

Yorkshire Derwent Partnership

Minutes of Board meeting – 28th April 2017, Natural England/Forestry Commission Office, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Drive, York.

Board Members Present:

Jeremy Walker, Chair – Independent member	(JW)
Sir William Worsley – Independent member	(WW)
George Winn-Darley – Country Land and Business Association	(GWD)
Richard Flinton – North Yorkshire County Council	(RF)
Prof. Colin Mellors – Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	(CM)
Janet Waggott – Ryedale District Council	(JWagg)
Claire Robinson – Natural England	(CR)
Andy Wilson – North York Moors National Park Authority	(AW)
Terry Smithson – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	(TS)
Adam Bedford – National Farmers Union	(AB)
Crispin Thorn – Forestry Commission	(CT)

In attendance:

Jeremy Pickles – East Riding of Yorkshire Council	(JP)
Duncan Fyfe – EA Catchment Co-ordinator	(DF)
Karen Saunders – Partnership Facilitation Officer/Secretariat	(KS)

Apologies:

Alan Menzies - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Nevil Muncaster – Yorkshire Water
Mark Scott – Environment Agency
Richard Shaw – York North and East Yorkshire LEP
Prof. Ian Cowx – East Yorkshire Rivers Trust

Summary of Actions:

No.	Action	Who?
1	Co-ordinate production of a leaflet for farmers/land managers summarising different funding sources that are available for environmental improvements.	KS/DF
2	Update the paper on expectations for individual organisations in the light of discussion.	KS
3	Discuss the EA's financial contribution to the Derwent Partnership with MS.	JW/RF
4	JW to discuss partner contributions with YWS	JW
5	Establish a meeting of external funding officers to share knowledge and experience on potential funding sources.	KS
6	Email link to N8 Universities and Farmers projects for KS/DF to explore.	AB
7	Update the document with suggested changes (note on WFD classification table, flood risk management text (NYCC and NFM work), land management).	KS/DF
8	Identify potential policy areas that could be explored/developed to influence relevant discussion on Brexit.	Delivery Group
9	Discuss potential approach to Princes Countryside Fund for funding of local NFM projects.	JW/AB

1. Welcome and Introductions

JW welcomed people to the meeting and thanked Natural England for hosting the meeting. JW welcomed Claire Robinson to the meeting to replace Lee McQue as representative for Natural England, following Lee's appointment to a national role for Natural England.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3. Partnership Update

KS highlighted a few points in the Partnership update for the period January to April 2017, highlighting the decisions needed by the Board.

- a) **Officer Recruitment** – it was noted that the initial round of recruitment for the Partnership Officer had been unsuccessful. The post had been re-advertised and the existing Partnership Officer had agreed to continue in the role, but depending on other work commitments may not be able to continue the existing level of support. The Board endorsed the decision to retain the existing Officer and agreed that a full review of the Officer post would be needed if the second recruitment round was unsuccessful.
- b) **Partnership Host** – the Board were asked to note that the lead co-host for CaBA funding for the Partnership will be Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. East Yorkshire Rivers Trust will remain as co-host and continue to be represented on the Delivery Group.

AB noted that there are often several sources of funding available to farmers/land managers to implement environmental improvements on their land, but it can be very confusing to know what funding is available, under what constraints and to what timescales. It was suggested that the Partnership could help by producing a leaflet summarising potential funding sources. Something similar was being produced in the Calder catchment, which could be used as a starting point for the Yorkshire Derwent. The Board supported this and agreed to produce a leaflet, which could include the logos of the different partner organisations. Partners might be able to contribute towards any printing costs.

ACTION: KS/DF to co-ordinate production of a leaflet for farmers/land managers summarising different funding sources that are available for environmental improvements.

4. Partnership Board - Roles and Expectations

JW introduced the item, which had been prompted by discussion at the last Board meeting. The group found the paper helpful and some minor amendments were suggested to update the section on the expectations of different partner organisations by the Partnership. RF commented that he was keen to see the Environment Agency contribute financially to the core costs of running the Partnership as NYCC have done. The EA has already contributed significantly to the work of the Partnership, but JW agreed to raise this with the Mark Scott, who was unable to attend this meeting and RF said he would do the same.

