

**North East Local/Area Advisory Group
Minutes of meeting on 23/05/2018
Intercall meeting (online/phone)**

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Steve McFarland	SEPA FRMP
Iris Krammer (minutes)	SEPA FRMP
Carla Ward (phone)	SEPA, RBMP
Gavin Penman	Aberdeenshire Council
Will Burnish	Aberdeen City Council
Lorna Paterson	NFUS
Karen Cunningham	RSPB
Penny Lawson	Spey Catchment Management Partnership
Sheila	Aberdeenshire Council (Planning)
Steve Addy	James Hutton Institute
Gavin Clark	SNH
Cordelia Menmuir	SEPA, Flood Advisor
Julie Partridge	SGRIPD

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Vicky Junik	Moray Firth Partnership
Ian Francis	RSPB
Ian Cowe	Forestry Commission Scotland
Maureen Corley	Aberdeenshire Council (Planning)
Mark Wilkinson	James Hutton Institute
Gus Jones	Scottish Environment Link
Duncan Ferguson	Spey Foundation
David Berry	Cairngorms National Park
Debbie Halliday	The Moray Council
Susan Cooksley	Dee Catchment Partnership
Robbie MacDonald	SEPA, Resilience
Robert Dey	
Gavin Legge	Forestry Commission Scotland
Stewart Johnston	SGRIPD
Judith Cox	Aberdeenshire Council (Environmental Planning)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (Steve)

Steve welcomed the group and conveyed apologies as listed above. Everyone introduced themselves around the table.

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting (Steve)

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed without changes.

3. Flood Risk management actions progress (Gavin, Will and Steve)

Gavin and Will updated the group on progress of flood risk management actions in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. Steve covered actions being progressed within The Moray and The Highland Council areas as well as Scottish Water actions.

Gavin and Cordelia to coordinate a site visit to the Huntly flood protection scheme to discuss flood warning arrangements (**Action 9.1**).

4. Logie Burn, Dee floodplain restoration and Scottish NFM network (Steve Addy)

Steve updated the group on 3 projects.

- The Logie Burn focussed on reconnection of meanders in 2011. Monitoring was undertaken before and after the works. The next survey is planned for October 2018. There is also work on modelling of natural log jams. The restored reach is within a National Nature Reserve. No compensation arrangements with local land owners were made.
- In 2015 a barrier was removed on Mar Lodge Estate, which opened up a section of floodplain. Monitoring of the site started in summer 2013, so before and after works monitoring is available. Monitoring includes flood plain ground water levels. The channel now has a more natural profile.
- The Scottish Natural Flood Management Network was launched earlier this year. It's a great resource with case studies on NFM. It is free to join.

<https://www.nfm.scot/>

5. Updates from the group (All)

Penny provided an update on the Spey Catchment. There are several ongoing and planned projects:

- Spey Buffer strips at Boat of Garten
- Fishbarrier assessment on River Avon
- Reconnection of channel near Aberlour
- Aviemore bank protection to improve access to river
- Peatland work with Cairngorms National Park's Peatland Action Plan on Pittenroy Burn

Penny is also interested in projects on the Gynack (**Action 9.2**).

Cordelia updated the group on planned awareness raising activities around the launch of the coastal flood warning scheme for east Scotland. Locals will be informed through leaflets and advertising campaign will be launched when adverse weather conditions are forecast (to include radio and social media advertising). NFUS offered to help reach out to rural communities (**Action 9.3**).

Steve highlighted that SEPA is keen to find out about green networks (wildlife corridors, etc). Further discussion required with environmental planners in the councils and Cairngorms National Park (**Action 9.4**).

6. River Basin Management Planning (Carla)

Carla Ward is the new RBMP Coordinator for North East Scotland. RBMP continues to deliver against its River Basin Management Plan objectives. Major focus area for cycle 2 will be the removal of fish barriers and river restoration. Some money is available through the Water Environment Fund, but there are strict criteria. Everyone is encouraged to check the Water Environment Hub for information on water bodies and their targets.

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/>

Carla is keen to discuss targets with local authorities (**Action 9.5**). Areas not highlighted by Carla may also be considered due to factors such as social degradation.

The Mundurno Burn in Dyce was discussed – SNH is working with the local community to remove Giant Hogweed. Aberdeen City Council is looking at a housing development for the area.

Will was interested to find out if the Water Environment Fund can only be used for works, or for studies as well. Carla to provide further detail (**Action 9.6**).

7. SEPA update (Iris)

SEPA recently completed the 2018 National Flood Risk Assessment. This forms the basis for identifying Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs). SEPA identified draft PVAs and initially consulted with responsible authorities. Now everyone is encouraged to respond to the public consultation:

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/pvas2018>

Iris introduced the factors considered in the 2018 National Flood Risk Assessment, which includes improved data (homes, businesses, communities, designated sites, etc) and influencing factors (urban/rural, risk to life, social vulnerability, etc). The group looked at some examples.

8. Any other business

The group agreed that the 2019 meeting could include a site visit to the Scatterburn project.

RSPB is keen to find out more about the Cairngorms National Park NFM Strategy (Action 9.7).

Actions arising from the Local Advisory Group meeting

Action Number	Action	Owner	Complete by	Update
8.1	Share RSPB Insh Marshes study once available	Karen and Penny	31/12/2017	May 2018: Karen and Penny to follow up.
9.1	Arrange site visit to Huntly FPS to discuss flood warning arrangements.	Gavin and Cordelia	29/06/2018	
9.2	Keep Penny/Spey Catchment Partnership informed of projects on the Gynack	Matt Smith	20/12/2018	
9.3	NFUS can help reach rural communities about flood warning scheme launches if required. To discuss if required	Cordelia and Julie	20/12/2018	
9.4	Discuss data availability for green network/corridors	Steve	15/06/2018	
9.5	Discuss RBMP targets with local authorities	Carla and Gavin, Will, Debbie	30/09/2018	

9.6	Provide detail on what the Water Environment Fund can be used for (studies vs works)	Carla	15/06/2018	May 2018: More info here: https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-environment-fund/
9.7	Discuss Cairngorms NFM Strategy	David B and Karen	15/06/2018	