

WATER STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM
22nd March 2011
Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, London

Meeting Note

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1) Agenda

Water Stakeholder Forum 9.30am – 3.00pm, Tuesday 22 nd March, Defra	
Agenda	
9.30am	<i>Arrivals, tea and coffee</i>
10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome <i>Chris Ryder, Head of Water Quality, Defra.</i>
10:05am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of WFD and the Catchment Based Approach with Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Richard Benyon, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries.</i> ▪ <i>Chris Smith (Chair Environment Agency).</i> ▪ <i>Poul Christensen (Chair Natural England).</i>
10:45am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key learning points from catchment based initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Association of Rivers Trusts ▪ RELU (Taking forward research in demonstration test catchments) ▪ Natural England (Eco-system services) ▪ United Utilities (SCaMP)
11:20am	
11:40am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion
11:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea & Coffee Break
12:40am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles and components of a catchment approach. (Breakout sessions) • Feedback from break-out groups
1.00pm	<i>Lunch break</i>
1.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA and Defra Updates, with Q&A <i>Chris Ryder, Defra & Geoff Bateman, EA</i>
1.45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Strategy Framework Directive <i>Jamie Rendell, Defra</i>
2.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-agricultural diffuse strategy, with Q&A <i>David Lerner & Richard Martin, Defra & EA.</i>

2.25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Update <i>Rory Wallace, Defra</i>
2.40pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusions <i>Chris Ryder, Head of Water Quality</i>
3.00pm	<i>Close</i>

2) Attendees

Name	Organisation
Adrian Abbott	British Hydropower Association
Ruth Alban	Defra
Sean Atkins	EIC
Guy Bampton	Dept Communities and Local Government
Geoff Bateman	Environment Agency
David Baxter	Environment Agency
Peter Bide	Dept Communities and Local Government
Jeremy Biggs	Pond conservation
Lizzy Carlyle	National Trust
Andrew Clark	National Farmers Union
Stewart Clarke	Natural England
Jackie Coates	Chemical Industry Association
Richard Cole	Defra
Sean Comber	Atkins
Adam Comerford	British Waterways
Hayley Conboy	Confederation of British Industry
Kieran Conlan	Cascade Consulting
Glen Cooper	Natural England
Luke de Vial	Wessex Water
Bob Earl	Coast MS
Kevin East	Canoe England
Neil Edwards	RWE NPower
Francois Edwards	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Lynn Fardon	Defra
Gary Foyle	Christchurch Borough Council
Andy Frankton	Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills
Martin Furness	Ofwat
Laura Grant	Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management
Janina Gray	Salmon & Trout Association
Deryck Hall	Consumer Council for Water
Peter Hampson	British Resorts and Destinations Association
Robert Harris	Defra
Philippa Hemming	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Paul Hickey	Environment Agency
Carol Hickman	Society of British Water and Wastewater Industries
Derek Holliday	Country Land & Business Association
Martyn Hopkins	Society of British Water and Wastewater Industries
Michael Hutchins	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Alex Inman	Rural Economy and Land Use Programme
Amber Joseph	Environment Agency
Robert Keirle	Marine Conservation Society
Steven Lambert	Drinking Water Inspectorate

Tom LeQuesne	WWF
David Lerner	Defra
Ivor Llewelyn	Atlantic Salmon Trust
Ben Lynham	Environment Agency
John Malley	National Trust
Jeremy Marshall	Water UK
Richard Martin	Environment Agency
Claire McCamphill	Defra
Daniel McGonigle	Defra
Bob Middleton	Natural England
Ian Moodie	Association of Drainage Authorities
Robert Moore	Water Research Centre
Pamela Moulton	BASF
Mike Murray	ABPI
Gareth Newman	Defra
Maeve O'Donoghue	Wessex Water
Mark Owen	Angling Trust
Chloe Palmer	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Michael Payne	National Farmers Union
Piat Piatkiewicz	Non-ferrous Alliance
Helen Perkins	Wildlife Trusts
Paul Rayner	Royal Yachting Association
Arlin Rikards	Association of Rivers Trusts
Tony Ripley	Defra
Martin Ross	South West Water
Archie Ruggles-Brice	Association of Rivers Trusts
Nicci Russell	Waterwise
Chris Ryder	Defra
Laura Schofield	EIC
Matthew Simpson	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Consulting
Kate Snow	United Utilities
John Spence	Southern Water
David Taylor	WCA Environment
Rose Timlett	WWF
Jean Venables	Association of Drainage Authorities
Thomas Walkden	Defra
John Ward	Defra
Jonathan Westlake	Thames Water
Ivana Wilson	Foundation for Water Research

