

Blue Dot Steering Group

21st May 2024

Waters of LIFE update – Anne Goggin

Continued characterisation of High Status Objective Catchments

- Creation of topographical datasets for each HSO waterbody has been completed.
- Further analysis of watersheds, flow and other characterisations being completed.
- Work on Natural Capital Accounting for HSO catchments will now be completed by project team with some contribution from outside experts for condition assessment of habitats.

Further Catchment Investigation

- Received all Local Catchment Assessment reports for demonstration catchments which are currently under review.
- Received Hydromorphology assessment of the Islands Catchment from CBEC.
- Forestry characterisation inventory has been progressed, this is a live dataset which will develop throughout the course of the project.
- Continue to identify need for additional hydromorphology investigations in demo catchments in consultation with RESTORE project.
- JBA nearing completion of their land potential assessment mapping for nature based solutions. Report due at end May

Result Based Payment Scheme Development

- Scorecards are being finalised, feedback from the specialist steering group has been provided and is being incorporated.
- Scorecards will be provided by the stakeholder committee for comment in the coming weeks.
- Initial informal trials of some scorecards have been completed.
- Currently developing an approach to Nutrient use efficiency including use of pasture base, MoST, Advisory and Economic Analysis
- Stakeholder mapping in Demo Catchments is ongoing.

- Beginning to develop range of NPIs and Landscape measures with specs and costings.
- Held a workshop with an agricultural subgroup of the Stakeholder advisory group on 16th April. Received excellent engagement and feedback.
- The big challenges remaining are finalising the payments system and developing the data management systems.

Communications and community engagement

- Communications officer appointed.
- Newsletter for 2023 has been published.
- A programme of community workshops/clinics is being developed.
- Teagasc Walsh fellow has started and will be studying custodianship of HS waterbodies within the demonstration catchment. He held a workshop with project and LAWPRO staff on 17th April to look at potential opportunities for his work to contribute to the project.
- Continued liaison with other projects such as the Pearl Mussel Project and Wild Atlantic Nature

Other

- RESTORE research officer has started, with first samples taken in the Avonmore.
- Development of a Forestry working group is an ongoing priority.
- Template for the Catchment Strategic Plans is under review with completion of each report due in Q2 2024
- Recruitment for Graney Catchment Scientist ongoing.