

## Tay Area Advisory Group Meeting

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 9:45 – 13:00**  
**Strathearn House, Perth**

### Minutes

#### Present

Colin Anderson (CA)	Chair, SEPA
Alexa Armstrong (AA)	Tay RBMP Co-ordinator, SEPA
Eilidh Johnston (EJ)	NE Scotland, Orkney & Shetland RBMP Co-ordinator, SEPA (minutes)
Rob Christie (RC)	EQ Specialist Scientist, SEPA
Susan Arnott (SA)	River Tay Catchment Co-ordinator, SEPA
Adam Zyndul (AZ)	Scottish Water
Marshall Halliday (MH)	Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust Director
Andy Paterson (AP)	Scotland GRPID
Alan Hendry (AH)	Scotland GRPID
Will Henderson (WH)	Scottish Land and Estates
Andrea Johnstonova (AJ)	Flood Risk Planning Manager (SE), SEPA
Grant Vanson (GV)	Policy Officer (Flood Risk), SEPA
John Burrow (JB)	SNH
Laura Booth (LB)	Tay Estuary Forum
Kelly Ann Dempsey (KD)	Angus Council
Graham Esson (GE)	Perth & Kinross Council
David Summers (DS)	Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board

#### Apologies:

Derek McGlashan	Forth Ports
Gordon Pyper	Angus Council
Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission Scotland

No.	Item	Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome, Introduction and Action Update from last meeting (CA /AA)</b></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>CA talked through the actions set at the last meeting and reported on progress:</p> <p>Action 1: Carry forward. Being discussed at this meeting.  Action 2: Closed.  Action 3: Carry forward. Being discussed at this meeting  Action 4: Complete, taken forward by Julie Bhatti (INNS lead for RBMP)  Action 5: On-going, Scottish Water to update at this meeting  Action 6: Closed.  Action 7: Not completed due to staff changes. Carry forward. AAG members to feed back information on quick wins.  Action 8: Discussions on downgraded urban water body in Dighty Catchment not completed due to staff changes. AA to carry forward.  Action 9: Superseded by RAFTS national work on fish barriers. Closed.  Action 10: Closed. Further information will be given on agenda.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>AA</b></p>

