

## Meeting EA with WSA & FoD CS Teams

Meeting: 2.30pm to 5.00pm, Mon 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Attendees

Emma Whitehouse (EW), Wye Catchment Coordinator, EA

Gemma Cavill (GC), Pollution Manager DCWW

Marian Wilding Jones (MWJ), FoD

Tony Bromley (TB), FoD

Maria Duggan (MD), FoD (via Teams)

Cllr Jennie Hewitt (JH), HDC Golden Valley North

Paul Vernon (PV), WSA

Stuart Smith (SS), WSA

### cc

Dave Wilkins WSA

Peter Chilton, WSA

### NOTES & ACTIONS FROM MEETING 3

(minute numbers 1 & 2 from mtgs 2 or earlier, minutes 3 from meeting 3)

1.1 Question whether the Monnow & catchment is in the Wye SAC or not. This is a key question in the Bage Court legal action. Question needs Natural England response. **EW to provide contact details for MD to write to NE for clarification**

3.1 (New) If answer to 1.1 is not WFD water quality standards applied. For planning and project purposes a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) would be required.

### **EW supplied formal position statement from EA**

EA are unable to give an HRA screening decision unless this is part of paid pre-application advice for a proposal that will require a permit or other authorisation from us. We are only the competent authority for the HRA if we are permitting the activity. If this was the case we would charge for pre-application advice through the appropriate planning or permitting team. For development, the competent authority is the Local Authority and they must make the screening decision. Advice can be sought from Natural England. We cannot give the statement that is being asked for. The guidance is on GOV.UK here;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

1.2 Management of Dore catchment and the Monnow needs an agreed joint approach to the use of citizen science group data from NRW/EA. Working document awaiting sign off by Defra. **EW to progress**

1.3 EA Land and Water Team undertake mitigations on the ground (i.e. Soil Patrols). Capacity to carry out these improved due to additional resources with 4 Agri Officers being appointed for the West Midlands region. Priorities dictated by funding and restricted to statutory

functions and priority issues. CS Team requested to use ICS emergency hotline to register serious issues. Phone number for ICS - access to this number from corners of Herefordshire proving difficult. Callers being directed to NRW.

**EW supplied EA position statement**

Where CS groups identify pollution incidents (other than high Phosphate readings) these should be reported to the Environment Agency via the 24hr Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60. Please note the Environment Agency will only attend incidents which are categorised by the Common Incident Classification Scheme (CICS) as serious/significant. Less severe environmental incidents will be recorded on our data systems and used to target investigations, regulation, campaigns, water quality planning, projects and partnership working.

1.4 Jesse Norman, MP for South Herefordshire expressed interest in local rivers and may be amenable to raising issues with DEFRA. He met Dore/WSA Team on river on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Very short meeting limited to water sample demo and photo shoot. Seemed knowledgeable and well briefed. **Minute Closed**

1.5 EA see Citizen Science (CS) activity as valuable input to their plans and intend using data through their Environmental Mngt Team. CS Fits well with Catchment Based Approach (CBA) as advocated in recently published NRW/EA/NE Wye Phosphate Action Plan. **EW to supply updated EA Briefing (Green Paper) PV to review and feedback Team comments**

1.6 EA maintains a dashboard of all investigations etc being undertaken. Cannot be shared, several visualisations reflecting the dashboard activity in the Monnow/Dore Catchment are available and can be shared. **EW to clarify and determine suitability of circulation to team.**

1.7 Emma Whitehouse confirmed as EA liaison. EA Wye Internal Team reports to Tristan Semple. This team supported by Grace Wright, Place Manager and Lucy Morris, Analysis & Reporting. Team need to understand EA organisational structure.? **EW to detail**

3.2 (NEW) Gemma Cavill, Pollution Manager confirmed as DCWW Liaison.