3) Welcome & Introductions – Chris Ryder

3.1 Chris Ryder welcomed everyone to the Forum.

3.2 Chris then explained that it was an important time as Defra and the Environment Agency are looking toward the second cycle of the WFD. He talked about the joint enterprise of moving toward a more locally led catchment based approach and that Government would be looking to stakeholders to help develop test, and hopefully cooperatively deliver, the emerging approach.

3.3 He explained that part of the focus of the forum would be inviting ideas and suggestions from forum members on the future of the WFD and this approach.

3.4 Chris then invited each of the guest speakers to outline their vision and the work they are currently doing.

4) Future of WFD and the Catchment Based Approach

Richard Benyon – Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Natural Environment and Fisheries

4.1 Richard Benyon explained that addressing water quality problems was an important objective of the Government and its delivery network. With only 27% of water bodies meeting good status, the next round of RBMPs need to be more ambitious and deliver interventions in a more targeted way.

4.2 We have been listening to stakeholders and recognise local action is needed to help address and overcome problems of pollution. This will require the Defra network to work in partnership with a range of organisations to help address specific local issues in a cost effective way.

4.3 This recognises catchments differ and that the approach needed in each will therefore vary. An assortment of tools will be required, along with integration of actions across delivery bodies. For example, coordinating work across the EA and NE. Government and its delivery bodies will need to understand the capacity of Big Society in order to involve the spectrum of different organisations to help work toward delivering a range of environmental outcomes.

4.3 Richard Benyon explained that EA will look to establish 10 pilot catchments which will test a range of situations and interventions. Also, we would like others to take a lead in guiding action in other areas. EA will provide support to those organisations undertaking a lead.

4.4 He went on to say that a light touch approach was required to make it easy for people to come together and work toward mutually agreed goals, but that Defra should take a central coordination role.

4.5 Richard Benyon stressed that the focus of the catchment approach should not just be the agricultural sector but, that there is a need to look across the breadth of industry and civil society; such as non-agricultural diffuse sources of pollution.

4.6. He then highlighted that the catchment based approach does not come with the expectation that stakeholders will bear the predominant burden of funding. We are currently looking at partnership funding options and Defra's financial priorities will be announced in due course.

4.7 The scoping paper outlining this approach is circulated today.

Action – Craig to circulate with minutes.

4.8 The Minister emphasised that Government does not have all the answers. The Defra network has a large role to play but needs input from other organisations if the results we all want are to be achieved.

4.9 The Minister finished by saying that there is a need to comply with the Directive but, that this approach is about going beyond compliance; better water quality is something we all want and that we should see this as about achieving common goals to the benefit of all.

Chris Smith – Environment Agency Chair

4.10 Chris Smith briefly described EAs vision for the catchment based approach. It recognises that there are different pressures on different water bodies and would seek to address pollution problems by tailoring bespoke approaches at the right scale within each catchment for work to be effectively carried out.

4.11 Chris Smith highlighted that there is general consensus that the catchment is the right scale at which interventions should be managed and that a range of actors need to be involved.

4.12 He outlined six component principles to the approach:

1. A partnership between many different organisations.
2. Active involvement of civil society with accompanying utilisation of local knowledge.
3. Different solutions for different water bodies
4. Different solutions for different parts within a catchment.
5. It should encompass all forms of pollution spanning the urban/agricultural divide.
6. It involves seeing the catchment as a whole, with all the problems within it and how they interlink.

