

Yorkshire Derwent Partnership

Minutes of Delivery Group (DG) meeting – 4th October 2016, North York Moors National Park Authority, Helmsley

Attendees:

Karen Saunders – Yorkshire Derwent Partnership	(KS)
Don Davies – Ryedale District Council	(DD)
David Renwick – North York Moors National Park Authority	(DR)
Liz Bassindale – Howardian Hills AONB	(LB)
Tim Burkinshaw – Scarborough Borough Council	(TB)
Jeremy Pickles – East Riding of Yorkshire Council	(JP)
Mark Young – North Yorkshire County Council	(MY)
Sarah Woolven – Natural England	(SW)
Rachel Pickering – North York Moors National Park Authority	(RP)
Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council	(LS)
Matt Millington, Local Nature Partnerships	(MM)

Apologies:

Petra Young – Forestry Commission
 Jon Traill – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 Kevin Bayes – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 Jim Smith – Forestry Commission
 Ian Cowx – East Yorkshire Rivers Trust
 James Copeland – National Farmers Union
 Duncan Fyfe – Environment Agency
 Andrew Walker – Yorkshire Water

Summary of Actions:

No.	Action	Who?
1	Follow up outstanding actions from previous meetings.	KS
2	Send link to DG for LEP Growth Deal information which refers to the Derwent.	KS
3	Send details of the proposed breakdown of the CaBA 16/17 hosting grant to the Delivery Group and obtain breakdown of 15/16 expenditure from EYRT.	KS/ EYRT
4	Circulate latest version of the Partnership budget to the DG for comment	KS/All
5	Update Partnership objectives to produce a single set of high-level themes/objectives.	KS
6	Draft measures paper for YDP Board and circulate to DG for comment.	KS
7	Send comments on the catchment action plan headings to KS by 31 st October – are any headings missing, are there any that are not necessary?	All
8	Contact Mark Reid to provide feedback from the DG on the potential INNS mapping project and see if the idea can be progressed.	KS
9	Review the draft activities highlighted in the paper on Officer Recruitment and send any comments to KS by 31 st October.	All
10	Let KS know if anyone would like to attend the Catchment Partnerships meeting on 21 st November	All
11	Ask for update on Kirkham weir from EA and confirm date of next Howsham meeting to see if YDP can be represented.	KS
12	Provide feedback to the Delivery Group, following the first engagement event for Howsham Weir.	SW
13	KS to canvass availability for a DG meeting in early December.	KS

1. Welcome

KS welcomed people to the meeting and ran through the apologies. She introduced a couple of new members to the group. Sarah Woolven, Natural England and Team Leader for NE's Derwent Focus Area, is replacing Rosy Eaton who is on maternity leave. Liz Small, Heritage Services Manager for North Yorkshire County Council is also joining the group. KS also welcomed Matt Millington, Development Officer for the two Local Nature Partnerships in the Derwent Catchment, North Yorkshire and York LNP and Hull and East Riding LNP. The North Yorkshire and York LNP highlighted water and catchment management as a priority at their last meeting and MM highlighted that it would be good to share knowledge and ideas to explore ways of working in the future. There was a quick round of introductions, during which MY told the group that he will be leaving NYCC in December to take up a post with Yorkshire Water. DR recorded thanks to MY on behalf of the group for all the work he had done over the last 2 years, particularly in relation to helping secure the buy-in of Partnership members to the Partnership. KS also confirmed that her Officer contract had been renewed from the beginning of September and she would be working for two days per week until December 2016.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were some outstanding actions from the Delivery Group meetings in May and July 2016, which KS will follow up before the next meeting. There were no matters arising.

ACTION: KS to follow up outstanding actions from previous meetings.

3. Partnership Funding

KS updated the group on the current position in relation to funding the Partnership. This had been discussed with Jeremy Walker and a sub group of the Delivery Group (MY, DR, RP, LS, JP, KS) immediately before the Delivery Group meeting to establish the current position, including the funding provided by NYCC to pay for this next phase of the Partnership Facilitation Officer. Three funding sources were discussed:

1) LEP – this application (£150,000 over two years) was submitted in April 2016. We had hoped that some money might be available as a form of 'seed-funding' but this looks unlikely now. However, the 'Deal Sheet' we prepared has been submitted to national government for consideration as part of the Growth Deal submissions. The bid includes a combination of revenue and capital expenditure, but we are unlikely to hear anything further until the end of November, following the Government's Autumn Statement.

