

Tay Area Advisory Group Meeting

3rd October 2013, 9:45 – 13:00
Strathearn House, Perth

Draft Minutes

Present

David Summers (DS)	Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board, Acting Chair
Alexa Armstrong (AA)	Tay RBMP Co-ordinator, SEPA (minutes)
Lindsey Regan (LR)	EQ Specialist Scientist, SEPA
Alan Hendry (AH)	Scotland GRPID
Will Henderson (WH)	Scottish Land and Estates
Grant Vanson (GV)	Policy Officer (Flood Risk), SEPA
John Burrow (JB)	SNH
Kelly Ann Dempsey (KD)	Angus Council (River South Esk Catchment Partnership)
Derek McGlashan (DM)	Forth Ports
Mike Strachan (MS)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Amanda Hutcheson (AH)	Scottish Water
Karen Cunningham (KC)	RSPB
Olivia Burns (OB)	Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Association
Stuart McGowan (SM)	SEPA
Vanessa Kind (VK)	SEPA
Paul Hendy	Scottish Flood Forum

Apologies:

Colin Anderson	SEPA
Marshall Halliday (MH)	Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust Director
Andy Paterson (AP)	Scotland GRPID
Laura Booth (LB)	Tay Estuary Forum
Roy Madden	Angus Council
Lisa Roberts (LR)	NFUS

No.	Item	Action by
1	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Action Update from last meeting (DS /AA)</p> <p>The chair welcomed the group to the meeting and made introductions. The previous minutes were approved by the group and will be published on the AAG website.</p> <p>AA talked through the actions set at the last meeting (7 February 2013) and reported on progress:</p> <p>Action 1: Close out. Action 2: Close out Action 3: Close out. Changes to ground water bodies is now completed. Amended to sub divide to reflect pressures and land use/topography and merged where similar. Action 4: Ongoing, there have been changes to standards (Action 1) Action 5: Complete – via update emails and meetings Action 6: Complete – circulated February 2013 Action 7: Ongoing. AAG members to contact AA if further information is required on measures delivery. (Action 2)</p>	<p>AA</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>Action 8: Complete – details sent ion February 2013</p> <p>Action 9: Complete – details sent ion February 2013</p> <p>Action 10: Closed.</p> <p>Action 11: Closed</p> <p>Action 12: Closed</p> <p>Action 13: Complete – meeting attended in April 2013</p>	
2	<p>Update on Implementing the First Plans (AA)</p> <p>AA gave a presentation highlighting the work being carried out to deliver the objectives of the first River Basin Management Plans. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration Plan now published on SEPA website - Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) plan due for publication in autumn 2012 - Water Environment Fund - Priority catchments for diffuse pollution (DP) (Tay and South Esk) - Pilot catchment projects which are operating in four Scottish catchments, one of which is the River South Esk. <p>Action: AA to feed back on how the INNS plan ties in with the commission proposal for the regulation on invasive alien species.</p> <p>It was asked what is being done regarding run-off from roads on rural fields entering rivers and if Transport Scotland involved? SM confirmed that these are logged when complaints are received or are seen by staff. These are then passed onto Local Authorities. KT has been working on surface water flooding. It is recognised that current urban drainage cannot and will not cope with current intense rainfall events. These events are predicted to become more frequent, therefore, Local Authorities will need to improve this. SEPA are trying to manage/work in partnership to improve in the future. It was also discussed that while SUDS are important, they can be difficult to maintain as there may be budget issues.</p> <p>In relation to the new reaches identified in the pilot catchment, a question was asked on how it can be identified that morphology is impacting upon ecology, rather than other pressures (such as DP) as straightened rivers can often be full of fish. Action 3: AA to provide feedback from Pilot catchment co-ordinator regarding.</p> <p>Action 4: AA to feed back to DP team the frustrations of land managers and farmers that the sources of diffuse pollution cannot be fully identified. SM confirmed that work on the identification of DP has been carried out in Lunan Catchment by the James Hutton Institute, which has buy-in from land managers.</p>	<p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p>
3	<p>Individual Member Updates (All)</p> <p><u>Scottish Water</u> Continued work with Lintrathen Loch and the Loch of Lintrathen Partnership Group. The incentive scheme has been increased by double and they have had over 100 applications. Most popular applications are for the water environment management plans where staff go out to farm and assess/advice on improvements. The additional incentives which can be applied for can be viewed on the Scottish Water website. Scottish Water have identified a further 22 catchments where would like to do more work starting in 2015.</p> <p><u>RSPB</u> RSPB surveyed wading birds in the River South Esk in 2012. It highlighted that Glen Clova is important area for lowland farming wading birds. RSPB feel that this area</p>	