4.13 Chris Smith stressed that all existing activities will need to be aligned to the catchment based approach.

4.14 He then went on to say that EA will lead in 10 pilot catchments. In each of these there will be a single point of contact within the Agency coordinating all activity. The ten catchments chosen include:

Ribble	Irwell
Welland	Leam
Ecclesbourne	Don
Lower River Wear	Lower River Lee
Upper Tone	Adur and Ouse

4.15 Chris Smith then described how the Agency had increased the number of investigations and walk-overs that they were conducting to better inform reasons for failure. To date, 1,400 have been completed and another 5,000 are ongoing. By the end of 2012 they will have undertaken 10,000. These will improve the ambition for cycle 1 while informing plans for cycle 2.

4.16 As part of this process EA continue to work closely with existing partners: Defra, Natural England, Forestry Commission, RSPB, Association of Rivers Trusts and some water companies but, hope to expand this as the catchment approach is taken forward.

4.17 Chris Smith finished by saying that this approach will lead to better information and more effective interventions and the ambition will be to expand the approach beyond the 10 pilots. However, he recognises that Government does not have all the answers and may not always get things right the first time. This is why the partnership approach is so important; it should involve listening and learning through cooperative interaction.

Poul Christensen – Natural England Chair

4.18 Poul Christensen echoed the other speakers; stating the importance of joint working; looking at water resource protection through the wider lens of environmental goods and services but; doing this through concentrating on the local level, which is where changes take place.

4.19 Poul described how the mid-term RDPE demonstrated that 81% of land in Environmental Stewardship agreements was being managed in a way that contributed to improving water quality.

4.20 However, he went on to say that we recognise the ES schemes are not perfect. Defra has set up a project which is looking at changes that can be made to improve the beneficial outcomes of ES measures.

4.21 Poul emphasised the need for the Defra network and all stakeholders to work more closely together. For its part, he said that NE was a willing partner and was working more collaboratively with EA.

4.22 He added that NE will be happy to share scientific information with other parties to help deliver common goals.

4.23 Poul was happy to report that Catchment Sensitive Farming would continue for its 5th year and that Phase 3 would shortly be launched. As part of this, advice to the

farming community would carry on and £10.5 million had been secured for capital grants, an increase of £3 million on previous years.

4.24 Poul said that what is needed in the catchment approach is a locally flexible system that allows easy sharing of data and practical expertise to tap into different resources within a catchment but, that is not weighted down with excessive paperwork.

4.25 He ended by noting that a common approach and vision was essential but action on the ground is key; ensuring local ownership to allow long-term sustainable business and a healthy natural environment.

Q&A

4.26 Andrew Clark from NFU said he sees ensuring a healthy environment as compatible with maintaining sustainable farming. The key is integration and joining up everything on the farm. There are many different policy areas and projects that affect agriculture and a key element of the Water White Paper should be connecting water and land management practices.

4.27 He went to stress that local capability was critical to successful delivery and questioned whether there is the level of social capital to replicate a catchment approach beyond the 10 pilots. Andrew finished by saying that what will help the farming community is one or two strongly joined up and consistent messages.

4.28 Richard Benyon replied, endorsing the comments. He said there is a lot of activity being undertaken at the moment and Defra is working to pull many strands together to cut down on confusion. The pilots will be used to implement the high level rhetoric in a practical and meaningful way to local stakeholders, allowing delivery of environmental benefits.

4.29 Responding to the question on capacity, the Minister said that Big Society was more than just recruiting extra volunteers; Government should make it easier for existing volunteers and local stakeholders to actively take part in decision making. It is an empowering process allowing people to become part of the solution, not just the problem.

5) Panel Discussion

There were a number of questions from the floor:

5.1 Dereck Holliday from CLA asked how flood management and other types of water management can be integrated into the catchment based approach?

5.2 Chris Smith said that this could be addressed by making sure that when you look at water quality issues, other dimensions such as flood risk plans are also considered. Strategies will be different for different areas but better integration will come as a better understanding of catchments is developed.

5.3 Piat Piatkiewicz of the non-ferrous Alliance asked; when changes are made how much food will we be importing to compensate and, when we are importing food are we exporting bad practices? This links with food wastage and how sustainable food production can be.

