John Gorman of SEPA to the next DPMAG to update on SEPA's forestry project	Complete – JG attending 120315
17.4	MB to arrange a meeting with FCS, SEPA and Scottish Government. That meeting will agree terms of reference for the subgroup and assign responsibility for setting up the first meeting of the subgroup	Complete – meeting happened January 2015
17.5	First DPMAG forestry subgroup meeting to be set up before the end of 2014	Complete – meeting happened January 2015
17.6	DC, AB, AG and RA to consider a joint communication on SRDP options to address diffuse pollution	Complete – to be considered as part as part of the comms surrounding updated Farming & Water Scotland website.
17.7	All to include link to the Farming & Water Scotland website in any relevant SRDP communications	Ongoing
17.8	DC to ensure the Farming & Water Scotland website is up to date with information on SRDP water quality options and with a map showing land managers if they are within a priority catchment	Complete. Note: comment from CM that land managers can check if they are in an NVZ area when completing IACS. Can we do same for pcs? Action 18.1: NH to consider if feasible for land managers to see if they are in a pc when completing IACS.
17.9	DC and LW to consider the scope for identifying diffuse pollution hotspots where the Co-op fund and SRDP could be targeted to delivery water quality benefits	Ongoing – now have the information on areas where SRDP is predicted to help. Currently considering next steps.
16.2	SF to assess the influence that SRDP is having on the priority catchment approach.	Ongoing – this will form part of the review of the dp approach.
16.3	MG to organise a presentation on the ADAS report at the next meeting.	Complete. SEPA arranging ADAS to give a presentation to staff and will extend the invite to interested DPMAG members. Interest expressed from SNH, Scottish Water, SG and NFUS.
11.6	SF to send to the group the standard paras of the letter sent to farmers after the site visit.	Complete. Email sent on 15 April 2015.

<p>3.</p>	<p>Reviewing the approach for mitigating diffuse pollution (SF)</p> <p>SF reviewed the first cycle approach to tackling rural diffuse pollution as set out in the Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan i.e. gathering evidence and catchment walking; awareness raising; 1:1 farm visits and subsequent revisits to non-compliant land managers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catchment walking between March 2010 and August 2011, with 5835km walked and 5169 GBR breaches recorded. GBR19 and GBR 20 the most common GBR non-compliances. - Catchment co-ordinators, with other DPMAG partners, have been involved in more than 400 events to raise awareness since June 2010. - 3221 1:1 visits completed between March 2011 and Dec 2014 in the 14 priority catchments. On average, 33% of land managers were compliant with the regulations. - First revisits have taken place in 6 pcs. Compliance rate on first inspection was 26% in these catchments. By the first revisit, this had risen to 51%, with 88% compliant or working towards compliance. This means 12% are not currently taking any steps towards compliance. <p>The approach for the next cycle will be reviewed, with the aim of <i>“maximising the environmental benefit in water bodies adversely affected by rural diffuse pollution in the shortest possible timescale with efficient use of staff resources”</i>. SEPA will use the experience and evidence from the first cycle priority catchment work to inform the future approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH reminded people of the importance of information collected on revisits to areas overlapping with designated conservation sites and hopes this will be shared with SNH. ZF echoed this for Scottish Water and drinking water sites. • Discussion around communications and there was agreement that awareness raising needs to be stepped up in the next cycle. • Discussion about enforcement approach. NFUS and SLE expressed concern if new enforcement tools were to be used too early. SEPA assured that these would be used on land managers who clearly have no intention to comply. Also, even with the new tools, SEPA will have to adhere to its enforcement policy. As awareness and compliance subsequently increases, there will be less need for use of enforcement. <p>Action 18.2 – SEPA to ensure it refers to its enforcement policy in the revised rural diffuse pollution plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH advised that membership and remit of DPMAG may be reviewed to ensure it works optimally for the second cycle.
<p>4.</p>	<p>SEPA Forestry Project: Reducing Diffuse Pollution from Forestry Related Activities in Galloway and Eskdalemuir Forests (JGo)</p> <p>SEPA launched a 2-year forestry project in March 2013. The aims of the project included: to improve communication links with State and private forestry; raise awareness of good practice; carry out site inspections of forestry sites and contribute to development of a Best Practice Guide.</p> <p>During the project, SEPA carried out 216 site inspections and found a rate</p>