	<p>Action 11: Carried forward to Spring meeting as groundwater classification is not yet available. RC to carry forward.</p> <p>Action 12: Classification summary not completed due to staff changes. AA/RC to carry forward.</p> <p>Action 13: No responses received. Closed</p> <p>Action 14: Ongoing where required</p> <p>Action 15: Complete</p>	<p><b>RC</b></p> <p><b>AA/RC</b></p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Tay AAG RBMP Update (AA)</b></p> <p>AA gave a presentation highlighting imminent consultation deadlines of 27th and 28th February 2013 respectively for '<i>Improving the physical condition of Scotland's water environment</i>' and '<i>Getting involved</i>'. She urged the group to consider and respond to these consultations.</p> <p>AA also introduced the pilot catchment projects which will operate in 4 Scottish catchments, one of which is the River South Esk. The group asked for further updates on the project, and emphasised the need for work with land managers and a co-ordinated approach with all other initiatives in the area (SNIFFER and LIFE projects etc.).</p> <p><b>Action 5: AA to provide updates to the River South Esk pilot catchment when available.</b></p> <p>There were no further questions on the update paper.</p>	<p><b>AA</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Tay Pressures and Measures Presentation (AA)</b></p> <p>AA gave presentation, noting that only 2 years are left to tackle remaining first cycle pressures. She showed a map of 2011 classification, and noted that in 2011 50% of Tay water bodies achieved the 'Good ecological status / potential' target required under the Water Framework Directive. The target for 2015 is 58% of all water bodies to reach this status.</p> <p><b>Action 6: AA to circulate a 2011 classification map.</b></p> <p><b>Action 7: All to contact AA if further information is required on measures which they should deliver.</b></p> <p>AA also showed information on the types and number of measures, and the 'owners' of the measures. The group clarified that the farmer and landowner measures will largely be delivered through the diffuse pollution priority catchment work which is currently underway.</p> <p>DS asked what might make SEPA change the measures against a water body. RC explained that new survey data, or new classification information, might show that pressures were not present on a water body – under this situation we would change the classification and measures as required.</p>	<p><b>AA</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Individual Member Updates (All)</b></p> <p>AA asked the group to update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are we now?</li> <li>• How to tackle the remaining measures?</li> <li>• Possibilities for joint working / collaboration?</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH from Esk Rivers &amp; Fisheries Trust showed photographs of the Rottal Burn, and explained the restoration work which has been funded by the Water Environment Fund. This showed that natural processes are showing signs of improvement. The Trust will continue to monitor the work. He also noted the 'Pearls in Peril' project which is starting in the upper South Esk.</li> <li>• WH from Scottish Land and Estates updated the group on a flood risk meeting held recently in Coupar Angus. He expressed concern about sedimentation of burns, and the need to clean out ditches to alleviate flooding. WH asked for further guidance from SEPA on what can be carried out, so that farmers have clarity on what is allowed. CA noted that SEPA is planning some public events on this, and urged the group to encourage land managers to speak to SEPA about any dredging work, as often a simple registration can be used.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 8: AA to send a link to dredging guidance, and further information on any public events relating to regulation. Ask Susan Arnott to consider setting up a meeting using the existing Tay group.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LB from the Tay Estuary Forum noted that the Tay Forum annual conference will be held on 19 April 2013 in Dundee, focusing on future changes in policy and management for Scotland's coasts. There is scope for exhibits and a workshop session, which can be discussed further with LB or AA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 9: AA to circulate conference flyer with minutes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KD from Angus Council updated on work with invasive species, Community Planning, awareness raising on diffuse pollution and website development.</li> <li>• DS from the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board outlined recent work on Japanese knotweed eradication in the Tay catchment, and noted that Loch Lomond NPA has worked on the Earn. They are hopeful that RAFTS will obtain funding to continue work on invasives. He asked about progress with CAR license reviews for the 2015 deadlines, and CA acknowledged some delays but noted the need to take the right action in complex circumstances.</li> <li>• GE from Perth and Kinross Council updated that the Perth &amp; Kinross Local Development Plan will be released next week for examination. It is hoped that it will be published towards the end of the year. Supplementary guidance is being developed throughout this year, including on surface water runoff, countryside policy, construction and Indicative Forestry Strategy. A project is starting with SNIFFER in Carse of Gowrie, following from previous Adaptation Scotland work.</li> <li>• AP from SGRPID gave a brief update on land inspections carried out by the Perth office. These cover GBRs 19 and 20. For 2011, c.15% of inspections reported GBR19 breaches. 2012 figures are still being gathered, but indicate much lower level of breaches. Follow up visits will be held on the 2011 breaches.</li> <li>• AH from SGRPID reported on joint working between rural agencies on awareness raising and SRDP applications, to ensure that diffuse pollution is being tackled.</li> <li>• JB from SNH gave an update on INNS work in the Dunkeld / Blairgowrie Lochs</li> </ul>	<p><b>AA</b></p> <p><b>AA</b></p>
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	<p>SAC. This has 3-year funding to tackle Himalyan Balsam, and first treatment has now been completed. He also noted the Pearls in Peril project, which now has a project officer in Aberdeen. There are plans to recruit water bailiffs, create riparian woodland and buffers, reduce sedimentation and encourage the spread of pearl mussels. He commented that SNH is setting up a beaver study group and have surveyed the catchment – report available on SNH website. SNH plans trapping work to study the beaver populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AZ from Scottish Water gave some information on the Sustainable Land Management work being carried out by Scottish Water, which includes Loch of Lintrathen (nutrient pressures). He reported 52 applications received to the scheme, with the majority from the North East catchments (Deveron and Ugie). Lintrathen is open for applications, but has not been widely publicised as Scottish Water are still in the monitoring phase of the work.</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Current Conditions and Challenges for the Future Presentation (RC)</b></p> <p>RC gave a presentation on progress with reporting on current conditions and challenges, which is part of the preparation for the second RBMP cycle. This will highlight changes to water bodies and classification, and review risks of not meeting targets, deteriorations in status, or not achieving priority substance reductions. It will also consider potential climatic impacts to objectives.</p> <p>The report will review Significant Water Management Issues, and propose changes. These issues will then be addressed through the draft RBMP which will be published in 2014.</p>	
6	<p><b>Priority Catchments Update (SA)</b></p> <p>SA gave an update covering a reminder of the priority catchment process, and outlining progress in the Tay catchment. She tabled copies of the Tay catchment characterisation and gave an update on catchment walk data – over 1100km of the river was surveyed, finding 948 GBR breaches, and 125 cases of good practice.</p> <p>She explained that water body summary sheets are being produced, which will set out diffuse pollution, INNS and other issues. These will be published on the diffuse pollution webpages.</p> <p><b>Action 10: All to give feedback on the draft summary sheet to SA.</b></p> <p>There will be monitoring in up to 5 water bodies in the catchment for nutrients and pesticides, so that the impact of the priority catchment walk can be examined.</p> <p>On awareness raising, she noted the role of the Tay Priority Catchment steering group, the Loch of Lintrathen partnership group and a farmer sub-group for the potato sector. There is wider communication work through webpages, events and articles, and training.</p> <p>Further work on opportunity mapping (Forestry Commission) is underway, and will look at options for woodland planting which can tackle diffuse pollution and offer wider benefits. There is also Scottish Government funding for a project which looks at how to encourage landowners through training and advice – this includes East Pow on the Tay, where SAC will provide extra farm business advice, nutrient budgeting and soil management.</p>	All

