

Catchment Based Approach - Esk and Coastal Streams Steering Group Meeting

Monday 13 October 2014, 2pm Danby Moors Centre

Issues raised and agreed actions

Present:

Mr Jonathan Payne (Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer) JP
Mr Duncan Fyfe (Catchment Co-ordinator, Environment Agency) DF
Mr Peter Nightingale (Guisborough Angling Club) PN
Mr Andrew Walker (Catchment Strategy Manager, Yorkshire Water) AW
Mr Olly Foster (Land management) OF
Mr Stephen Riddolls (Local landowner) SR
Mr Angus Oughtred (YERT chairman and CaBA steering group chairman) AO
Miss Alex Cripps (Esk and Coast Catchment Partnership Officer) AC
Mr David Renwick (Director of Conservation, NYMNPA) DR
Mr Simon Hirst (River Esk Project Officer, NYMNPA) SH

Apologies

Dr Louise Bracken (Durham University lecturer)
Mr Martin Hopper (Local fisherman) (All keen to join future meetings)
Dr Tim Thom (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)

1. Welcome

Since the March CaBA workshop a lot of work has been done to prepare for the first Steering Group meeting and the future of the Catchment Partnership. Alex Cripps has also been appointed as the Catchment Partnership Officer, her contract runs from 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015.

The aim of the meeting is to agree priorities and timescales.

2. Steering Group

The passion and enthusiasm in caring for the Esk and Coastal Streams from Steering Group Members is clear; SR summed things up nicely - 'I live by it and love it'.

3. Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference

Memorandum of Understanding, Catchment Based Partnership - YERT and NYMNPA along with Terms of Reference for the CaBA Steering Group were approved by Members (all Members have copies of these documents).

Steering Group Members role; to provide positive input and to steer and direct priorities in overseeing the delivery of the Esk and Coastal Streams Plan.

Angus Oughtred – Chairman; Maintain a relationship with members of the CaBA Steering Group and encourage their participation and judgement in matters relating to the Catchment Partnership.

Alex Cripps – Catchment Partnership Officer; the principle coordinator with key stakeholders and members of the Steering Group.

ACTION: AC to draw up a work plan to determine time commitments to This Exploited Land project and CaBA work – to circulate to the group.

4. CaBA Objectives

The Water Framework Directive is at the heart of CaBA along with a more holistic approach to delivering good outcomes on the ground.

ACTION: All documents, such as the 3 Year Plan, are joint documents. Members should add points if they have any – the earlier the better to help prioritise projects.

5. Funding Update

Progress made so far;

- Infrastructure to operate the Catchment Partnership using funds to build capacity.
- YERT on their feet (with charitable status).
- YERT / NYMNPA CaBA Partnership hosts.
- YERT website.
- Fisheries surveys (3 yrs – Hull Uni to carry out whole catchment surveys).

CaBA funding have levered in other funding such as NYMNPA £10K towards Catchment Partnership Officer role.

6. Draft 3 Year Plan

ACTION: AC to put 3 Year Plan on the website; exclude 'potential funders' column and address some other points before making it live on the website.

ACTION: AO to provide AC with contact details for YERT web provider and Twitter account details.

ACTION: SH to add more detail to 3 Year Plan projects – ready to carry out projects quickly / make the most of funding opportunities.

Maintaining valuable work to date is key;

- continue with work programmes such as tackling Non-native invasive species with the aim to eradicate them from the catchment.
- Freshwater pearl mussel protection and improving water quality. SJH working with Yorkshire Water.

ACTION: SH to build in an action to 3 Year Plan to consolidate levels / understanding of water quality monitoring so as to remove duplication effort. (Using existing evidence, highlighting who monitors what, if there are any gaps, what future monitoring do we need).

ACTION: Need to engage with Forestry Commission / Forest Enterprise, future attendance at Steering Group meetings – DR meeting with FC soon (DF to attend?)

ACTION: Next step at future Steering Group Meetings will be to draw up a similar plan for coastal streams

ACTION: AO to explore future funding sources – use of potential levies / tourism (North York Moors Tourism Network has a local level focus)/ netmen / anglers etc.

