



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

**ACTION POINTS/ MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP (FWMG)
MEETING**

19/04/2023

10:00-13:00

Held as a Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software

Present

Max Tant
Adrien Baudrimont
Alexander Back
Alice Dimaline
Alys Bishop
Andrew Hitchenor
Andy Hardstaff
Anne Chataigne
Becca Nicholas
Ben Dunn-Birch
Ben Kirby
Ben Lukey
Celia Jonquet-Burns
Charlotte Riddell
Chloe Langley
Daniel Lamb
Dave Stewart
David Uncle
Doug Hill
Emma Wren
Hanna Suleman
Hannah Bartram
Hayley Bowman
Hillary Ellis
Hilary Tandy

Hilary Tanner
Holger Kessler
Imran Munshi
Jade Harrison
Jagit Mahal
James Blockley
James Harris
James Latham
James Smyth
James Yarham
Jerry McConkey
Jonathan Boyes
Joshua Blaikie
Joshua Wells
Julie Mayhew
Karen Fisher
Katarzyna Wysocka
Keely Tizzard
Laura Bigley
Louise Walker
Marc Inman
Mark Ogden
Martin Hutchings
Matt Hullis
Matt Williams
Matthew Harrison

Max Tant
Melanie Bright
Michael Warner
Mohamed Admani
Neal Thomas
Neil Clarke
Paul Shaffer
Peter Henry
Rachel Kilgallon
Revi Kinsella
Rohit Singh
Ruchi Sayal
Ruth Burnham
Ryan Davies
Sam Kipling
Steve Tupper
Steve Wragg
Sue Jaques
Tim Simpson
Tracey Garrett
Vikki Keeble
Will Barber
William Harrington
Zara Scott

Apologies

Nick Claxton – East Sussex
Jessica Fox – Hull
Des McFarlane – Infrastructure NI
Arthur Le Geyt – SEMLEP
Richard Ward – Derbyshire

Simon Bowers – West Northants
Matthew Penny – Dorset
Innes Thomson – ADA
Victoria Coombes - Leicester