	<p>may have an opportunity for Natural Flood Risk Management and fear that excessive woodland planting and/or fencing may be harmful to birds.</p> <p>SEPA (Angus and Dundee local team) CAR reviews are ongoing and staff have been involved in priority catchment walks.</p> <p>Angus Council (River South Esk Catchment Partnership) Reviews of the water, wetlands and coasts biodiversity plan are underway and have identified new targets and projects. There has been liaison with the new staff members in the Pearls in Peril project and awareness raising for recording INNS. Additionally, there is a plan of a more coordinated Himalayan Balsam control approach with SWT. Action 5: AA to forward information on the tools available to record INNS sightings.</p> <p><u>Forth Ports</u> Derek McGlashan highlighted the work being carried out by John Issacs at Abertay Uni regarding the modelling work on soil erosion and diffuse pollution datasets. Action 6: AA to forward this on to Susan Arnott.</p> <p><u>Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park</u> They have been working closely with Balloch SEPA team to look at diffuse pollution within the national park area to align work of rangers with findings. This aims to identify how staff can do catchment walks with land managers etc to pick up issues otherwise unlikely to be addressed until 2021. Peter Wright (SEPA) is running a training event on diffuse pollution at NPA on 27 November. OB opened this up to AAG members if they are interested in attending. Action 7: AA to forward details of the training to AAG members.</p> <p><u>Scotland GRDIP</u> Inspections are ongoing on at the moment of farms for both single farm payments and GBRs. Good feedback from the visits, it was noted that 1:1 interaction was working very well. Applications for the Whole Farm Plans which include options to reduce soil erosion have now closed, the next SRDP funding for this is expected to be in a years time. The previously funded plans were due to finish this year, however, Scottish Government has extended these for a further year. AA highlighted that there are new and amended GBRs which have now been published.</p> <p><u>Scottish Flooding Forum</u> They are continuing resilience plans for severe weather along with the engagement with landowners to reduce run-off into culverts etc. Event on 12 October in Pitlochry regarding community resilience Action 8: AA to circulate flyer to the event</p> <p><u>Scottish Land and Estates</u> Concern raised that beavers have gone from 5 unlicensed escapees to 140 in 6 years. It is a minor issue at the moment but concern if increase continues as dams can cause blocked field drains and increase flooding. It was asked if SEPA are intending to look into this and it was confirmed that SEPA sit on the Tayside Beaver study group which is chaired by SNH.</p> <p><u>Forestry Commission Scotland</u> Work in Glen Clova which includes SEPA, SNH, RSPB, to look closely at opportunities for doing work in catchment relating to contour planting of trees for the reduction of flooding. Applications for funding via WEF and LIFE are being carried out. Hoping to get funding from WEF. Additionally, the Soil Association are running training events on how to manage surface water drainage and diffuse pollution.</p>	<p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p>
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	<p><u>SNH</u> Continue to try to reduce impacts on designated sites of the Rivers Tay and South Esk SAC and continue to respond to development planning proposals which may harm these SACs.</p> <p><u>Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board</u> There is continued spraying of knotweed on the River Earn, however, unfortunately a RAFTS application to increase this failed. However, the National Park have been helping in the Loch Earn area.</p>	
4	<p>Current Condition and Challenges for the Future (VK)</p> <p>Vanessa Kind (SEPA) gave a presentation on the Current Condition and Challenges for the Future (CCCF) report which will be published in December 2013 and will be consulted upon until June 2014. The report will provide an update of the current condition of Scotland's water environment, a risk assessment for achieving the first RBMP objectives and a consultation on how to tackle the significant water management issues (SWMIs).</p>	
5	<p>Developing the Second Plan (AA)</p> <p>AA gave a presentation on developing the second RBMP. The draft of the second RBMP will be known as a consultation document and will highlight all the changes from the first plan to the second. This will include a chapter on objective setting. The ambitions of the second plan are to be increased and scenarios will be set out as to how public funding can be utilised to achieve the required objectives.</p> <p>The data will be presented in a new way by utilising Spotfire which provide easier access to specific information. The Spotfire tool will utilised for both the CCCF report and the RBMPs.</p> <p>It was identified that navigation was not included in the engagement programme slide. Action 9: AA to feed this back to SEPA.</p>	AA
8	<p>AOB & Close of AAG (DS)</p> <p>Action 10: AA to send PDF copies of the presentations.</p> <p>WH highlighted that cattle appear to be very effective for trampling Himalayan balsam, therefore, it may be worthwhile noting whether nearby farm has cattle during farm inspections/catchment walks. It was noted, that in fenced off areas Himalayan balsam was prolific.</p> <p>There were no issues raised under AOB. DS thanked members for their attendance.</p>	AA

Action number	Action	Owner	Date to be completed	Update
1	Classification methodology to be circulated once new standards have been incorporated	AA	Jan 2014	
2	AAG members to contact AA for any further information on measures delivery	AA	Ongoing	
3	Provide feedback from Pilot catchment co-ordinator regarding how to identify what is causing ecology issues.	AA	November 2013	
4	Feed back to DP team the frustrations of land managers and farmers that the sources of diffuse pollution cannot be fully identified	AA	October 2013	
5	Forward information on the tools available to record INNS sightings.	AA	October 2013	
6	Forward details on Abertay university DP modelling to Susan Arnott.	AA	October 2013	
7	Forward details of the DP training at the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.	AA	October 2013	
8	Circulate resilience event flyer	AA	October 2013	
9	Feedback the need to include navigation in action plan	AA	October 2013	
10	Circulate the presentations	AA	October 2013	