5.4 Richard Benyon replied that these are not binary issues but that a balance of environmental sustainability and food production can be achieved. Soil is the platform which if we can use it better and look after this important resource, we will by proxy protect the environment. He added that many companies are ahead of the game looking at sustainable agriculture through use of mechanisms such as supply side levers. This type of work will be reflected in the NEWP.

5.5 Jean Venables from the Association of Drainage Authorities said she was pleased to hear about the catchment based approach which encompasses the whole water cycle. She then highlighted the importance of needing to consider the impacts of climate change. She finished by volunteering the Drainage Board Authorities assistance in two of the proposed pilots.

5.6 Chris Smith thanked Jean for the offer.

5.7 Sean Atkins of the EIC raised the issue of the importance of data sharing, such as on source apportionment, if collaboration is to happen. He went on to say that from experience this information can be very difficult to get hold of and can be costly when it has to be paid for. He said there needs to be greater, and easier, access to data

5.8 Chris Smith said that EA are currently looking at this and trying to address issues such as how to best coordinate data gathering from across multiple sources. They are also exploring concerns around access to public and private data. Of which the latter will require willingness of owning parties to share.

5.9 Poul Christensen added that NE will make data available but that they need to review their system to simplify it. NE is also looking at how they can work with EA and local authorities to reduce the number of people that have to be contacted to access data.

5.10 Chris Ryder highlighted that data sharing was at the heart of the catchment based approach.

5.11 Geoff Bateman said that EA have just received approval to develop a web based interactive system to include third party data, which can then be shared. However, there are many issues that have to be resolved and they expect to have something available in the next 9-12 months.

5.12 Richard Benyon finished by saying that in order to make this approach work we need to understand how different land managers operate. The focus should not just be farmers but all other interested parties such as agronomists who work across farms. We need to consider all the players involved.

5.13 Martin Furness from Ofwat said they supported the catchment based approach but that there are a lot of challenges to overcome. He added that it is not a new approach and that some organisations have been working on this scale for some time. This highlights that this approach needs to be long term. He said that these examples of good practice need to be brought together and coordinated in a timely manner.

5.14 Martin went on to say that a significant issue will be the need to consider varying timescales that different organisations are required to work to, such as water company investment cycles and WFD, and how these will impact on delivery of a catchment based approach.

5.15 Richard Benyon acknowledged that the PR review and investment cycles are a concern and not necessary complimentary to a catchment based approach in current forms. He said that he would encourage other water companies to go down the same route as United Utilities with their SCaMP programme and that different areas of Government need to ensure that they are not putting conflicting and constraining requirements on water companies and farmers.

5.16 Poul Christensen said that he welcomed Ofwat taking a keener role in environmental protection and that their longer term view to investment is complimentary to this approach because the environment also responds on longer timescales.

5.17 Chris Ryder added that this is where climate change will come into play and that there is a need to build into longer term planning expectations of changes in climate.

5.18 David Lerner from the University of Sheffield raised the question that a catchment based approach is founded on ecosystem services. However, WFD is not centred on these principles. The former is about best delivery for an area, the latter about meeting targets. How can these be reconciled?

5.19 Richard Benyon responded that it is our responsibility to ensure that our response to WFD is geared toward, and embedded, in ecosystem service terms.

5.20 Chris Smith added that WFD is an imperfect instrument. We are not realistically likely to ever achieve 100% GES but, can we improve on 27%, certainly. The key is to be realistic and aim for the best that we can do going forward.

6) Key Learning From Catchment Based Initiatives

Association of Rivers Trusts – Arlin Rickards

6.1 Arlin expressed his support for the catchment based approach and echoed previous speakers saying that a practical approach that brings together and simplifies existing practices is what is needed.

6.2 He said that ART are active and have Trusts in all 10 of the pilot catchments.

6.3 Arlin added that they would welcome the challenge of leading a catchment in another area and they already have initiatives which could be folded into the approach.

6.4 He mentioned that ART are working with Defra on a strategic evidence and partnership project which is specifically looking to examine the River Basin Management Plans and how additional measures can be incorporated, such as environmental stewardship, to develop practicable options which can be implemented on the ground.