ACTION: KS to send link to DG for LEP Growth Deal information which refers to the Derwent.

2) RFCC – NYCC have submitted a bid, on behalf of the Partnership for £30,000 in each of the next two years. This was supported by the Committee's Finance Sub-Group and will be considered by the main committee on Thursday 13th October.

3) CaBA – EYRT have submitted an application to the EA/Defra for £15,000 hosting money. The application was approved and the grant has been received by EYRT. The Delivery Group asked for details of how the money has been allocated and expressed disappointment that there had been no discussion with the Delivery Group prior to the application being submitted to gain views from the Group. SW also asked for an update on how the CaBA money for 15/16 had been used as well. KS explained that EYRT were meeting with their

accountants, so this information should be available soon, but noted that a significant proportion of the money carried over had been used to pay for the Partnership Facilitation Officer.

MY also noted that following the flooding over the Christmas 2015 period, a fund of c.£700 million was allocated to flood risk management work. Of this, about £15 million has been allocated to work specifically linked to natural flood risk management measures and could be a source of potential funding for projects in the Derwent catchment.

DR also reminded the group that money is still available from the European Structural Investment Fund and, among the uncertainty around Brexit, there has been a commitment to continue with funding for agri-environment schemes and LEADER programmes. However, he noted that the timing of calls for submissions may accelerate and we need think about how to position our work, so the Partnership is ready when calls are made. DR noted and thanked Jeremy Walker for his role in bringing together the right people at Board level and in the wider network to help raise the profile of the Partnership and in identifying/pursuing different funding streams.

ACTION: KS to send details of the proposed breakdown of the CaBA hosting grant to the Delivery Group and obtain breakdown of 15/16 expenditure from EYRT.

KS finished by telling the group work has continued to develop a medium term budget (three years) for the Partnership. The DG had seen, and commented, on an early version. KS has since added to this to include the strategic aspirations for some catchment-scale work, including feasibility and demonstration projects and this was considered briefly by the smaller group meeting before this DG meeting. KS is to update the budget again and will circulate it to the DG for further comment, before a high-level summary is considered by the Board at their November meeting.

ACTION: KS to circulate latest version of the Partnership budget to the DG for comment.

4. Review of Measures

KS reminded the group that there is an action on the DG to produce a draft proposal for some high level measures to monitor our progress in delivering the Partnership's objectives. In order to do this, we need to develop a single set of objectives for use in all Partnership communications. KS, with support from TB had reviewed the objectives in the Board's 'pitch' document and the Terms of Reference and developed the proposal in the discussion paper for the meeting, along with a summary of different measures that could be used. There was limited time for discussion, but the group agreed that the measures needed to be kept as simple as possible and ideally be based on metrics that are already being collected by members of the Partnership. In terms of the objectives, KS recommended that the specific objective around farmers engaging with CSF should be removed as a specific high-level objective on agriculture. It is still a key aspect of what we want to achieve, but it was agreed that increasing take-up of catchment sensitive land management is a delivery mechanism for meeting some of the other Partnership objectives linked to water quality, water level management, habitats and economy. The Group supported this change, but agreed that uptake of CSF is relatively easy to measure

and it is important to make sure that the Partnership still pursues the increase of catchment sensitive land management.

KS also asked for views on whether we should retain “Return the Derwent to a more natural river system” as a separate objective or delete it on the basis that this is a high-level outcome for what we want to achieve i.e. it is part of the over-arching vision. KS noted that in the EA’s 25-year plan, Source to Sea, natural river systems are specifically highlighted “Catchments function more naturally and wildlife can thrive and migrate along them freely.” Does this support retaining a specific objective? After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a naturally functioning river is an outcome that will be delivered by some of the other objectives linked to water level management, habitat/species actions. A properly functioning river should then work well both for flood risk management and wider environmental outcomes. KS to delete as a specific objective and include as part of water level management.