Item		Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & introductions	Apologies are as stated above.	
2	Actions and Minutes from the previous meeting	<p>a) NIC Surface Water Report. Max has finalised and submitted the report to DEFRA. Max to share the report with the minutes for this month.</p> <p>b) Riparian Ownership. Max has requested that the paper is re-issued, Matthew agreed on Ryan Davies behalf that this can be reissued along with the minutes for this month. This can be reviewed and comments can be sent directly to Matthew and Ryan. Alice has had discussion with Emma Thompson who confirmed that the project has been deferred – May wish to invite Emma to a future meeting to discuss the option of a riparian peer group.</p> <p>c) Still waiting on Ciria report from last Autumn as this is still being finalised. Alice confirmed Paul will attend next meeting.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>M/RD</p> <p>ALL</p>
3	Adaption Pathways Programme – Kylie Russel, EA	<p>Presentation slides shared in chat.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kylie asked for group to view the adaption pathways knowledge hub and provide some feedback i.e., is the material useful? Is there anything missing? Is there any information that can be shared by the Group that can be added? • Are there any opportunities to link into any other training that is happening, and could aspects of adaption pathways be included? • Max raised that LLFA's deal largely with surface water and therefore unsure how adaption works in practice for surface water management give all the constraints. Is there work being done within the EA looking specifically at how adaption applies to surface water? • Kylie highlighted a project in South Yorkshire looking at this- too early in the project for outputs however the EA are looking to take learning from this. • Andy raised that a further challenge with surface water is identifying a specific community, as the risk is not always in a specific area but dispersed. • Kylie highlighted that there is an adaption pathway working group, asked if any info could be shared to take to the group. <p>Action: View the adaption pathways knowledge hub and provide feedback. Share any useful info to be added.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
4	Flood Report – James Latham	<p>Report highlighting flooding in London July 2021 – presentation slides shared.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark asked if James could give any further info on PFR project specifically where funding will come from and what levels of protection are being looked at, along with the level of funding that would be required. • James highlighted that they are starting the process for the PFR project, but level of funding could be significant. Looking to target properties that are predicted to be at high risk of flooding. • Mark suggested having an update on the project in a year or so. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark asked if there has been any push back from EA on proving the scheme as viable before going for PFR. • James stated that thus far EA have been relatively supportive but will come down to justification and evidence supplied backed up by SWMP identifying areas where flood resilience should be installed. • Anne provided link to webinar showing what can be done to traditional buildings. • Doug highlighted that Thames Water look to be on board with the project – requested that anyone with experience of bringing them on board to share knowledge. • Doug also raised that communities on the border of London also suffered from the flooding, asked to be added to any groups when discussion with Thames is undertaken. • James stated that the first step will be to boundary setting, as this is particularly important. • Max thanked Anne for sharing info gram about eligibility for Flood-Re – raised the issue surrounding cut off point of 4 properties and the problem arising with shared ownership. Asked whether Flood Re will be reviewing this cut off point. • Anne said that this may change in the future, but this is not a Flood-Re decision, but currently talking to government. May be other options for shared ownership and housing association such as Flood Flash • Max asked for information on this to be shared. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James to add Doug and any other member in discussion held with Thames in order to capture communities in the border of London. 	JL
5	Financing NFM – Green Finance Institute – Charlie Endors	<p>Presentation slides shared.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie keen to involve any member of the group in the project. Always looking for case studies and creating working groups. • Charlie will send around links to the Hive case studies and podcast can be fund here, along with other useful information. • Max asked if there are any specific groups that Charlie wishes the group to join or any specific events? • Carlie said nothing specific yet but project to be launched beginning of May. • Adrian highlighted the Ciria NFM Manual and the benefits estimating tool that may be useful. Estimating Tool to be launched online 27th April 	CE
6	Biodiversity net gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max highlighted the requirement in planning for 10% gain in biodiversity, on top of what is already there. • Looking at the integration of biodiversity net gain and SuDS. Whilst looking at future opportunities with Schedule 3. • Max has been talking to Liz Milne (Chair of ADEPT Natural Environment and Heritage Group). Suggested the possibility of having a shared meeting in order to work collectively. • Group agreed that this is a good idea. 	

		Action: Max will contact Liz and organise a date for a joint meeting of both groups.	MT
7	EA update – Steve Tupper	<p>Steve sent his apologies, represented by Joey Carter and Jonathan Hunter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA published new guidance on how to include natural capital and heritage values in business cases for FCERM capital projects making it easier to include benefit values. Key things to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First time able to value natural capital impact in FCERM projects. ○ Guidance uses latest DEFRA and HM Treasury green book approaches. ○ Will now be able to include built heritage in benefit values. ○ Using approaches from the Department of culture, media and sport ○ Two methods can now be used- light touch and full methods in order to capture impacts in proportionate way. ○ Guidance details how to include partnership funding and other key investment processes. • EA have completed flood warning expansion project. Added 9,500 more properties, with an overall total of 110,000 properties. • Will be relaunching investment partnership funding SharePoint site on 24th April, known as ‘Supporting flood and coast projects’. Should make accessing funding easier and full of features. • Jonathan Hunter discussed flood risk management plans. • EA wish to give local authorities access to FPE in order to update measure status directly as and when changes happen. The public will see these changes when they happen. Updates to be undertaken in October and April 24. • Currently road-testing guidance and looking to roll this out in June. • Joey and Steven’s Team will be taking over on flood risk management plans. • EA looking to carry out DWMP survey in May now water companies have carried out their first cycle. Survey will be used by Defra as they prepare the statutory phase. <p>Max raised as an aside that this year we should be reviewing the PFRA however there is yet to be an official update on how this should be undertaken, the Flood Risk Regulations are one of the pieces of legislation in the Retained EU Law Bill and are currently earmarked to be removed as law in England. Will Harrington confirmed there has been no updates on this as yet.</p>	
8	Defra update – Will Harrington	<p>Frequently flooded allowance carries 100 million grant fund for areas that are frequently flooded. On 5th April it was announced that the first 53 projects have been allocated just over 26 million. Additional project and funding allocation will now go through the EA Capital Program annual refresh.</p> <p>The Plan for Water – new government plan setting out how its going to clean up our waters and ensure that there is plentiful supply for the future. Will mean more investment, regulation and stronger enforcement for those who pollute our waters.</p>	