1.8 At Pont y Weston pollution increases as river progresses through the village. Concern was raised over the impact that local, private Sewage Treatment Works (STW's) / septic tanks were having in the Dore, especially in the Dorstone area. This is more significant than we think based on their monitoring results. Due to lack of knowledge and understanding of how private drainage systems work and function, especially with the recent increase of new people moving into the area from locations previously served by a main sewer. A request was made for the EA to write local Parish Council, copied to Councillor Jennie Hewitt and HCC, identifying the problem with Phosphates in the catchment and including some guidance for maintaining septic tanks/package works that could be passed forward to support the work of the Citizen Science group. Letter being redrafted and awaits approval and release. **EW to progress**

3.3 (NEW) Was part of 1.8. Contact list for circulation of letter to other parish Councils. **MWJ to resend to EW**

1.9 Bio-discs not monitored. List of authorised devices to be supplied to MWJ  
**EW supplied list of Dorstone Permitted Discharges** (see map attached)

Permit AN0271701 Dore view residential site discharge outlet

Permit AN0412501 Pandy Inn Dorstone

Permit EPRKP3125XM Orchard House

Permit AH1000701 Dorstone Oakland Place STW

1.10 **Peterchurch STW** - Appears to be underperforming based on CS monitoring. An EA check on compliance shows no fault found. DCWW confirm work planned to improve storm water outflows. CS data to be passed on to Damian Llewellyn, EA to build a case for DCWW action. Waiting feedback. **EW to progress**

3.4 (NEW) Planning Applications. Significant, for the location, house building planned for the Peterchurch area. Some planning approved. Others TBC. Can evidence base for planning apps be seen by Team. **EW/GC to supply**

1.11 **Pontrilas STW** - Work planned on Water Framed Work (WFD) list for completion Dec 2024. Target 1.8mg/l. **GC to supply current output level in mg/l?**

1.12 **Kilpeck STW** - There are issues with effluent getting into the watercourse. Checked NIRS Ref 1976727 and there was an incident in Aug this year. **TB to monitor and report back**

1.13 **Dulas Brook Ewyas Harold** - Reading of 1.80 ppm below sewage works. Is there a Pump Station (PS) at this location that might explain. **MWJ to supply map refs to GC to investigate**

1.14 Small ditch adjacent to barns at Scar Lane, reading of 0.17 from seepage water. **TB to continue monitoring**

1.15 Google map in preparation by MWJ/TB showing the locations of the Dore catchment IPU's, pig farms, STW's, other sewage out flows and the CS monitoring points. Locations of potential high risk crops and possible soil run off sites, eg, maize, beet and potato fields locally. Team delighted with this and would like to see it developed to include more data on each location including photos. **MWJ to report progress at next meeting**<sup>3</sup>.

Note!

EA can't support with bespoke mapping requests, Dore Team need to obtain funding and manage that themselves. Perhaps look at the CaBA data package Explore Data | Catchment Based Approach

3.4 (NEW) ICS reporting data - is this available to public? As a map? Can we share?  
Can ICS data be overlaid to this map (1.15) **EW to investigate**

1.16 Siting of a Cardiff University sonde in Dorstone on private property. Device does not measure phosphate but will be measuring EC, temperature, depth, pH, turbidity, and question nitrate? Instal led Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. Feedback required from Cardiff University re timing and results. **SS to follow up with EVB**

1.17 River walk through Pont y Weston and on through Dorstone, to identify record and photograph any discharge points. Considered high risk for volunteer. Easy access must be carried out by EA Environmental Officer. **See EA Position Statement on 1.3**

1.18 Planning applications near Peterchurch, See 1.10. **Minute Closed**

2.1 Was (5) Proposed 'Curl' style restoration of Dore Catchment. This would a farmer driven initiative. Suggest if enough interest from farming community a meeting with the Curl Team to understand methodology. **JH/SS to discuss outside meeting**

## **NEW ISSUES**

3.5 (NEW) Reported large pile of chicken manure and digestate re Incident Report seems to have disappeared. Was it result of EA action? **MWJ to feedback Incident No./EW to check dbase?**

## **AOB**

2.2 Was (6.1) A number of issues that would warrant DCWW input and support. Gemma Cavill confirmed as DCWW attendee. **Minute Closed**

3.6 (NEW) List of upgrades to STWs. **GC to circulate**

3.7 (NEW) Feedback on DCWW Stakeholder Teams initiative. **GC**

3.8 (NEW) CS data to be reported in EA Quarterly Reporting. What is data telling us? Do we need to do something different? **EW to feedback?**

3.9 WUF sondes data - is this their CS data? How can access to data be increased? **EW to investigate**

3.10 How do EA access WSA CS data? - SS from WSA has now confirmed this. **COMPLETED**

## **Meeting closed 17.10**

Follow up meeting to be arranged in 6 to 8 weeks. Date TBC. **SS**