

# Solway Area Advisory Group

## Note of meeting 03 November 2011

### Attendees

Name	Organisation
Carolyn Dunlop	National Farmers Union (Scotland)
Chris Rollie	RSPB
Claire McFarlan	Solway Firth Partnership
Aitken Swan	Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
Andrew Maxwell	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Graeme Dickie	Scottish Power
Richard Potts	National Farmers Union (England)
Jamie Ribbens	Galloway Fisheries Trust
Jonathan Warren	Scottish Natural Heritage
Nigel Wallace	South Ayrshire Council
Sue O'Brien	Consumer Council for Water
Amanda Hutchinson	Scottish Water
David Harpley	Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Simon Johnson	Eden Rivers Trust

Name	Organisation
Jeremy Westgarth (Chair)	Environment Agency
Andrew Seward	Environment Agency
Gillian Hill	Environment Agency
Jane Sansbury	Environment Agency
Carol McGinness	SEPA
Iain Cruickshank	SEPA
Jackie Galley	SEPA

### Apologies

Name	Organisation
Alan Crichton	National Farmers Union (Scotland)
Andrew Miller	Scottish Borders Council
Pam Taylor	Solway Firth Partnership
Andy Tharme	Scottish Borders Council
Charles Ecroyd	River Eden District Fisheries Association
Calum McPhail	SEPA
Leanne Bridle	United Utilities
David Johnstone	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
	South Lanarkshire Council
Caroline Dilks	SEPA
Liz Horton	Scottish Power
Stuart Ferns	Scottish Power
James McLeod	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Quintin Donald	Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate
Jamie Smith	Forestry Commission
Tim Youngs	RSPB

## **1. Proceedings and summary of discussions**

The purpose of the meeting was :

- To give partners an opportunity to share their work to improve the water environment with others and highlight any gaps in delivery mechanisms and resourcing.
- To explain how the agencies are monitoring progress on the plan and necessary reporting.
- To outline the potential for catchment working.

## **2 Introductions and review of actions from previous meeting**

All actions from previous meeting on 11 May 2011 complete.

## **3. Partner Updates**

### **Reporting back from the Solway Tweed invasive non-native species (INNS) workshop**

Carol McGinness provided feedback from October invasive non native species workshop attended by over 30 individuals. Scottish Natural Heritage conference held the previous week endorsed the need for future workshops on INNS. Concerns regarding attendance were raised as not all landowners were invited/attended the workshop.

It was agreed that the Great Britain national portal needs to be the central location for discussing and accessing information on 'invasive species' including biosecurity; prevention and education. The Solway/Tweed webpage would act as another place for sharing best practice.

SEPA were considering using GIS mapping of species. A sub group had been set up to discuss biosecurity in Cumbria. Control and eradication of species well known, further work required on prevention. All members to provide information on FTE resource dedicated to INNS.

### **Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere project**

Nigel Wallace introduced the 'Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere project' A public sector partnership was set up in 2006 incorporating stakeholders from three local authorities and the Solway and Clyde catchments. The application for UNESCO Biosphere status is currently at 'candidate stage' a decision on accreditation will be made in June 2012 There are two existing UNESCO biospheres in Devon and Wales. If approved this would be the first one in Scotland. Classification is based upon conservation; development and logistical support within the area.

### **Wetlands**

Chris Rollie, RSPB Area Manager for Dumfries and Galloway gave an interesting presentation to the group regarding how 'wildlife' contributes significantly to the local economy citing examples including River Cree; Mull of Galloway and Red Kite Trail. It was hoped that WFD would be the driver for further wetland creation projects.

### **Galloway Fisheries Trust project update**

Jamie Ribbens outlined a number of projects being undertaken in partnership by Galloway Fisheries Trust and to remove Japanese Knotweed at locations in Annan; Argyll and Ayrshire. Lime trials supported by SEPA are underway on the Cree and Fleet.

## **Galloway Hydro**

Graeme Dickie discussed work being undertaken by Scottish Power to control the spread of Japanese Knotweed at hydropower sites within Galloway and Lanark. A LIFEPLUS project to protect elvers/eels was being undertaken at Tongland Dam, Kirkcudbright

### **4. Reporting progress in the Solway – SEPA and Environment Agency**

#### **Update on delivery programmes and funding**

Jackie Galley and Gill Hill provided members of the Solway AAG with an update on how we are monitoring and performing against delivery of the plan. A report on progress with measures delivery is being produced and will be circulated to AAG members when completed.

The Environment Agency project programme for 2011 / 2012 includes: habitat improvement work on Eden/Derwent and Kent; Weirs and fish passes; removing culverts and diffuse pollution.

Environment Agency is hosting 10 catchments under the DEFRA pilot. A further 15 will be hosted by local organisations. An announcement on further pilots is expected at the end of November 2011. Eden Rivers Trust expressed an interest in hosting a pilot for the Eden catchment. (This has since been confirmed by DEFRA). All catchments are expected to have plans in place by June 2014 with all pilots having these in place by December 2012. AAG members were encouraged to share their views on strengthening the catchment approach more widely through stakeholder groups.

### **5. 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle**

Jackie Galley discussed 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle planning with members ensuring they were aware of high level process, the unknowns and decisions to be made. She asked :  
the group for views on:

- Which engagement tools are most effective?
- Where should we be investing our efforts?
- What should second plan look like?
- Should we prioritise some parts

### **6. Future meetings**

The Chair welcomed feedback from members in terms of location and length of future meetings.

David Harpley volunteered to give a presentation at next meeting on Upland Wetland restoration and access to funding .

Future agenda items suggested include : Highways; catchment scale funding; progress reports.

## 7. Flood Risk Management Planning (Heather Forbes)

The purpose of this session was to provide feedback on the consultation. The way forward and how engagement will be undertaken in the future.

### Action Points

Action	By whom	By when
Simon Johnson to be sent copy of SEPA barrier protocol	Jackie Galley	16 January 2012
Circulate information gathered as part of INNS (Invasive non native species) workshop mapping exercise	Jackie Galley	16 January 2012
Review attendance at INNS workshop and supply contact details for organisations not in attendance.	All	16 January 2012
Provide details of FTE resources dedicated to INNS	All	16 January 2012
Set up sub group of Solway AAG to discuss INNS.  Support from Maggie Robinson / David Harpley (English Stakeholders)	Carol McGinnes/Jackie Galley	31 January 2012
Objectives of demonstration projects to be shared	Simon Johnson	16 January 2012
Details of Great Britain Portal to be sent to all members	Jackie Galley	16 January 2012
Views and comments sought on 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle questions - Which engagement tools are most effective? - Where should we be investing our efforts? - What should second plan look like? - Should we prioritise some parts?	All	09 January 2012
Future discussion topic – High Status water bodies	Jez Westgarth	TBC
Future Presentation - Upland Wetland Restoration	David Harpley	TBC

**Dates of 2012 meetings to be circulated early in 2012**