

The Water Framework Directive – NGO Workshop – 2 April 2009

Key points from the workshop

Key issues tackling diffuse pollution

Street and green spaces / commercial sites

- Raise awareness – public contractors and operatives
- Incorporate SUDS into planning / new developments
- Needs to be regulated – fines imposed
- Can use local biodiversity gaps to co-ordinate action
- Reduce use of pesticides
- Incorporate mitigation measures such as buffer zones / strips
- Demonstrate the benefits of reducing DP
- Fish and cress farms – corporate responsibility use supply chain to influence producer
- Technical solutions to fish waste

Additional diffuse pollution projects

- Make use of biodiversity / advisory groups to deliver messages
- Education program – for small scale industry and have owners
- Promote habitats to mitigate DP
- Monitor success
- Enforcement required where voluntary approach not working

Concerns

- Lack of funding
- Need to ensure measures incorporate other areas
- Need to look at water control measures – opportunities with harvesting and re-use
- 15% reduction to surface waters – need to understand rationale

Diffuse issues

- SUDS do not remove toxic contamination (hazardous waste that needs disposal) recommend to mitigate urban diffuse

Messages

- ENGO's will be key players in delivering some elements of RBMP's
- Structures are not yet in place to mobilise and NGO's as co-deliverers of the plans
- ENGO contributions justify a raising of the level of ambition. We need to identify resources for this

Tensions

- It's a river basin management plan, not a water body management plan
- WFD objectives likely to conflict with some other demands or uses of water bodies
- Resource availability constrains ambition

Hopes

- More ambition
- Increase/develop evidence base soon
- To be listened to
- Understand what WFD is all about
- Positive actions to take away
- Line of sight for partnership work is clear and resources available
- Get a sense of measures across regions e.g. chalk streams
- Find out about how to navigate this huge document
- Better equipped to comment
- If done properly it should work well
- That plan readable, understandable, deliverable

Fears

- HMWBs leading to plans
- Disproportionate costs a barrier
- Not enough ££
- Plan is just a process – failure to deliver
- 1st choice not ambitious enough
- Conflicting interests leads to stalemate
- Worries WFD will not affect issues at local level
- WFD will not have teeth to tackle issues
- Tunnel vision
- Lack of pragmatism
- SE growth
- Not enough teeth to tackle urban diffuse

Key messages

Invasive species

- Need to be realistic/prioritise
- Locally keen to act – please support (roles for volunteers)
- Accurate info research
- Rapid response capacity
- Yes to a forum – action not thinking shop!
- Public awareness
- Line in sand
- Tighten legislation

Concerns

Invasive species

- £
- Climate change bringing more
- Sustainability of action
- Will need to achieve good status / potential going to be strong enough driver for this
- Are we doing best possible on making evidence and cost/benefit based, strong case
- Does this continued existence of a NNIS preclude GES or GEP?
- Are NNIS a material planning consideration
- One out all out system...
- Prioritise on the basis of “no deterioration”

Habitat restoration and fish passage summary

1. Mitigate and modify flood defences
2. Take strategic opportunities to improve ecology throughout habitat improvement
3. Further investigate to improve understanding of habitat restoration required to achieve GES

Key messages

- Terminology – clarity needed
- Ambition and political will needed
- Multifunctional approach
- Use local knowledge and initiatives
- Not ambitious enough for 2105 targets
- Commitment to delivery not strategy
- Need to improve La's/farmers
- Chalk stream as a priority?
- Need more scientific understanding

Key concerns

- Costs – short term expensive but long term benefits
- Duplication – local vs landscape scale, between initiatives with different drivers
- Address other first?
- Flood defence verses restoration = need for education
- Links with wetland vision?