		<p>Still progressing with NIC surface water study, working through recommendations. Aiming to publish before Summer this year.</p> <p>Asset review into the statutory roles and responsibilities of flood risk assets is ongoing. Series of interviews and workshops to be undertaken with stakeholders. Will to update when these are to happen</p>	WH
9	ADA update- Innes Thompson	<p>Innes shared apologies for not being able to attend however a written update was provided. This is to be included within the minutes for this meeting. Shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IDB Special Levy rate increases to Local Authorities – IDBs have now set their special levy rates for 2023-24. Through careful planning and driving further efficiencies, many IDBs have been able to maintain rate increases in single figures percentages but where there is significant pumping of water required, energy cost increases have forced IDBs to apply much higher rate increases in some areas. Some rate increases have been agreed at close to 40% as a result, with inevitable consequences on special levy ratepaying authorities and agricultural ratepayers alike. This has caused major concern with the Local Authorities involved with specific reference to the cap limits on the rates which can be charged and the subject disaggregation of Special Levy from the rate cap limits is being discussed. ADA has highlighted this serious issue through Defra and ADA continued to ask ADEPT members to raise in parallel through DHLUC. ○ Increased focus and funding needed for Waterway Maintenance. ADA continues to express concern to government that there is too much emphasis given to capital expenditure on all forms of flood risk management, to the detriment of routine maintenance and management of all forms of flood risk asset. ADA continues to press for a change in approach to the allocation of revenue funding and indeed renewed thinking on maintenance funding for Local Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards to enable better outcomes and improved cost-avoidance. ○ ADA Flood & Water Live event – 5th and 6th July 2023 – ADA would be very grateful if their upcoming live demonstration event on 5th and 6th July could be widely shared with ADEPT members. The link for further information and free registration to attend the event is as follows. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/flood-water-live-2023-visitor-registration-tickets-509482344407 	
10	Update from chair	<p>Schedule 3 is still ongoing, no updates from previous meeting.</p> <p>Max invited Matt Hullis to talk about the EA Innovation program.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matt said that he is happy to channel any questions around the project back to the board as there is a meeting week after next. ○ The board has highlighted that projects suffer from different relationships with project sponsors. The better the engagement the better the project. Matt has requested that if anyone has any stories around good or bad engagement with project sponsors that these are shared with him, and he will then pass this on to the board. 	All

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ruchi Sayal highlighted that Barnet is one of 25 projects in the list looking at trying new ideas and taking more risks where innovation is concerned. Defra has asked some of the 25 projects to undertake a DEFRA policy challenge. Paper is to be submitted end of May. Aims to identify barriers and conflicting legislations. Monitoring and evaluation is a key aspect of the program. ○ Max asked for Ruchi to share the policy challenge report once ready. Ruchi will ask the working group about providing an update to the ADEPT group once paper is shared. Matt will also talk to the board in order to coordinate this. ○ Alys raised that there are 10 new resilience action groups that EA have created. Once the program is finished there is the possibility of the groups becoming independent bodies. This is something that we need to be aware of and how this may develop. 	RS/MH
11	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jim Turton raised the issue with water companies and the document produced by Water UK – ‘Process for correctly identifying culverted watercourses.’ This is creating massive issues and not robust enough. Water companies are not following protocol in regard to divesting of watercourses and not following procedure. ○ Max highlighted the need for evidence and examples of where water companies have not followed protocol, and this can be fed back to Water UK, Jonathan Glerum is probably the best starting point <p>Action: Examples and evidence of areas where protocol needs improving to be provided, this can then be collated before engaging Water UK</p>	ALL MT
13	Confirm Date of Next Meeting	19 th July 2023 (MS TEAMS)	