ACTION: DR to explore LEADER/SDF funding opportunities

PN raised point about the political side – such as effects on bathing water quality

SR raised point regarding new houses being built in Whitby - what effects will this have on the Esk? AW discussed the potential of the East Coast Pipeline extending up the coast which would be advantageous as Whitby is currently a stand-alone, relying solely on Ruswarp Water Treatment Works.

7. Funding Bids

BIFFA bid to address diffuse pollution to protect freshwater pearl mussels. By end of October we will hear if the bid has been successful. ACTION: SH to circulate summary to the group.

FUTURE ACTION: pull together a positive case study of partnership working to demonstrate to DEFRA how partners come together.

Funding secured by Environment Agency for Wild Trout Trust demonstration day.

This Exploited Land (TEL), a Heritage Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership Programme. Includes fish barrier removal and riparian habitat improvement works. ACTION: AC to circulate project background which includes timescale for development and delivery phases.

Environment Agency Funding;

Mines

- £6K for Silhowe Mine remediation works (if successful can roll out to other mines)
- £40K to look at other mines / mine water

Esk Catchment Restoration Project; £22K spend over 4 years.

ACTION: SH / AO to liaise with DF and agree target areas. Murk Esk likely to be one of the focus areas.

Esk Catchment Restoration Fund for Catchment Hosts, less certainty around potential £85K, but hope to see some money. To be spent on 1-2 projects with a wider remit than just addressing Water Framework Directive requirements. Current projects proposed and approved by Members;

- Catchment scale barrier to fish migration study – feasibility and designs for 10 barriers ~ £35K (would be very useful to do as feasibility studies are hard to fund through other pots of money).
- Water friendly farming project on Glaisdale Beck – habitat improvement and diffuse pollution prevention work. Aim to target 10 key farms ~£35K

JP raised point that it is key we also drive work on areas with 'high' / 'good' ecological status and not just those with failing status. We need to push maintenance which is crucial to avoid deterioration of waterbodies.

ACTION: AO to write annual YERT funding letter, to include specific projects

8. Next Steps

Future events

- Riverfly workshop (a refresher workshop and a new-comers workshop) ~ Early 2015
- Adopt a stream scheme
- Wild Trout Trust demonstration day in Glasidale

ACTION: SH / AC to scope out how many people we can realistically expect / need and to work up a programme for sign off at next meeting.

- Murk Esk demonstration day / volunteer task

ACTION: SH / AC, with assistance from AO / OF, to determine how best to carry out survey to determine standalone projects along the full length of the Murk Esk. Set a few dates for early 2015 to get volunteers / apprentices organised to carry out habitat improvement works.

Need to attract wide audience through;

- Steering Group
- Website
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Pintrest
- Newsletters
- Press Releases
- NYMNPA Education Department
- NYMNPA Sustainable Development Fund
- Schools
- Young Farmers Club
- Demonstration Farms

ACTION: AC to utilise media outlets - one message used several ways!

ACTION: OF to send AC Parish Council and angling club contact details
AC to liaise with PN – link to all angling clubs

ACTION: OF to lead guided walk near Beck Hole Inn in early Dec. OF to liaise with AC to advertise event.

ACTION: All need to work with CSF team on farm events.

ACTION: AO to prepare YERT newsletter to include initiatives planned and will pass to AC to post on website.

Ways of Working

Afternoon meetings at Danby Moors Centre suits most Members but we can set up conference calls as some Members do travel far. Site visits can be arranged to visit current / future project areas etc. ACTION: ideas welcome – please pass onto AC.

Potential to contribute to Members travel expenses – please contact AC.

9. Date of Next Meeting

January 2015

10. AOB

River Basin Management Plans are available online

Links to other Catchment Partnerships – share ideas

Date to note: 5 November – YERT Annual electrofishing (collection of broodstock). Meet at 9.30 – 10 am at the Wheatsheaf Inn, High Egton. If no sign of anyone, head to Beggars Bridge car park at Glaisdale, cross over bridge and turn right. (7 November is the fall back day if weather is poor).