

**Thirteenth Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> November 2012**  
**SNH office, Silver house, Edinburgh**

Present	Organisation
Jannette MacDonald (JMacD)	SEPA
Morgane Gillet (MG)	SEPA (coordinator)
Stephen Field (SF)	SEPA (chair)
Jenny Owen (JO)	CONFOR
Andrew Bauer (AB)	NFUS
Sarah Hutcheon (SH)	SNH
Brian Shaw (BS)	Scottish Tenants Farmers Association
Ian Speirs (IS)	Scottish Government
Joyce Carr (JC)	Scottish Government
Andy Vinten (AV)	The James Hutton Institute
Julia Garritt (JG)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Lisa Webb (LW)	RSPB
Neil Henderson (NH)	SGRPID
Graham Kerr (GK)	SAC
Bill McKelvey (BMcK)	SEPA board member
Apologies	
Sarah Gillman (SG)	Scottish Water
Carolyn Hedley (CH)	Scottish Golf Environment Group
Alan Wells (AW)	Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
Carmel Rowlands (CR)	Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park / Cairngorms National Park
Janice Fenny (JF)	Scottish Land and Estate
David Harley	SEPA

Item	Discussion
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Introduction – Stephen Field (SF)</b></p> <p>SF welcomed the group to the thirteenth meeting of the Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group. He passed on David Harley's apologies who could not attend and chair the meeting.</p> <p>Then, he introduced Bill McKelvey, a SEPA board member who is attending this meeting.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Diffuse pollution action plan – Morgane Gillet (MG)</b></p> <p>The group discussed the November update of the diffuse pollution action plan.</p> <p>LW asked about the SNH/SEPA guidance, SH answered that it is an early stage project to review the guidance available.</p> <p><b>Action 13.1: MG to circulate the action plan a months before the DPMAG meeting to allow members to send their update.</b></p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Scottish Environment LINK update – Lisa Webb ( LW)</b></p> <p>LW presented the work that RSPB is doing to mitigate the impact of diffuse pollution in the reserves they have in Scotland.</p>

	<p>She gave the example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loch Strathbeg which is part of the Buchan coastal Priority catchment. Funding through the water environment fund has been secured to improve sediment and Phosphate issues in the loch.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 13.2: SF to find out the proportion of nitrates coming from birds versus agricultural activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loch Spiggie which has been highlighted as a priority for Shetland AAG. A working group has been formed and is currently investigating funding to implant measures on the ground.</li> </ul> <p>She also covered other activities that RSPB is carrying out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- raising awareness of land managers: guidance and website offering advice to land managers, in the past training has been organised with SEPA</li> <li>- science and research including two water quality research projects ( Wetting up farmland for biodiversity project and soil and water project ) that RSPB is involved with</li> <li>- influencing CAP and SRDP reforms</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Priority Catchment work update and capturing data – Stephen Field (SF) &amp; Susan Arnott ( SA)</b></p> <p>SA presented the electronic equipment that officers are now using on site. She explained how much time was gained by using the equipment when capturing catchment walk data (8 day versus 45.5 when capturing data on paper).</p> <p>She explained how it is used on farm, the report generated and the benefits for farmers</p> <p>The group discussed the possibility to have a more interactive process where farmers could update on measures they have implemented.</p> <p><b>Action 13.3: GK to speak to SA about their new GIS system and the lesson learnt from this process.</b></p> <p>SF gave an update on the progress done in priority catchments. He presented examples of two farms, one in the South Esk catchment and one in Ayr catchments. This showed the difference in measures for an arable farm and a dairy farm, the latest often relying on SRDP funding.</p> <p>The group discussed the difficulty for tenants farmers to invest in big infrastructure.</p> <p>The group asked if the re-visits are a second full visit or if it is just focused on the non compliance previously highlighted. SF answered that because of resource constraints they only focus on the non-compliance reported at the first visit.</p>
5.	<p><b>Monitoring the Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan- Jannette MacDonald ( JMacD)</b></p> <p>JMacD presented a strategy for assessing the impact of the plan. Because of the complexity of diffuse pollution, the lag time expected for improvements to be seen and the range of factors that influence water quality we will need to look at a range of factors to assess the effectiveness of measures such as changes in land use, inputs of fertilisers etc. Long term monitoring in diffuse pollution monitored catchments, has shown the importance of considering land use when</p>