6.5 Because of projects like this ART are working closely with the Defra family offering help and advice.

6.6 Arlin said that there is no magic bullet but healthy soils are essential; with these sorted, the rest of the environmental services will follow.

6.7 He finished by endorsing the catchment plan and said that ART are ready and willing to help.

RELU – Laurence Smith

(Catchment Management for Protection of Water Resources)

6.8 Laurence introduced the project which is a University of East Anglia and RELU partnership.

6.9 There are two strands:

- A comparative analysis of international catchment management programmes for lesson learning.
- Two case studies in the UK: Upper Tamar and Upper Thurne.

By examining how links were made with stakeholders, how governance was structured and what problems and processes were used in examples across both strands, the projects aims to create a dynamic best practice template of catchment management.

6.10 Laurence expressed the need for adaptive management because there cannot be a blueprint method applied to catchments. This reflects the differing interests that need to be managed within and catchment and the technical uncertainty that can underlie much of the information available.

6.11 He identified two key areas as governance and capacity. However, these subdivide into issues such as monitoring, knowledge exchange and funding. Goals should be locally focused so they are meaningful for the communities taking part and generate local ownership and responsibility. This will involve exploiting local knowledge and taking responsibility down to the lowest level.

6.12 Laurence agreed with Arlin that a strategic plan at catchment level is vital.

6.13 As an example of how they are taking existing and local knowledge to create effective communication tools with which to engage stakeholders Laurence talked

about the ecosystem health report card which will help show stakeholders the state of the local environment and help target interventions. Also, he demonstrated the export coefficient model which is an interactive tool that allows stakeholders to input different land management practices and assess the probabilistic impact they will have as a result.

6.14 Laurence said these types of tools will be essential to getting buy in from stakeholders, develop their understanding and build trust.

6.15 He ended by describing how they were using the Wensum Demonstration Test Catchment Project to implement changes observed from the two strands of the project. This live collection and analysis of data was being used to help engage and educate farmers taking part within the catchment.

Natural England – Dr Stewart Clarke

(Ecosystem Services Pilot)

6.16 Stewart outlined the principles of the ecosystem approach which is about managing the environment from a different perspective. It is a central feature of the NEWP and the Lawton review essentially focusing on three categories of ecosystem services: regulatory, provisioning and cultural.

6.17 The pilot is implementing an ecosystem services approach in three areas: Bessenthwaite Lake catchment, South Pennines and Dartmoor & Exmoor.

6.18 Stewart said that the pilot is closely linked with other projects in the area such as water company AMP5 projects. This allows for more effective combining of public and private funds and helps deliver multiple benefits.

6.19 Lessons that have so far been drawn include:

- A lot more can be done with existing funding.
- Consensus views on interventions can be draw but require lots of prolonged discussion.
- Holistic management is economically beneficial; an estimated £7m over 25 years in the Keighley Catchment.
- You will never have all the evidence – a portfolio approach will help spread risk.

6.20 Stewart said that while the economic benefits are known, the question is how to pay for ecosystem services; how should people who are engaged in good land management be rewarded? He added that the Defra Natural Value Programme was exploring this in terms of policy options.

6.21 Stewart finished by saying that behavior change is key to success, economic reward should not be the sole focus. There will inevitably be trade-offs and these need to be managed. Finally, the dividends from an ecosystem approach can be substantial, however they do not happen overnight and we should not be afraid of longer-term timescales required to see positive results.

United Utilities – Kate Snow

(SCaMP)

6.22 Kate introduced the SCaMP project which United Utilities have been running for 10 years. Initially starting in Bowland in the Peak District it has since been extended to cover the Lakes.

6.23 Kate explained that the main drivers for the project were PSA targets to deliver on SSSI's; the need to upgrade land management practices, and issues with an increase in rising water colour.

6.24 She outlined SCaMP which is a 'whole farm', map-based approach. It has proven very popular with farmers.

6.25 Kate said that partnership was key to success of the project. Getting everyone on board was essential to help effectively tackle some of the issues they were facing such as with winter cattle.

6.26 Two key elements which Kate described were; being able to get buy in from land managers by being able to demonstrate the financial benefits and; the importance of data and monitoring to show customers and Ofwat the value of the project.

