

<h1>Meeting Notes</h1>		Meeting: Water Environment Governance Group	
Attendees: Richard Powell (Chair), Melissa Lockwood, Mike Jeffries, Clare Deasy, Ruby Merriman		Date: 21/05/24	Location: MS Teams
Apologies: Graham Dale, Anna Gerring, Zoe Frogbrook, Clemmie Moule		Distribution: Attendees and Apologies	
Note: A full set of documents is available in the Water Environment Governance Group SharePoint Site https://nwgcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/TD0273/dcs/			
No.	Agenda Item and Notes		
1	Introductions Not required as Clemmie, ESW Bluespaces Manager at Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust was off sick		
2	Review of Actions No outstanding actions from previous meeting		
3	Project Sign Offs AG emailed comments in advance ‘Thank you to the team for putting together such comprehensive evidence packs. It’s really great to see how this work has contributed to so many different organisations and partnership projects this year. I am happy to support the sign off of those presented in the packs circulated, with a few reflections (input into the notes below):		
	Abberton – Originally worried RP as an ESW site, site is dual badged so when you visit it does look like an ESW site, not EWT only, but satisfied we have gone above and beyond in delivering improvements. ML also happy and excited about the great crested newts, MJ liked the project, and commented we should not exploit and maximise benefits! DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Abberton Project, 3.9 km		
	Angles Way – RP commented this is a ‘cracker’, looks really good, landowner connectivity is great, ML & MJ also like this one, AG liked landowner engagement and improvements DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Angles Way project, 2.2 km		

Dicklebrough Moor – RP visited last year, it’s a stunning site – knowing it through being involved, it’s great to see this really great project delivered, ML likes drone footage particularly

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Dicklebrough Moor project, 2.2 km

Allen Banks – RP visited this site last year with the Ancient Tree Forum – he suggested to make sure National Trust put up the NW logo as NT is not very good at acknowledging others contributions – RM will engage on this as comms are due following final site work.

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Allen Banks project, 2.3 km

Crimdon Dene – RP likes this, ML likes level of engagement of different groups, and the work to make people closer to the environment, plus the link to the Refill campaign

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Caring for Crimdon Dene project, 3.3 km

Ebchester – The group like the project but agree that the customer and lead partner contributions to the form are needed to prove the benefits – NW needs to put pressure on the group and on the National Trust to provide this – RP could write a letter to NT Area Director if needed – we think this might be a good idea but want to give the partners time to supply evidence before we escalate.

DECISION: WEGG agreed to delay sign off of the Ebchester project to Year 5, due to the need to provide a lead partner testimonial and some customer evidence, 1.0 km

Embleton Quarry – RP loves this and particularly the photos, which show lots of engagement with different groups. ML noted that a small amount of money has transformed this site to the next level, AG likes that so much work was undertaken by local groups. RP suggests they could benefit from advice on the Sand Martin bank to stop stoats and snakes – RM will engage over this, and suggests they could use trail cameras to monitor this.

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Embleton Quarry project, 1.4 km

Haltwhistle – AG supportive in comments. RP thinks it is an awesome project. Thumbs up received from the others.

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Haltwhistle Riverside Park project, 0.9 km

Howgill Beck – RP thinks this is great and has seen it through a site visit, and would also like to see the video. NW delayed sign off of this project from Year 3 because of the video delay, but the group are happy to approve this now knowing the video is in production due for release asap.

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Howgill Beck project, 2.0 km

Marden Quarry – the group agree good improvements have been delivered here making a difference to a local urban site.

DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Marden Quarry project, 1.0 km

Milkwellburn – this project was led by RM in her previous role. RP happy that the project evidence pack looks good, ML commented that she loves a leaky dam and this is proving to people these solutions do work.

	<p>DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Milkwellburn Wood project, 3.8 km</p> <p>Newton Junction – AG comments that this provided some well needed TLC to the site. RP likes this one which really makes a difference to local people.</p> <p>DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Natural Newton Junction project, 1.1 km</p> <p>Woolsington – AG comments there has been some great evidence and engagement activity, MJ really keen in the project delivered in the Ouseburn and the impact at the headwaters. RM noted that these are the star contributors in providing evidence and support for the Bluespaces programme. CD commented that it has been nice to be able to fund this project in the Ouseburn, a difficult catchment to create Bluespaces projects in due to concerns around water quality in the river and ownership for actions, and these local Parish Council partners are real supporters of NW in the Ouseburn Catchment Partnership.</p> <p>DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Woolsington Parish Ponds, 1.2 km</p> <p>Wansbeck – MJ likes this one, which showcases local water environment improvements, RP commented very professionally delivered through Groundwork NE, ML agreed that delivering an eel pass was always going to be difficult, but rest of the project is great.</p> <p>DECISION: WEGG agreed to approve sign off of the Year 4 Wansbeck Riparian Corridor project, 4.7 km</p>
4	<p>Water Environment Team Update</p> <p><i>Year 5 Programme Update</i></p> <p><i>PR24 Update</i></p>
	<p>AOB</p> <p>AG comment from email: As a general point, I wonder if one improvement to the programme might be to consider capture ongoing maintenance needs. All schemes will require some level of ongoing support, and for some of the smaller, community led schemes, there is a risk that in the absence of ongoing support, maintenance may be challenging. In particular, many of these schemes are planting trees, and maintenance requirements are often overlooked in the drive to support tree planting. I raise this not as a criticism, but as an area where we might be able to add even greater value.</p>

Can WEGG help with PR24 planning? CD suggests following 12th June Draft Determination from Ofwat, NW and RP as WEGG Chair can review what might be possible. WEGG would like to support if required.

ML suggests Picture book of happy people getting out and about. Community and customers, some amazing projects. WEGG would be really sad if it got lost – lots of momentum and partners aware of the programme and approaching the company. Opportunity to bring into C-MEX or customer research – companywide impact of Branch Out and Bluespaces?

MJ – very positive afternoon,

ML leaving EA in June for early retirement, her replacement will be appointed and engage with the Water Forum.