

Diffuse Pollution Management Delivery Group

Remit and Membership

1. Purpose

This paper outlines the reason for the proposed review of the membership and remit of the Diffuse Pollution Management Delivery Group (DPMAG).

2. Background

As set out in their consultation “Scotland’s Waters: Future Directions”, the Scottish Government requested SEPA to use its powers under section 17 of the WEWS Act to form DPMAG in 2009.

The reasons for establishing this high-profile statutory group were to:

- Help create a robust governance, decision-making and coordination framework for the effective delivery of rural diffuse pollution RBMP actions in Scotland; and
- Ensure input from a cross section of rural, environmental and biodiversity interests.

DPMAG met 18 times during the first River Basin Management Planning cycle, helping develop the rural diffuse pollution plan for Scotland and provide direction and advice on its implementation. The group itself worked well and has achieved its objectives in the first cycle by:

- raising awareness of rural diffuse pollution,
- securing buy-in from the rural sector and;
- bringing consensus across a wide range partners.

This enable Scotland to be referred to by the European Commission as an exemplar of how to engage and attempt to mitigate rural diffuse pollution.

Rural diffuse pollution has been highlighted as a significant water management issue in the “Current Conditions and Challenges for the Future” reports. These reports stated that the approach across the basin by all involved is on the right track. However, to meet the scale of the future challenge, we need to build on and refine the current approach. This is demonstrated by the increase in the number of priority catchments to be considered in the second cycle (14 priority catchment in the first cycle, 43 in the second cycle) and the introduction of focus areas.

In order to meet these future challenges, it is important that we review the remit and membership of DPMAG to ensure the group members effectively delivery the new rural diffuse pollution plan.

3. New remit

The challenges that the second cycle will bring are different from the first cycle as the approach is now established. Its implementation, however, will need to be done on a

much larger scale and its success will rely on the contribution and the commitments of partners to help meet the objectives set for the second cycle.

Therefore DPMAG needs to move toward the role of a project management group that will ensure the effective delivery of the next rural diffuse pollution plan. The group should focus on planning, coordinating, implementing and tracking the delivery of these measures.

Box 1 below offers a revised remit for DPMAG, focusing on the coordination of the management of rural diffuse pollution through partnership working.

Box 1 – Proposed Remit of DPMAG for the second RBMP cycle

The Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group will:

- Contribute to the preparation of the second Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan for Scotland.
- Support, coordinate and deliver the second Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan for Scotland from 2016 onwards.
- Advise on and contribute to, the promotion and coordination of rural diffuse pollution measures across Scotland. Help support the adequate implementation of existing measures, both legislative and voluntary. Promote the uptake of financial support through existing mechanisms such as the Scotland Rural Development Programme.

4. New membership

Through the second cycle, it is proposed that DPMAG will be a group comprising of partners that will coordinate and deliver rural diffuse pollution measures across Scotland. It is therefore proposed to limit the membership to stakeholders that can actively contribute to the delivery of rural diffuse pollution plan and to have a group of a manageable size.

The proposed reviewed membership of the DPMAG is set out in the table below.

CONFOR	Forestry Commission Scotland	Forestry Contracting Association
NFUS	Scottish Land and Estate	Scottish Golf Environment Group
Scottish Water	SNH	SRUC
SGRPID	SEPA	Scottish Government

There are still stakeholders that have an interest in rural diffuse pollution that are not on the proposed revised membership. These stakeholders are highly valued and

their input is extremely important to the RBMP process. With this in mind SEPA would like to invite them to attend the National Advisory Group (NAG) meetings. Like DPMAG, the remit and membership of NAG is under review, offering the opportunity to have a national group with a wider membership focusing on all aspects of RBMP.

5. Key deliverable

The key deliverables by DPMAG in 2016 are:

- The production of a Rural Diffuse Pollution Implementation Plan that sets out and provides a coordination framework for rural diffuse pollution actions across Scotland
- The delivery of the objectives set in the Diffuse Pollution Implementation Plan for 2016.

6. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- DPMAG to review, agree and finalise the revised remit and membership of the group at the meeting scheduled on the 3rd November 2015.
- To ensure all changes are applied prior to the first meeting in 2016.

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