There was some discussion about the potentially great value of the Partnership approach. There was strong ambition and commitment round the table which was a great asset for the area, reflected the significant individual contributions partners could bring and was a robust base on which to build plans and funding bids. We should not sell ourselves short.

ACTION: KS to update the paper on expectations for individual organisations in the light of discussion.

ACTION: JW and RF to discuss the financial contribution to the Derwent Partnership with MS.

5. Proposed Budget

JW thanked partners for their in-kind and/or financial contributions to the Partnership, to date, noting that YWS, which would support individual projects, had not yet decided on its contribution to the core running costs of the Partnership. (NB: now resolved with a three-year commitment on the part of YWS)

KS ran through the high-level aspects of the draft budget. This included provision for producing a separate website for the Partnership, and JW suggested that this should be an early task for the new Partnership Officer. Additional funding sources were also suggested for consideration, including the Section 106 funds arising from the Potash development, the LEP, Sir James Knott Trust, private companies seeking to protect supply chains and the potential for funding of projects involving land managers working with the N8 group of universities on sustainable food production. RF also noted that some partners, including NYCC may be able to help with the production of the website and/or the GIS map based elements in-house. It was suggested that there may be a benefit in the External Funding Officers of some of the Partners meeting together to share knowledge and experience about funding, such as the Forestry Commission, NYMNPA and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

The draft budget was approved and it was agreed that an annual high-level summary of income and expenditure would be presented to the Board, including a summary of individual project expenditure.

ACTION: JW to discuss partner contributions with YWS

ACTION: KS to establish a meeting of external funding officers to share knowledge and experience on potential funding sources.

ACTION: AB to email link to N8 Universities and Farmers projects for KS/DF to explore.

6. Catchment Action Plan

DF introduced the paper, reminding the Board that production of a shared Catchment Action Plan was a requirement of the CaBA hosting funding in 2016/17. The Delivery Group had made good progress in producing the plan, which was noted by the Board. Some additional suggestions were made for inclusion in the plan which DF and KS would do, before the document was uploaded to the CaBA website.

ACTION: KS/DF update the document with suggested changes (note on WFD classification table, flood risk management text (NYCC and NFM work), land management).

There was a short broader discussion about the changes in the political landscape set to take place over the next few years and a suggestion that the group could potentially take some time to think about the potential future with a view to trying to influence the discussion, rather than responding to ideas as they were released for consultation. It was agreed that the Partnership might invite a Minister to a future meeting, but the Board agreed that it was essential to be clear about the messages and priorities that the Partnership would want to convey before an invitation was made. Potential topics could focus on valuing natural capital and ideas to align policy on economic and environmental agendas.

JW summarised the discussion noting the opportunity for the Partnership to influence discussions and suggested that the Delivery Group be tasked with thinking about some potential areas that could be discussed further by the Board, with a view to inviting a Minister to join a future meeting.

ACTION: Delivery Group to identify potential policy areas that could be explored/developed to influence relevant discussion on Brexit.

7. Natural Flood Management

DF introduced the paper, which included potential ideas for submission to the EA/Defra £50,000 competition for Natural Flood Management projects. The deadline for submissions was 19th May. JW also noted that some of the money in Defra's main NFM programme remained unallocated and he had submitted a proposal to secure some funding from that programme. WW and GWD noted the benefit of trying to deliver some small schemes that would benefit individual villages, as they often felt unsupported given the difficulty of them being able to access major funding.

It was also noted that the Princes Countryside Fund were having a reception at the Yorkshire Show later in the year attended by Lord Curry (Chair of the fund) and that the Fund could be an additional source of funding.

ACTION: AB/JW to discuss potential approach to Princes Countryside Fund for funding of local NFM projects.

8. Other Business, to include review of meeting and future meeting arrangements

There were no other items of business. JW asked for feedback on the meeting and whether the Board wished to reduce the frequency of meetings from four per year to two or three. Board members said they found the meetings useful and a good forum for discussion as they included senior level representation from a wide range of organisations working in the catchment. The consensus was to retain four meetings per year, but that one of the meetings could focus on a particular topic and/or be a site visit or review meeting for the partnership. RF also asked if some of the future meetings could be held in Ryedale.

The next meeting will take place on Friday 21st July 2017, 1.30-3.30pm, NFU Office, York