



Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

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

02/07/2024

10:00-12:15

**Held via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing software**

**Present**

- Alys Bishop (ABi) – Central Bedfordshire
- Ashish Patel – Royal Greenwich
- Becky George – EA
- Brian Richards – Dorset
- Dave Stewart – TDA
- Doug Hill (DH) – Surrey
- Emma Burdett – Kent
- Hannah Purkis – Suffok
- Jagjit Mahal – Warwickshire
- James Blockley (JB) – Gloucestershire
- James Mead – Sheffield
- Jessica Fox – Hull
- John Galt – Devon
- Lee Sencier – Buckinghamshire
- Mark Ogden (MO) – Norfolk
- Matt Hullis (MHul) – Suffolk

- Max Tant (MT) – Kent
- Melanie Bright – Bedford
- Mohammed Admani – West Northants
- Natalie James – East Sussex
- Neil Clarke (NClar) – Kent
- Nick Claxton (NClax) – East Sussex
- Pankit Shah (PS) – Harringey
- Rachel Kilgallon – Milton Keynes
- Roger Nowell – Sheffield
- Rohit Singh (RS) – Peterborough
- Sabina Kupczyk – Milton Keynes
- Saloni Paudel
- Steve Hodges - Herefordshire
- Tim Simpson (TS) – Essex
- Will Barber – Leicestershire

**Apologies**

Partners aren't able to give updates (and have given their apologies)

Item		Action	Action owners
1	Welcome & introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-election period has affected agenda – there's fewer things going on and some attendees can't attend, so the meeting is shorter.</li> <li>Had considered postponing today's meeting but was impractical to rearrange before mid-July. Also chose not to cancel it as MT has resigned as Chair of the group as he's leaving local government.</li> <li>MT would like a discussion with everyone about the group – what the opportunities are, what the main areas of concern are.</li> </ul>	
2	Minutes and actions from the previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No outstanding actions apart from for Will Harrington (WH) from Defra who has given his apologies for today's meeting.</li> <li>There are longer standing actions around flood risk management in local nature recovery strategies and biodiversity net gain, these will be picked up when there are more examples of flood risk management in BNG and LNRS.</li> </ul>	WH

3	Update from Chair and vacancy	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MT confirmed this is his last meeting (next meeting is on 2 October) and there hasn't been time to find a successor before this meeting. MT has told Hannah and Kylie (both of whom are happy to chair on an interim basis if necessary). Any nominations should go to AB. (<i>Post meeting note – a new chair has now been appointed</i>).</li> <li>• MT felt the Chairmanship was an interesting role but there is a time commitment as you get invited to a number of national and strategic conversations. The Chair becomes a member of the Environment Board (quarterly meetings). MT acknowledged the admin burden in arranging the agenda and speakers.</li> <li>• MT is happy to have private conversations if anyone has any questions.</li> <li>• In response to a question as to whether there's a formal process, MT explained that their LA has to be a member of ADEPT, other than that it is up to the group to choose a chair. MT explained that co-chairing is possible, there is precedence for this with other groups.</li> <li>• MT was thanked for all his hard work.</li> <li>• AB circulated Terms of Reference in response to a question in the Chat.</li> </ul>	
4	Haringey Highway SuDS – Pankit Shah	<p>Presentation attached.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MT – Many struggle to get highways on board with SuDS. PS acknowledged some resistance with permeable paving but thought that regular maintenance is key. If it can be carried out at least once a year or every two years, issues can be minimised.</li> <li>• MT – What about issues with services underneath permeable paving and who's responsible for maintenance? PS said that when they have an in-house scheme they allow £7-10k as a part of their scheme for the future maintenance. Some issues with reinstatement after emergency works.</li> <li>• MT - Do you designate them as roads of special engineering difficulty? Yes – most utility companies are aware of rain gardens. Main issue is with emergency work. For planned work, they have to book the road space and we will be consulted as part of this.</li> <li>• RS – Who bears the maintenance costs? For Haringey, they are the responsibility of the Parks Team. Each rain garden would cost £1k - £1.5k for a couple of years. Muswell Hill is different – around £13k for 3 years (due to complexity). Try to give local groups education, tools etc to help.</li> <li>• NClar – they have to undertake the technical approval process for Highways Service. Does PS? Yes – similar for PS.</li> <li>• NClar – Good to see that PS acknowledged that sites with high footfall require regular cleansing (twice per month).</li> <li>• SK – asked about typical costings for rain gardens. PS suggested £30k-40k. PS confirmed that whilst Muswell Hill junction took five months, typically they took 3-4 weeks.</li> </ul> <p>MT thanked PS for his presentation and acknowledged that whilst all of us would like to see more highway SuDS, there are internal and budgetary</p>	