6.27 She explained that funding was important which they obtained through the AMP5 process.

6.28 Kate said that UU were currently taking forward a safeguard zone pilot project.

6.29 She ended by stating that the key ingredient in the process is enthusiasm.

ACTION Craig to circulate presentation slides

7) Breakout Sessions: Principles and Components of a Catchment Approach

7.1 Chris Ryder said that this session was an opportunity for attendees to contribute to the development of Governments thinking around the catchment based approach and that attendees would shortly be divided into groups to discuss four key questions that we are seeing to address.

7.2 Chris went on to emphasis that this policy was an evolving process which would look to create new tools and mechanisms to implement the approach and will require a lot of join up between the Defra family and stakeholders.

7.3 He added that the idea is for a range of different organisations to lead but that Defra would need to retain a central overview of how approaches across catchments are being implemented and monitored.

7.4 Chris then said that a priority will be identifying individual roles and responsibilities.

7.5 David Baxter from EA then talked about the role which they see EA playing. The idea is that they will not be the primary delivery lead but that the catchment approach is about generating local ownership and giving local groups the tools to drive locally decided goals. EA's role in the process will be as custodians of the evidence, disseminating and sharing as required. They should be facilitating the opening of discussions within catchments and feeding in technical advice and measuring the impact of interventions.

7.6 Chris added that we see the National Forum as a platform for checking how the approach is working for you.

7.7 Kate Snow said that there are a lot of technical tools for engaging people but that visually based are most effective for helping people conceptualise and realize what the problems are and how to arrive at solutions.

7.8 Bob Harris from Defra said that it should be a process of partnership rather than based on any one group leading.

7.9 Robert Keirle from the Marine Conservation Society said that we shouldn't just be engaging with the usual suspects, the obvious organisations. There needs to be a much wider net cast because including a broader range of groups will introduce new thinking, ideas and approaches. He cited initiatives such as the Blue Flag Scheme. Also, he emphasised the need to engage local authorities as key partners because of their social and economic influence. They are not traditionally very active so they need to be brought into the process and educated.

7.10 Chris highlighted that many of the issues that were being raised were questions that we wanted feedback on in the break-out sessions. He then invited the Defra catchment approach lead, Richard Cole, to briefly introduce the aims of the break-out session.

7.11 Richard said that he was leading the joint Defra, EA, NE and Forestry Commission scoping project. At this early stage, as we look to develop thinking around the approach, it would be good to engage attendees and get their thoughts around four questions which focus on what the major principles and components of a catchment based approach should be:

- What do we need to evaluate to assess whether a particular approach in a catchment has been successful?
- What are the component parts or tools that we need to design for roll out within the 10 pilot catchments or elsewhere?
- How should we best involve you in the 10 pilot catchments but also in the developing the wider approach and any additional tools?
- Are there any current initiatives that your organisations are involved in that we should take into account and liaise with? And, would you like to take a leading role in engaging local communities within the 10 or other catchments?

7.12 Andrew Clarke from NFU raised the concern of consulting members of the forum and then the Defra network going away and drawing up the process behind closed doors, only to present a finished product at the next stakeholder forum.

7.13 Chris said that this was not the idea of this process but that it should be open and inclusive.

7.12 David Baxter said EA would shortly be writing to stakeholders to ask what work and projects they are doing which would fit within a catchment based approach. It would also invite groups to either become involved in one of the EAs 10 pilots or to lead in additional catchments.

A short summary of the breakout session is in the **annex**

8) EA and Defra Updates

8.1 There were no updates given at this point. All information of note was either covered in the morning session or contained within the handouts.

9) Marine Strategy Framework Directive

9.1 Jamie Rendell introduced the timetable that the MSFD team are currently working to and said that they are developing three interlinked workstreams: determination of status, monitoring and characterisation of the environment. Significant dates include:

- There is a deadline for characterising the marine environment by December 2012.
- 2014 is the target date for having devised and having begun monitoring on programmes of measures.
- GES needs to be achieved by 2020.