	<p>Farm visits will start this month and continue over next 2 years using mobile data capture. East Pow and other impacted catchments will be done first.</p> <p>CA noted that South Esk follow up visits are now well underway. Work here focuses on the lower catchment.</p> <p>There was discussion over whether SEPA visits are co-ordinated with SGRPID, and SA confirmed that SEPA will share information on the timing of farm visits with SGRPID.</p>	
7	<p><b>Diffuse Pollution Discussion (CA &amp; SA)</b></p> <p>CA introduced the discussion, noting that the group had previously been interested in establishing a diffuse pollution subgroup so that the AAG could deliver awareness raising.</p> <p>DS agreed that it will be important to work outwith priority catchments. WH recommended seeking a regular column in key publications, and working with Scottish Agronomy (which provides guidance and a quarterly publication). He advised that this should be focused on specific issues rather than general updates. MH indicated that the Trust can include a one page update in their monthly mailshots and landowner visits.</p> <p>SA expressed concern that the requirement to produce these articles might be too much for catchment co-ordinators. She noted the need for partners to help spread the message. Work by NFU and SAC has been particularly beneficial in the past.</p> <p>AH recommended that SEPA identify the watercourses outside priority catchments which are affected by diffuse pollution, so that SGRPID could start to raise awareness and give advice. SGRPID already raise awareness generally.</p> <p><b>Action 11: AA to provide this information to AH [if we agree that the above is feasible / useful]</b></p> <p>CA would like to map how the organisations round the table are working on diffuse pollution, to see if this is sufficiently co-ordinated for non priority catchment areas.</p> <p><b>Action 12: All members to send AA information on their information and awareness raising of diffuse pollution to allow a mapping exercise on diffuse pollution.</b></p> <p><b>Action 13: SA to discuss awareness raising outside priority catchments with the Tay priority catchment steering group. AA to attend the group to cover this item. CA acknowledged that this could require additional resourcing.</b></p>	<p>AA</p> <p>All/AA</p> <p>SA/AA</p>
8	<p><b>AOB &amp; Close of AAG (CA)</b></p> <p>There were no issues raised under AOB. CA thanked members for their attendance.</p>	

Action number	Action	Owner	Date to be completed	Update
1	AAG members to feed back to AA regarding information on where 'quick wins' for improvements have been identified.	All	May 2013	Ongoing
2	Discuss downgraded urban water body in the Dighty catchment with LA	AA	May 2013	Close out
3	Details regarding to groundwater bodies to be provided at Spring AAG.	RC	May 2013	TBC
4	Summary to be prepared of how water bodies are classified and sent round Tay AAG and added to Tay AAG webpages	AA/RC	August 2013	TBC
5	Provide updates to the River South Esk pilot catchment when available.	AA	May 2013	Complete
6	Circulate a 2011 classification map.	AA	Feb 2013	complete
7	All to contact AA if further information is required on measures which they should deliver.	All	March 2013	Ongoing
8	Send a link to dredging guidance, and further information on any public events relating to regulation. Ask Susan Arnott to consider setting up a meeting using the existing Tay group.	AA	Feb/Mar 2013	Guidance sent to Will Henderson. Emailed Susan to ask for details of public events/meetings
9	Circulate TEF conference flyer with minutes.	AA	Feb 2013	Complete
10	All to give feedback on the draft summary sheet to SA.	All	May 2013	
11	Provide diffuse pollution water body information to AH [if we agree that the above is feasible / useful]	AA	March 2013	Complete
12	All members to send AA information on their information and awareness raising of diffuse pollution to allow a mapping exercise on diffuse pollution.	All	April 2013	Complete
13	SA to discuss awareness raising outside priority catchments with the Tay priority catchment steering group. AA to attend the group to cover this item. CA acknowledged that this could require additional resourcing.	SA/AA	March 2013	Complete