	<p>assessing results.</p> <p>An indicator approach that shows the overall direction of travel was discussed by the group and it was agreed that this was a useful approach which should apply to all sectors and not just agriculture.</p>										
6.	<p><b>DPMAG Comms sub-group update– Rebecca Audsley (RA)</b></p> <p>RA presented the work done by DPMAG communications subgroup on developing the “know the rules” guides including the list of guides, the issues encountered and the timescale for the publication which is scheduled in Spring 2013.</p> <p>RA explained progress made to the development of the diffuse pollution website and the role of DPMAG communications sub group in its creation. Then she presented the alternative water work by showing the installed systems installed in the two demonstrations farms and the finding so far. She added that demonstrations events will be organised in 2013.</p>										
7.	<p><b>Feedback from EU WFD and Agriculture Expert Group – Jannette MacDonald (JMacD) &amp; Ian Speirs (IS)</b></p> <p>JMacD and IS gave feedback to the group the success of the expert group visit to Scotland.</p>										
8.	<p><b>Forestry Commission Scotland – Julia Garritt (JG)</b></p> <p>JG highlighted the work that the Forestry commission Scotland is doing to implement the rural diffuse pollution plan, such as work on the national forest estate and through the Conservancies. Training was recently offered to Conservancy staff on the benefits of woodlands for water</p> <p>She mentioned that training has been provided to their Staff.</p> <p><b>Action 13.4: SF and JG to discuss the possibility of organising local-based “woodlands for water” training for SEPA and FCS staff.</b></p> <p>She explained the FCS-SEPA opportunity mapping project. Currently being undertaken on the Tay catchment. This project highlights areas where woodland creation and more effective management of existing woodlands can help water quality and flooding issues.</p> <p><b>Action 13.5: MG to advise DPMAG members when the report is published.</b></p>										
10.	<p><b>RBMP update –Morgane Gillet (MG)</b></p> <p>This has been postponed to the next meeting.</p>										
11 .	<p><b>Minutes/actions from the last meeting and AOB- Stephen Filed (SF)</b> (see DPMAG 11 12 08_02 draft minutes from last meeting)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action</th><th>progress</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12.1- SF to investigate the impact that the gap in SRDP funding will have on the priority catchments work.</td><td>On going</td></tr> <tr> <td>12.2MG, ZF, AB, JMacD, SH, BS to discuss at lunch time.</td><td>Closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>12.3- MG to circulate the finalised winter key messages to the rest of the group</td><td>Closed</td></tr> <tr> <td>12.4- SF and AB to discuss publication of this information in the</td><td>Closed- Article circulated to members for their</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	progress	12.1- SF to investigate the impact that the gap in SRDP funding will have on the priority catchments work.	On going	12.2MG, ZF, AB, JMacD, SH, BS to discuss at lunch time.	Closed	12.3- MG to circulate the finalised winter key messages to the rest of the group	Closed	12.4- SF and AB to discuss publication of this information in the	Closed- Article circulated to members for their
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	next NFUS publication.	information.	
	12.5- SF and SH to discuss joint re-visit in designated sites	Closed	
	12.6- SF to report on this new way of raising awareness when appropriate.	On going	
	12.7- JMacD/IS to report back to DPMAG on the October meeting of the expert group	Closed	
	12.8- MG to organise an Item on other RBMP measures	On going- it should be on the March agenda	
	11.2- AV to attend the next NFUS potatoes committee	closed	
	11.6- SF to send to the group the standard paragraphs of the letter sent to farmers after the site visit.	Closed	
	10.6- SF to let the group know about the change to herbicide application	On going	
	8.14- All presentations (and papers) to be available on the DPMAG website	Closed	
	The next DPMAG meeting will be held on the 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2013.		

## Action Table

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