In terms of measures, it was agreed that the Partnership should focus on monitoring a small number (around three) high-level measures that are already being monitored/reported by individual partners. This was within the wider context that individual projects would need their own clear set of objectives and measures for monitoring project delivery and evaluation. An initial set of three measures were proposed:

- 1) Environmental - Reporting on WFD measures
- 2) Economic – Number of properties removed from flood risk
- 3) Social – Measure related to number of public events attended and/or no. of volunteer days on the Derwent.

There was a brief discussion around the risk that if we only identify three measures, then some of the other objectives may not get as much attention – it is vital that we maintain the role and profile of the Partnership as a multi-objective Partnership. For example, do we need to include a biodiversity measure. Looking ahead, it was also queried whether we could develop a link between what we are doing as a partnership and premium branded food produce e.g. “Derwent Mark” “Derwent Beef” etc? KS agreed to update this work and draft a paper for review by the Delivery Group. It was agreed that the Board should be asked for views on whether three high-level measures would be sufficient, or did they want a measure for each high-level objective.

ACTION: KS to update Partnership objectives to produce a single set of high-level themes/objectives.

ACTION: KS to draft measures paper for YDP Board and circulate to DG for comment.

5. Project Development

Medium Term Plan (MTP) - KS gave a brief update on the EA’s meeting on 27th September held to review the MTP for the Environment. Several DG members had also attended the meeting and concern was raised that the review was done quite close to the deadline for submission. It was agreed that in future years, time should be allocated with a DG meeting for an earlier, more detailed discussion that could then feed into the MTP review process. JP also commented on the observation made at the MTP refresh meeting that there still appears to be little join-up of the Environment MTP with the Flood Risk Management MTP and that we are missing an

opportunity to effectively influence both processes. The Partnership had only been involved at a late stage in the 2015 review as well, and it was agreed that we should include a review in the DG's work plan in around March 2017 and at the same time each year going forwards.

Catchment Action Plan – KS reminded the group that as part of the CaBA funding for 16/17, there is a requirement for Catchment Partnerships to produce a Catchment Action Plan. The Rivers Trust and EA are developing some guidance on what the plan should look and EYRT have allocated some hosting money (£5000) towards developing the plan. KS has developed a draft template that could be used to capture project information (new, ongoing etc). This will be updated as/when additional guidance is received, and will also be updated to reflect the final, single set of objectives, but in the meantime, KS will continue to use the current template to capture project ideas. The DG were asked to comment on the current headings of the table – would any other headings be helpful, were there any that could be deleted?

ACTION: DG to send comments on the catchment action plan headings to KS by 31st October – are any headings missing, are there any that are not necessary?

INNS – KS mentioned that the EA may have some money available that could be used to run a small project to 'map' the location/distribution of INNS (mainly Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam) within the catchment. At the moment, individual partners have done work in their own areas of interest, but there is no single picture of the extent of INNS within the catchment, which would be essential to have, if the Partnership wanted to develop a catchment-wide strategy for co-ordination and/or awareness of INNS initiatives across the catchment as a whole. The Derwent Ward of Parish Councils (c10) had discussed INNS at their meeting in September and were interested to find out what others/the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership were doing on INNS, as it was an issue that they wanted to address. As it is late in the year and the work would need to be completed by the end of March 2017, in reality it would not be possible to include walkover surveys to map INNS distribution, but there would be a role for someone to pull together existing information from different partners working in the catchment and to create a map using that information. KS asked the group for comments. DR noted that some money had been included in the Rye HLF bid to map and treat INNS and they already had actions in place for tackling INNS in other parts of the catchment. He also noted that this project could become a distraction from other priorities, particularly given the Officer role was only for two days per week at present. DD mentioned that Ryedale District Council get a lot of queries in relation to INNS and a small project like this could be a good way of connecting people together. It was agreed that it was worth considering and the DG advised that the easiest route would be for the EA to award a small contract directly with an individual/organisation to progress this.

ACTION: Contact Mark Reid to provide feedback from the DG on the potential INNS mapping project and see if the idea can be progressed.

Sub-groups – SW asked for clarification on the different sub-groups and sub-meetings that had taken place, particularly as a sub-group had met before the main DG meeting to discuss the latest version of the budget and the current funding position. It was agreed that we need to ensure there is transparency when other meetings take place and KS highlighted that was why there had been a particular item on funding/budget on the DG agenda to ensure that feedback from the earlier meeting could be given to the wider DG as soon as possible. The only other

sub-group that has been in place to date has been the Officer contract sub-group, which had previously been directing the priorities of KS in the Officer role.