	<p>of 74% compliance with 26% of sites non-compliant. Most GBR breaches related to GBRs 20 and 21 with several breaches of GBR22. Harvesting is a big cause of pollution issues as well as problems at cultivation and restock sites, contaminated run-off from roads, quarries, inappropriate drainage systems and failure to disconnect drains before operations. Even disease management can cause issues when operators are not aware they must still comply with the regulations and F&W Guidelines in these circumstances.</p> <p>JGo stressed the importance of breaking the source-pathway-receptor chain and preventing the pollution rather than remediating it later. It was highlighted that there is often poor communication between machine operators and site managers.</p> <p>As part of a roadshow linked to this project, JGo has delivered a number of talks across Scotland and north of England. He reminded us that contractors working in the south of Scotland may be England-based therefore it is crucial to make them aware of the Scottish regs too.</p> <p>Following on from this work, SEPA would like to identify a good practice 'champion' for demonstration purposes; get some sort of competency/ accreditation for contractors and help to get the forestry best practice guide out asap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZF asked whether drinking water catchments were considered and asked for there to be further liaison with Scottish Water on this. <p>Action 18.3 – Scottish Water to be invited onto Forestry & Water Scotland Initiative (DPMAG subgroup) and that group is to consider drinking water catchments and associated pressures.</p>
5.	<p>Initiatives for addressing diffuse pollution in the forestry sector (JG)</p> <p>The range of forestry initiatives can be categorised as (i) information gathering (ii) communicating best practice and (iii) incentivising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>information gathering</i> includes the FCS opportunity mapping project, the involvement of SEPA on the FCS Water Resources group and the RBMP workshops that were held in 2014. - To <i>communicate best practice</i>, FCS have developed a rough guide to water legislation for its own staff, FC practice guides and training films, a sediment management group and the Forestry & Water Scotland initiative now underway. - <i>Incentives</i> include the new SRDP "Woodlands for Water" higher payment rate in areas where woodland creation has been identified as beneficial for water quality or flood risk management. FCS working with NFUS, SLE and SNH on guidance to support the uptake of this option. <p>The opportunity mapping project was led by Forest Research and shows potential for woodland creation to be beneficial for reducing diffuse pollution and reducing flood risk. JG reminded the group of the importance of aligning RBMP and FRM objectives. The mapping was done for the 14</p>

	<p>priority catchments and was used to identify the target areas for the SRDP woodlands for water payment rate.</p> <p>The Water Resources group decided the mode of engagement for the 2nd RBMP cycle and it was agreed to deliver a series of Conservancy-based workshops. The workshops were used to sense-check forestry pressure data and, where possible, agree measures and objectives. Considerable staff time was involved from both FCS and SEPA but it was felt by all to be a worthwhile exercise.</p> <p>Films are being used to communicate best practice. A film on 'managing water in forests' for forest managers and contractors is about to start production. FCS appeared in SEPA 'Our Soils Matter' video.</p> <p>The Forest & Scotland Water Initiative met for the first time in January. Attendees included SEPA, FCS, SG, SNH, SLE, Confor and Forest Contractors Association. The work of this group will be phased to: develop field material; consider how to ensure a consistent high standard throughout publications, demonstration events etc; identify specifications for forestry contracts; and consider if/ how this could lead to certification. In the coming year, there will be efforts to secure funding and a project manager to take forward this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABe asked if the Woodlands for Water SRDP option is only available in the 14 priority catchments. It was confirmed that yes that is the case because these were the catchments where the modelling was carried out. However, there is potential for this to be revised in the next SRDP (ie from 2021). FCS will be reviewing the uptake of the option. • ABe asked if sensitive areas eg archaeological sites had been accounted for. JG confirmed that yes, they were considered in the process. SH added that there is a need to consider any such sensitivities at individual sites too. • ZF asked that Scottish Water be involved in future forestry/ water resources meetings. <p>Action 18.4 – JG to invite Scottish Water to future Water Resources group meetings.</p>
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>JC reminded DPMAG that the Scottish Government consultation on Improving the physical condition of Scotland's water environment is open until 22 May and encouraged all to look at the proposals.</p> <p>DH noted LW is leaving SEPA at the end of March and she was thanked for her contribution to DPMAG. Morgane Westley has returned to the RBMP team and to her role as DPMAG co-ordinator.</p> <p>Next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3 November at the SEPA Edinburgh office.</p>

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Action Table

No.	Action
18.1	NH to consider if feasible for land managers to see if they are in a priority catchment when completing IACS (they can do this for NVZs currently).
18.2	SEPA to ensure it refers to its enforcement policy in the revised rural diffuse pollution plan.
18.3	Scottish Water to be invited onto Forestry & Water Scotland Initiative (DPMAG subgroup) and that group to consider drinking water catchments and associated pressures.
18.4	JG to invite Scottish Water to future Water Resources group meetings.
17.7	All to include link to the Farming & Water Scotland website in any relevant SRDP communications
17.9	DC and MW to consider the scope for identifying diffuse pollution hotspots where the Co-op fund and SRDP could be targeted to delivery water quality benefits
16.2	SF to assess the influence that SRDP is having on the priority catchment approach.

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