

Natural Water Retention Measures Working Group meeting

Venue: Airfield Estate, Dundrum, Dublin 14

Date & Time: 12th March 2019, 12:15-13:30

Name of Attendee		Organisation	Working group member
Mark Adamson	MA	OPW	√
Jenny Deakin (Chair)	JD	EPA	√
Gary Free	GF	EPA	√
Jimmy King	JK	IFI	√
Nathy Gilligan	NG	OPW	
Donal Grant	DG	DHPLG	√
Conor Galvin	CG	OPW	√
Fergal Kelly	FK	OPW	√
Marian Healy	MH	Offaly County Council	√
Trudy Higgins	TH	Irish Water	√
Fran Igoe	FI	Local Authority Waters Programme	
Eva Mockler	EM	EPA	√
Patrick Morris	PM	EPA	
Áine O'Connor	AOC	NPWS	
Phillip O'Dea	POD	Coillte	√
Keiron Phillips	KP	EPA	√
Conor Quinlan	CQ	EPA	√
Emma Quinlan	EQ	EPA	
Leanne Roche	LR	DAFM	√
Martina Smith	MS	Local Authority Waters Programme	√
Paula Treacy	PT	Waterways Ireland	√
Wayne Trodd	WT	EPA	√
Mary Walsh	MW	DCC	
Caroline Wynne	CW	EPA	
Ken Bucke	KB	Forest Service	√
Taly Hunter-Williams	THW	GSI	√
Catherine Farrell	CF	BNM	√
Enda McDonagh	ED	BNM	
Noel Meehan	NM	Teagasc	√
Neil Higgins	NH	DCC	
Niamh Fitzgerald	NF	DCC	
Tara Higgins	TH	EPA (SEA)	√
Wolfram Schluter*	WS	OPW	√

Apologies: Shane O'Boyle (EPA), Suzanne Wylde (EPA), Shane Regan (NPWS),

*OPW addition to working group 12/6/19

Agenda

- 1 Introduction and agree agenda (5 mins)
- 2 What does the River Basin Management Plan say about NWRM? (Gary Free, EPA)
- 3 Introduction to NWRM (Keiron Phillips, EPA) (25 mins)
- 4 Update on NWRM ongoing in the OPW (Conor Galvin, OPW) (15 mins)
- 5 Discussion
- 6 AOB

1. Notes on Meeting

Item	Detail	To Action
1	<p>Introductions and agree agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD welcomed participants to this first meeting of a working group to progress work on natural water retention measures. The Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) meeting was part of a one-day meeting with two other working groups, the Hydromorphology Working Group and the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) technical guidance working group. 	
2	<p>NWRM in the River Basin Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GF presented the NWRM requirements under the river basin management plan. The plan focused on the provision of multiple benefits and called for: a proposal to include NWRMs as part of a broader suite of measures to achieve environmental objectives, for research on application of existing measures, and for state authorities to work together for this aim. Member states are required to report to the European Commission about the provision of natural water retention measures in RBMPs and whether those measures have been implemented. 	
2	<p>Introduction to NWRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keiron Phillips presented the findings of a review of knowledge on NWRM covering examples from the EU, UK, Ireland and US/Canada/New Zealand. • Case studies were grouped in 4 thematic areas: Pasture, Forest, Hydromorphology, Urban. • Benefits included habitat, biodiversity, water quality, climate, low flows, mitigation of smaller flood peaks. • Concluded that NWRM should be given serious consideration. • Stakeholder engagement key. • There is the potential for pilot projects guided by UK mapping approach and linked to WFD risk assessments but they would need careful siting and suitable scale to deliver measurable success. <p>NH (DCC) 100s of examples of SUDs (Sustainable Drainage Systems) but missing the monitoring/evaluating of performance. CF Coillte have carried out Peatland Restoration and BnM have rewetted 12,000 ha and plan to do 20,000 ha by 2025. Peatland would be a very useful component given</p>	

Item	Detail	To Action
3	<p>multiple benefits including climate. CQ need to have accurate baseline data to sites and a good proxy catchment to compare with. FI Urban projects useful to get public participation. NM - how did land owners feel? -KP - if land is of poor quality it's easier to engage.</p> <p>Action 1: Consider peatlands as an additional category relevant to Ireland</p> <p>Update on NWRM ongoing in the OPW</p> <p>Conor Galvin outlined the CFRAM programme covered 6 study areas (29 river basins) with 300 communities at significant flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment). NWRM are included in CFRAM programme (wetlands, riparian buffers, storage) but featured less as standard of protection set at 1% AEP event for fluvial flood defences. NWRM are envisaged to complement hard-defences. Opportunity exists where multiple benefits can be identified. Where multiple benefits identified NWRM could be included as part of flood relief scheme. Ongoing work includes: an OPW/IRC funded PhD to look at the potential for NWRM to reduce flood risk and improve water quality for forested catchments in Ireland, 6-month NWRM community engagement and strategic NWRM plan for Inishowen, TCD led SLOWATERS project to assess, develop and evaluate NWRM in agricultural catchments in Ireland.</p> <p>NH – how do you know what to do? NG need competency in design and implementation. THW NWRM are not passing on cost benefit analysis – need to work on including more than cost. CG/MA OPW Flood Relief Schemes must be cost beneficial but multi-criteria analysis and collaboration can help promotion of NWRM.</p>	KP
4	<p>Discussion</p> <p>JD - Need a questionnaire to compile a state of knowledge as initial output from this group.</p> <p>Action 2: questionnaire to compile the state of knowledge from this group to be produced and circulated by EPA Catchments to the working group.</p> <p>NH Updating SUDS guidance at the moment in DCC and lots of examples to lend. FI Training course on identification, implementation and maintenance good for LAs. AC Peatlands may provide best opportunity, Kerry life and Pearl Mussel Project examples of payments schemes orientated in this direction. JK – multidisciplinary team essential. NM work would need to be repackaged to focus on other benefits rather than flooding. LR discussion and measures could be covered under CAP payments. FI cross-compliance important. KB TCD and Galway flood group report due soon and the native woodland scheme published that includes flood plain planting. GF - Essential to have level of implementation as it is a targeted question under the WFD programme of measures.</p>	KP/GF