9.2 Jamie informed the forum that the GES were published in September 2010. Details can be found at: (insert link)

9.3. However, he went on to say that GES criteria and indicators are currently being developed in conjunction with CEFAS and the JNCC. There will be a formal consultation later in 2011 for stakeholders to comment on the proposed options.

9.4 Jamie said that a stakeholder event held in February had been very successful and the outcomes were being used in policy papers being drafted. There are several meetings planned for March (25th) and May (25th), being used to iron out technical requirements for descriptors and targets. These are open to all.

9.5. Jamie said that there were ongoing meetings between the EA and the MMO. This is to discuss the overlap of the MSFD with WFD and identify roles and responsibilities between the two agencies where there is overlap. He said some concerns had been expressed that there would be issues if the MSFD imposed requirements beyond that of the WFD. Jamie said that this had been considered and that MSFD would not go beyond the requirements of the WFD, but may go further in

some areas where there was no provision in WFD, such as coastal regions. In this sense it would act as a gap filler.

9.6 At EU level, Jamie briefly said that there was a working group currently looking at points 9 and 10 of the GES characterisation of the Directive with the intent to set measures and targets. He said that the UK position was that characterisation should be qualitative description of the environment rather than quantitative. A key message coming from the Commission was that there would be no more guidance being issued from them and that regional coordination would be the way forward.

9.7 There were no questions from the floor.

10) Non-Agricultural Diffuse Strategy

10.1 David Lerner and Richard Martin introduced themselves and said that they had been brought into Defra specifically to work on the non-agricultural diffuse strategy.

10.2 David said that it was particularly tricky to develop a working definition of non-agricultural diffuse pollution because there are so many pollutants and sources. However, there are two primary routes through which non-agricultural diffuse enters water bodies; engineered, such as drainage and run off from roads and paved areas. But, all sources significantly impact on surface, ground and bathing waters.

10.3 They went on to say that because sources are typically small, there are lots of them and they are hard to individually identify but, they have a cumulatively large impact and most people contribute in some form. This means interventions can be expensive and require a very mixed bag of regulation to manage.

10.4 David and Martin said that they were currently working through the list of known pressures and assessing their severity and impact to help develop an action and research strategy. They have identified four top sources:

- In-situ sediment.
- Trading estate run-off
- Misconnections (of which there are an estimated 70,000) and,
- Roads

10.5 They said that there is lot of research and work currently being done across a range of organisations. Data and projects need to be pulled together and build on existing work to create a strategy which is built around self-regulation with a robust infrastructure and clear responsibilities.

10.6 David said they are putting together a draft discussion document to put to Ministers.

Q&A

10.7 Mark Owen from the Angling Trust highlighted a number of projects such as the Yellow Fish Campaign and Birmingham Stakeholder Polluters Group. He said these are good examples of partnership working and that a collegiate approach is needed.

10.7 Paul Hickey from EA mentioned that the urban flood risk working group was looking at integrating flood risk planning and water quality issues, which was an example of a move toward more integration.

10.8 Rose Timlett from WWF raised the issue of cultural and political barriers, such as the degree of success 'partnership working' brings to projects. David said that part of their review would be an evaluation of the effectiveness of 'soft' campaigns designed to affect behaviour change.

10.9 A comment from the floor queried whether there would be advantages of joining up in urban areas through Local Authorities who will already be well connected with local groups and can galvanise action to address diffuse pollution. Examples of good practice include the Blue Flag scheme or proactively addressing misconnections. David agree this was a positive idea but the challenge is getting enough engagement at the required scale.

10.10 David finished by saying that they would be looking to conduct some experiments which would look at how urban areas will fit within the catchment approach; whether urban areas should be treated separately or if they should be embedded in a catchment strategy. This is because urban management might be very different and require a different approach.