Future funding opportunities – YWS have just issued a call for project proposals for funding from their Biodiversity Enhancement Fund and Highways England have issued a call for projects linked to the Strategic Road Network (for the Derwent, this is the A64).

6. Officer Recruitment

KS introduced the paper on Officer recruitment. It had only been sent out just before the meeting, so asked the DG to review it and send comments direct to KS on the broad activities that had been suggested. It was agreed that the recruitment needed to be taken forward as a priority and that the contract sub-group would pick this up. The Board will be given an update on this in their November meeting and be asked to endorse the membership of the sub-group going forward. For the previous contract, this included EYRT, NE, NYMNPA and EA. NYCC would join the group going forward as they were funding the Officer role currently.

ACTION: DG to review the draft activities highlighted in the paper on Officer Recruitment and send any comments to KS by 31st October.

7. Partnership Updates

Woodlands for Water – KS advised the group that the tender for advisors for the 2017 woodlands for Water Scheme was about to be released and the application window would open in January 2017. The DG was asked to help promote the scheme among existing networks.

Catchment Partnerships Meeting – KS told the group that there is going to be a meeting of the Yorkshire Catchment Partnerships on 21st November 2016. The Yorkshire Derwent Partnership has been allocated three spaces. EYRT will take a place, as co-host and it was agreed that KS would also attend. If anyone would like to take the third space, please let KS know.

ACTION: Let KS know if anyone would like to attend the Catchment Partnerships meeting on 21st November.

Coastal Bids update – DF had asked for a brief update to be given on the coastal water bodies. Although the River Derwent does not flow directly out to sea, there are a number of coastal water bodies adjacent to the Derwent catchment and it is important that we remember the links to coastal waters. This fits with the EA's initiative of Source to Sea and there may be future projects on the Derwent (linked to litter potentially) that could be effective for engaging local communities and educating them → e.g. A large proportion of marine litter is actually land-derived from litter flowing to sea from rivers.

EA Engagement on options for Kirkham and Howsham Weirs - KS noted that there had been no recent update from the EA on the Kirkham weir project. The EA is also starting a local engagement process around the potential for a fish pass installation at Howsham weir. There is currently no representation from the Partnership on the local engagement group. SW

mentioned that she would be attending the first event, on behalf of Natural England and would provide some feedback to the Delivery Group. KS to ask the EA for an update on Kirkham weir and establish the date of the next engagement event for Howsham weir.

ACTION: KS to ask for update on Kirkham weir from EA and confirm date of next Howsham meeting to see if YDP can be represented.

ACTION: SW to provide feedback to the Deliver Group, following the first engagement event for Howsham Weir.

Ryevitalise HLF bid – DR gave a brief update on this project. Following submission of the application in June, the HLF attended a site meeting in August, following which a letter was sent to HLF responding to detailed questions about the bid. The project will be considered by the HLF national Board on 26th October, after which we should know the decision quite quickly.

Local Nature Partnerships – MM explained that, having just started his role back with the Local Nature Partnerships, in the Derwent Catchment, North Yorkshire and York LNP and Hull and East Riding LNP, he was getting up to speed with the work and priorities and it would be good to identify opportunities for joint working going forwards.

NYCC Surface water flood risk programme – MY mentioned that NYCC were about to appoint consultants to work on the surface water flood risk programme in the Rye Catchment. He highlighted, that additional modules could potentially be included in the contract, if the Partnership had specific suggestions for work that might be helpful to progress.

Pocklington Canal – SW mentioned that following the successful bid for HLF funding, the first dredging works on the canal should be completed this year.

CS Facilitation Fund – DR advised that the bid by the Derwent Fund Group, facilitated by Karen Stanley was successful for the Bilsdale/Lockton/Levisham area. They are setting up a steering group and many of the ideas for progressing are linked to water priorities.

8. Date of Next Meeting

ACTION: KS to canvass availability for a DG meeting in early December.

Karen Saunders
Partnership Facilitation Officer
17th October 2016