		obstacles. Clarified that PS factors the maintenance cost into their business case.	
5	Priorities for future meetings	<p>Meeting format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MT asked if people would like an in-person meeting (possibly in the autumn or spring)</li> <li>• DH – Acknowledged that the location of an in-person meeting can be tricky so could the meeting link to something that’s already happening? For example, Flood &amp; Coast. Would a conference style in-person meeting work? Could use break out groups or working groups.</li> <li>• ABi – Flagged the importance of networking benefits and recognised that people would need to commit to attending in person.</li> </ul> <p>Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DH – Flagged groundwater flooding. MT – May be merit in inviting Jed Ramsey back.</li> <li>• MH – Said that he sits on the national board for the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme – learning is coming and we need to help embed/shape/influence this.</li> <li>• MH – Will come to a future meeting to talk about his collaborative work with the Environment Agency following Storm Babet.</li> <li>• ABi – Acknowledged that ADEPT needs a voice on discussions around the flood recovery framework and asked in the chat for people to send an email through if they’re talking to DLUHC.</li> <li>• RS – Asked if there was any update on Schedule 3. Suggested that a consultation may commence in November 2024. The implications of BNG also need to be considered.</li> <li>• MT reminded the group that the EA is updating NAFRA2 in the autumn, this is likely to include removing the 15m buffer. It would be good for ADEPT to have conversations with the Environment Agency in the autumn.</li> </ul> <p>Asset register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MT – Would like to understand more about what are peoples interests in the Asset register</li> <li>• RS – How do people do it, what software is used?</li> <li>• DH – How do the different datasets fit together?</li> <li>• AB – What is the legacy of the asset register? What contact have you made with the 3rd party owner and what onus is on us to formally notify them in terms of condition?</li> <li>• NClax – LAs have no obligation other than to identify it. We try to keep it fit for purpose as opposed to the register of all registers.</li> <li>• MO – How do others judge the significance of the flood risk (their asset register is quite small). They are currently developing an online asset mapping tool (not an asset register).</li> </ul>	
6	Partner updates	<p>ADA update (Innes Thomson, written submission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>£75m Funding support for IDBs.</b> The bidding process for funding support for IDBs has now closed and indications are that there should be a full uptake of the money available, despite challenges in delivering solutions before the Treasury-imposed deadline of 31st March 2025. There is some slight</li> </ul>	

		<p>uncertainty about how much of the £75m will continue to be available after the General Election but ADA understands that financial authority for £25m has already been authorised via the EA. The available money will be split into two tranches – Tranche 1 for storm recovery and Tranche 2 for replacement of ageing assets. For Tranche 1, letters of intent have already been issued for around £14m of storm recovery costs and further letters will be issued over the next week or so once additional information has been provided. For Tranche 2, notification of successful bids is expected at the end of July, subject to continued support from a new Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ADA seeks a new member of staff.</b> ADA is actively seeking to employ a new permanent member of staff to assist with our membership services. If you know of anyone interested, please direct them to either Innes Thomson or Ian Moodie for further information.</li> <li>• <b>Environment Act Statutory Instrument (SI) for creating land ratings outside existing Internal Drainage Districts.</b> Following a successful consultation with no significant issues raised, Defra is now preparing to lay the Land Valuation Statutory Instrument in Parliament as soon as time permits following the general election. This SI could help to enable and support local decisions about the extension or creation of existing IDBs or new Water Level Management Boards.</li> <li>• <b>LGA Special Interest Group for IDBs.</b> ADA continues to play an active part in supporting the work of the LGA SIG for IDBs in seeking Government’s involvement in finding a solution for the issues relating to Local Authority Special Levy payments to IDBs.</li> <li>• <b>APPG for Sustainable Flood &amp; Drought Management</b> – ADA held a successful APPG meeting for Sustainable Flood &amp; Drought on 15th May, working in conjunction with CIWEM. The future of the APPG will need to be determined after the General Election, depending on the rules for APPGs or similar bodies set by a new Government</li> </ul>	
7	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No other business was declared.</li> </ul>	
8	Confirm date of next meeting and close.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MT thanked everyone for attending.</li> <li>• MT acknowledged this was his last meeting as he’s moving into consultancy. MT said it has been a pleasure to chair this group (one of the biggest and most active subgroups in ADEPT). MT gave particular thanks to ABi (his deputy) whose support has been invaluable. MT also thanked Becca as he didn’t think we’d have any meetings if it wasn’t for her! MT thanked everyone for participating as it makes it a lot easier as a chair if people engage.</li> <li>• Meeting close.</li> </ul>	