11) EU Update

11.1 Rory Wallace from Defra informed the Forum of several points of note:

- The Commission have announced 2012 as the Year of Water.
- As part of this there will be a requirement to publish an update to inform Parliament on the implementation and impact of the WFD and first round of RBMPs.
- Part of the process will involve a fitness check of current legislation (a statement of which was handed out). Five River Basins have been selected and will be intensely analysed. The River Severn has been chosen in the UK and stakeholder engagement is already underway with a workshop scheduled for May.
- There will be a consultation on the legislative framework at the end of 2011. Initial proposals will then be discussed at the Water Conference in May 2012, with the final recommendations being presented before the Commission in November 2012.
- The River Basin Planning Guidance is in the process of being updated (update handed out). This is designed to reflect recent developments and informal discussions are already underway with stakeholders to look at what changes may need consideration. There is a formal consultation planned for the end of 2011/early 2012, with a view to new guidance being issued mid to late 2012.

Action: Craig to circulate papers with minutes.

12) Any other business and date of next meeting

12.1 Chris Ryder thanked everyone for coming and their input into the discussions. He suggested that the next meeting should take place in the next couple of months to further discuss the development of the catchment based approach.

ACTION Craig to circulate provisional date for next meeting when known

13) Actions summary

Action	Owner	Status
<i>Circulate presentations of key learning points from catchment based initiatives</i>	Craig Walker	<i>Done</i>
<i>Circulate provisional date for next meeting when known</i>	Craig Walker	<i>Done</i>
<i>Circulate electronic copies of EU update handouts</i>	Craig Walker	<i>Done</i>

Annex - Breakout Sessions

Questions

1. What do we need to evaluate to assess whether a particular approach in a catchment has been successful?
2. What are the component parts or tools that we need to design for roll out within the 10 pilot catchments or elsewhere?
3. How should we best involve you in the 10 pilot catchments but also in the developing the wider approach and any additional tools?
4. Are there any current initiatives that your organisations are involved in that we should take into account and liaise with? And, would you like to take a leading role in engaging local communities within the 10 or other catchments?

Question 1 - What do we need to evaluate to assess whether a particular approach in a catchment has been successful?

- Three areas (environment, equity, economic), what level of engagement – at the local and catchment – broad principals – spatially and temporally. Longer time scales are important. Working at the catchment and sub catchment
 - Urban catchments more difficult to work in,
 - Don't get too fixed on the 10 pilots can lessons be transferred?
 - How far have we gone to changing behaviour in a catchment and celebrate success = FLEXIBILITY (key) for policy framework
- Need degree of continuity – need to ID at the outset. Need people at the outset – people beyond Defra family to report back.
- Going back a stage, who runs the process to ensure local ownership of the process. Not EA taking the lead.

Question 2 - What are the component parts or tools that we need to design for roll out within the 10 pilot catchments or elsewhere?

- Benefits assessment tool.
- Funding to help the tool developments.
- Need a leader within the catchment – skill set, trust of partners, take tough decisions and strong leadership = who should this be?
- Maps helpful for realising the catchment plans
- Data Sharing (good and bad data – need to back up with scientific research)
- Lead person in each catchment
- Access to information is an issue
- many tools already – not one to engage people. Conceptual tool to engagement level to bring people in. Visualisation of what want to achieve and this helps engagement

Question 3 - How should we best involve you in the 10 pilot catchments but also in the developing the wider approach and any additional tools?

- WTs involved in 6/10 pilots. NGOs already working in the catchments – need to feed into approach. EA leader in catchment should catalyse joint up.
- Disseminate aims of pilots and then NGOs, 3rd parties will come forward to drill into the individual resources, Fund those at the grass roots.
- more meetings like the forum.
- Partnership approach
- language – not us and them – but us together. EA need to realise partnership is more than leading and others follow. EA as contributor / advisor / facilitator. And not seen to take a leadership role (issue re the 10 pilot catchments).

Question 4 - Are there any current initiatives that your organisations are involved in that we should take into account and liaise with? And, would you like to take a leading role in engaging local communities within the 10 or other catchments? ecological restoration zones

- UKWIR – catchment management, Land management
- More will become relevant when we know the aims of each pilot. Want more information – the focus and then will encourage more to come forward.
- marine conservation society – not necessarily the usual suspects. Diffuse pollution – how to manage in different ways. Look beyond WQ impacts and as a result get others onboard – e.g. keep Britain tidy (manage blue flag system), Suds, marine, more NGOs, linking up with marine strategy.