

Meeting Notes		Meeting: Water Environment Governance Group	
Attendees: Richard Powell (Chair), Graham Dale, Melissa Lockwood, Mike Madine, Kim Wallis, Stephen Thompson		Date: 06/07/22	Location: MS Teams
Apologies: Clare Deasy, Mike Jeffries, Anna Gerring, Laura Kennedy		Distribution: Attendees and Apologies	
Note: A full set of documents is available in the Water Environment Governance Group Teams Site			
No.	Agenda Item and Notes		
1	Introductions MM introduced the session		
2	Review of Actions The action log was presented. Note on resolved ACTION: CD to request a SharePoint site for use by the WEGG rather than MS Teams <i>Note, this site has been created and is available here: https://nwqcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/td0273/dcs/Forms/AllItems.aspx</i> WEGG access to sharepoint: RP has an issue with accessing SharePoint, ML & GD have not tried yet New ACTION: WEGG to reattempt access to SharePoint site and contact CD to resolve any issues		
3	Water Environment Team Update <u>Year 2</u> Brief refresh of Year 2 projects delivered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 projects signed off • 2 projects deferred into Y3 Note: Request for Year 2 information and evidence to be uploaded to NWG webpages and mapping portal made to communications team on 5 th July 2022		

	<p><u>Year 3 Update</u></p> <p>KW highlighted WINEP and legacy linked projects and successful links with Branch Out, and clarified the absence of leisure projects (Y1 and Y2 leisure projects have been delivered)</p> <p>GD queried the amount of engagement and promotion with customers and potential missed opportunities. KW and MM updated the group on current internal conversations around an engagement strategy with Corporate Comms. ST highlighted some examples of current project links to customers through the Community Portal. Examples can be seen here: https://nwlcommunityportal.co.uk/Projects/longhorsley and here: https://nwlcommunityportal.co.uk/Projects/sherburn-stw-compliance/old-durham-beck-renewed</p> <p>MM updated the WEGG on the planned process for approving WINEP water quality programme linked projects. GD questioned how we would be recording in-year kms. MM clarified we would record bluespaces delivery internally in-year against our internal targets and sign off for the ODI at the after the WINEP elements are completed.</p> <p><u>Projects in development</u></p> <p>KW introduced the Abberton Reservoir project in development for Year 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEGG generally very supportive <p>KW introduced the Lound Lakes project in development for Year 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEGG generally very supportive • RP suggested site visit with KW • GD offered suggestions around opportunities to enhance nearby ponds. KW confirmed these were currently operationally linked to WTWs and managed by NWG Conservation Team <p>ST introduced the Destination Tweed project in development for Years 4 and 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEGG generally very supportive • GD highlighted recent NWG ‘Our Purpose’ report and EU Life WADER project launched in and around project area. RP suggested looking for overlaps and alignment to maximise value e.g., WADER opportunities on the Tweed Estuary • RP pointed to the need to highlight customer values within this project and to demonstrate value for money
4	<p><u>Options for PR24</u></p> <p>MM updated WEGG on NWG’s thinking and engagement with the EA, and requested WEGG input. MM highlighted the ambitious plan for the ODI in AMP7 and NWG’s recent rivers pledges. MM also mentioned learning from AMP7 such as leveraging legacy funding and successful partner engagements, and identifying risks and opportunities.</p> <p>MM shared some NWG AMP8 ambitions: Creating a 5-year programme, engaging customers in projects, integrating ODI into the catchment-based approach and Catchment Partnerships (the North East Catchments Hub has a remit to include bluespaces in its activity).</p>

	<p>MM laid out the 3 current PR24 options proposed by NWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke ODI • WINEP • Base plan <p>MM noted the likely brand new ‘Biodiversity ODI’ and potential conflicts with WEI ODI. WINEP is the preferred NWG option with ODI as a fallback (may not be possible, awaiting Ofwat’s methodology). This option is built on engagement and conversations with the EA and OFWAT so far.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>GD questioned the practicalities on the WINEP integration option. MM responded to the changes ongoing with the WINEP and the collaborative approach with the EA. Inclusion in WINEP as a scheme could be high-level, e.g. 50km bluespaces to be improved in a catchment in a certain timeframe</p> <p>ML gave an EA perspective on WINEP development, and highlighted the match funding risk within WINEP and issues co-financing projects. Also raised the risk of loss of ODI visibility within a multibillion national WINEP programme</p> <p>RP agreed with ML and emphasised the need to keep visibility. Suggested pushing OFWAT toward ODI/ Biodiversity net gain and keeping strong links to customers</p> <p>ML Suggested linking with The Water Forum to explore the possibility of bespoke ODIs</p> <p>GD highlighted the above and beyond nature of the ODI vs the potential anonymity of the WINEP, despite WINEP delivering more environmental gains, the ODI approach offers real local links and customer value, which may be lost as a WINEP scheme</p> <p>MM raised the suggestion of a common ODI across the water sector, GD agreed this would be great but unlikely for PR24 due to time/planning constraints</p> <p>ML highlighted the risk of losing ‘people’ from environmental investment, and referenced the upcoming OFWAT methodology consultation document to gauge elements that will be included</p> <p>RP suggested the prospective Biodiversity ODI would fit better into WINEP</p> <p>ML suggested customer feedback, surveys and case studies linked to the ODI could support the decision making process for PR24</p> <p>GD questioned the base plan option, noting the benefits that NWG get out of the ODI and Links to other ODIs, and suggested commissioning customer feedback and surveys again to build the case with OFWAT re ODI and water sector</p> <p>RP suggested it may be possible to utilise links between project partners’ memberships (e.g. Wildlife Trusts) and volunteers (all NWG customers)</p>
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>None raised</p>