

Yorkshire Derwent Partnership

Minutes of Board meeting – 23rd January 2017, YWT Office, 1 St. George's Place, York

Board Members Present:

Jeremy Walker, Chair – Independent member (JW)
Sir William Worsley – Independent member (WW)
Alan Menzies - East Riding of Yorkshire Council (AM)
George Winn-Darley – Country Land and Business Association (GWD)
Nevil Muncaster – Yorkshire Water (NM)
Richard Shaw – York North and East Yorkshire LEP (RS)
Richard Flinton – North Yorkshire County Council (RF)
Prof. Colin Mellors – Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (CM)
Janet Waggott – Ryedale District Council (JWagg)
Lee McQue – Natural England (LM)

In attendance:

David Renwick – North York Moors National Park Authority (DR)
Peter Batchelor – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (PB)
James Copeland – National Farmers Union (JC)
Duncan Fyfe – EA Catchment Co-ordinator (DF)
Karen Saunders – Partnership Facilitation Officer/Secretariat (KS)

Apologies:

Mark Scott – Environment Agency
Andy Wilson – North York Moors National Park Authority
Prof. Ian Cowx – East Yorkshire Rivers Trust
Terry Smithson – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Adam Bedford – National Farmers Union
Crispin Thorn – Forestry Commission

Summary of Actions:

No.	Action	Who?
1	Explore scope for bidding for any remaining NFM resources, and with CM to progress possibility of partnering a university team in bidding to NERC.	JW
2	Progress conversations with individual partners on contributions to the Partnership.	JW
3	Progress with recruitment process on the basis of a two-year, full-time contract	DG sub-group
4	Liaise with NYCC over a presentation on its flood risk management work in the Derwent catchment	KS
5	Draft a note explaining the roles/expectations of different organisations involved in the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership.	JW

1. Welcome and Introductions

JW welcomed people to the meeting and in particular Janet Waggott, Ryedale District Council and Lee McQue, Natural England for whom this was their first meeting.

2. Review of agenda

There were no revisions made to the planned agenda.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. There was one outstanding action, which is for the Delivery Group to progress work on a detailed budget. This will be discussed at the Delivery Group meeting on the 14th February.

4. Partnership Update

KS introduced the update note, and highlighted a few key points to the Board, particularly in relation to the different catchment scale funding opportunities that were 'live' at the moment. JW advised the Board that he had had an initial discussion with researchers at Durham University and Forest Research about the potential NERC bid on NFM, but noted that the University of Hull may also be interested.

Following the Boxing Day floods in 2015, a fund of £15 million was allocated by the Government for investment into NFM projects in catchments affected by the floods. It is still unclear how/where this money will be used, but it is likely to be focussed on those areas which were most affected by the flooding. DR believed that most of it had been allocated already but there could still be some funding available.

CM offered to act as a link with the White Rose or N8 Group of Universities about taking forward the NERC proposals.

ACTION: JW to explore scope for bidding for any remaining NFM resources, and with CM to progress possibility of partnering a university team in bidding to NERC.

Decisions for Board input:

- i) **Appointment of Vice-Chair** – KS advised the Board that one nomination had been received for Vice Chair, Sir William Worsley. He confirmed that he would be willing to take on the role, provided that there was no expectation that he would become Chair of the Partnership in the future. CM formally nominated him and GWD seconded the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to appoint WW as Vice-Chair.
- ii) **Officer Recruitment** – YWT have confirmed that it is willing to employ a Partnership Officer on behalf of the Partnership, subject to the necessary funding being confirmed. The post would be based at the YWT office in York and would report to Brian Lavelle, who represents YWT on the Delivery Group. The work plan for the Officer would be managed on a day to day basis by YWT, but would be

developed and reviewed by the wider Partnership, as the Officer works for the Partnership, rather than the core YWT business. The work plan will need to include a continued action to secure new funding for the post going forward. JW updated the Board on the budget for the Partnership and the plans to recruit an Officer. There is a current estimated shortfall of £50,000 and with the continued uncertainty of the LEP bid, we need to confirm the extent of any partner contributions as quickly as possible. The Board discussed the option of recruiting the Officer on a one-year contract, but it was agreed that the post would be more attractive as a two-year post and that preparatory work for the recruitment should continue. It was important to maintain momentum.

- iii) **Accountable Body** – RF confirmed that North Yorkshire County Council has agreed to take on the role of Accountable Body for the Partnership. The Board thanked RF and endorsed the offer for NYCC to hold significant Partnership funds, as necessary. YWT also noted that, if needed, it may be able to help with end of year expenditure, as it has the ability to set up restricted funds that can be carried forward into future financial years.

ACTION: JW to progress conversations with individual partners on contributions to the Partnership.

ACTION: Contract sub-group progress with recruitment process on the basis of a two-year, full-time contract.

5. Understanding the Yorkshire Derwent

DF gave a presentation to the Board about the wider Yorkshire Derwent, its character and the issues and challenges that need to be addressed. This was followed by a presentation from DR on the Ryevitalise HLF project and there was a chance for Board members to ask questions prompted by the presentations.

JW suggested that it may be helpful for NYCC to present at a future meeting to explain what they are doing in relation to flood risk management within the catchment.

ACTION: KS to liaise with NYCC over a presentation on its flood risk management work in the Derwent catchment.

6. Board Milestones and Partnership Work Plan

JW introduced the paper and invited comments from the group.

NM noted that he remained unclear as to the expectations on YWS from the Partnership. JW noted that other members may be in the same position and asked if it would be helpful to have a note setting out key roles/expectations the Partnership as a whole might have of the different organisations. The Board agreed and JW offered to prepare a draft note outlining his initial thoughts on the issue, for discussion at the April meeting, which will be the fourth meeting of the Partnership Board.

In terms of the level of details for discussion/agenda items, the view was that the planned agenda for April 2017 was pitched at the right level. The Board needed to retain a strategic overview and determine what the Delivery Group should focus on, but not get too involved in detailed discussions. There is a lot of potential work on the horizon and it was agreed that having a full-time Officer in post for two years would be crucial to progressing that. CM noted that the Officer would need the support and input from all the organisations involved in the Partnership. There are a lot of funding opportunities available, but calls involve a lot of work which we may not be ready for yet. We need to plan ahead so that we are in a good position in 2-3 years' time for any new major funding streams that may arise. The office will need particular support from member organisations to articulate bids in language that will resonate with potential funders - a key factor in maximising the chance of success of funding applications. AM also suggested that it would be worth talking to tourism providers to find out where the opportunities are. These discussions could then be used to influence the development of local policy plans and future submissions to the LEP.

ACTION: JW to draft a note explaining the roles/expectations of different organisations involved in the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership.

7. Other business and future meetings

The Board was asked its views on organising site visits as an optional addition to Partnership meetings. Given people's time constraints, it was agreed that this may not be an option for all Board members, but it would be good to identify and offer a few trips as part of the summer/autumn Board meeting. It was also suggested that there could be merit in filming part of such trips to use as part of our communications activities as short clips could help to 'sell' the objectives of the Partnership and raise its profile more widely.

Karen Saunders
Partnership Facilitation Officer
6th February 2017