

**Date and time:** 10:30 Thursday 14 March 2019

**Meeting:** DWMP Steering Group Meeting

**Location:** Water UK office, 36 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH



# Minutes of March 2019 DWMP Steering Group meeting

## Attendees

Mark Worsfold (Chair), South West Water  
Yvette de Garis (Deputy Chair), Thames Water  
Richard Behan, South West Water  
Tom Bochiot, Atkins  
Paddy Brow, Northern Ireland Water  
Alice Cardew, United Utilities  
Matt Crossman, National Infrastructure Commission (items 1-6)  
Orla Crothers, Northern Ireland Water  
Vicky Farwig, Wessex Water  
Hannah Freeman, Blueprint for Water  
Grant Gahagan, Defra  
Paul Grabham, Welsh Water  
Steve Grebby, Consumer Council for Water  
Andrew Hagger, Thames Water  
Paul Harrison, Welsh Government  
Jonathan Hunter, Environment Agency

Paul Hurcombe, Severn Trent Water  
Gian Illari, Atkins  
Steen Nasapen-Watson, Northumbrian Water  
Deborah Redfearn, Yorkshire Water  
Kerry Rhodes, Anglian Water  
Kevin Ridout, Ofwat  
John Spence, Programme Manager  
Mark Squire, Natural Resources Wales  
Max Tant, ADEPT  
Mike Tomlinson, Southern Water  
Rob Wesley, Water UK

## Apologies

Andy Mortali, Scottish Water  
Jackie Sullens, Defra

## 1. Welcome & Introduction

Mark Worsfold (Chair of DWMP Steering Group) welcomed attendees to the first of the six-monthly post-publication DWMP Steering Group meetings.

## 2. Context Update

Members of the group provided updates on the key developments since the publication of the DWMP framework in September 2018:

- Water companies have been making progress on implementing the DWMP framework, despite the pressures of PR19
- Defra had consulted (as part of a wider consultation) on making DWMPs statutory after the first cycle. The consultation had recently closed, with about 300 responses; Defra's intention is to

publish a summary of responses by the end of May. From an initial review, the large majority of responses supported the proposal to make DWMPs statutory although it was recognised that further work was required on the detail.

- The Welsh Government is also considering the status of DWMPs but has not formally consulted at this stage; current thinking is that (as in England) the first cycle would be non-statutory
- Ofwat, as part of their feedback to water companies following the 'Initial Assessment of Business Plans', had asked companies to bring forward the publication of draft DWMPs to summer 2022, in anticipation that Business Plans may need to be submitted earlier for PR24 than for PR19. Fast track companies had committed to providing a revised timeline by August, with one company already committing to the earlier DWMP publication date of summer 2022. In discussion, it was noted that the earlier deadline for draft DWMP publication will compress the earlier stages of engagement and co-creation with partner organisations (see item 6 for further discussion).
- The Environment Agency noted that the consultation on the National FCERM strategy had been postponed; it was expected that the consultation would refer positively to DWMPs. Internal engagement to promote DWMPs with area teams is ongoing, and RFCC chairs have requested more information about DWMPs.
- The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) highlighted that it was currently expected that the second National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA2) would be published in 2023, and noted that while in the first NIA there was strong focus on water resources, there was a gap on drainage, wastewater and surface water due to a lack of robust, comparable data. NIC's expectation is that better data from the DWMP process will be available to feed into NIA2, and NIC noted that the next six months would be important in understanding what data would be available/needed. The NIC would be happy to work with Water UK and companies on this in the first instance.

**Action: Water UK and companies to work with NIC to develop a shared understanding of what information should be provided by companies to feed into NIA2.**

### 3. Overview of DWMP implementation so far

The chair provided a recap of the DWMP framework and its objectives, and outlined progress on implementation so far:

- All 11 WaSCs in England and Wales have been progressing their DWMP implementation plans, including initial engagement with stakeholders
- Water UK has established a 'self-help' group for companies to share learning experiences and best practice (the DWMP Implementation Group)
- This group has:
  - Developed a proposed standard approach for Risk Based Catchment Screening (RBCS) reporting (see item 4)
  - Identified some areas where the clarity of the DWMP framework could be improved, for consideration by the DWMP Steering Group (see item 7)
- Continuing engagement to raise awareness of the new framework, including a presentation to a number of RFCC chairs, and a DWMP training day held by the CIWEM Urban Drainage Group

#### 4. A proposed standard approach to RBCS reporting

Paul Hurcombe presented the proposed standard approach to RBCS reporting developed by the DWMP Implementation Group, based on a standard spreadsheet template to be used by all companies. Initial outputs showed that on average 60% of catchments were triggering the next stage of the DWMP process (the Baseline Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, BRAVA); these catchments contained over 98% of connected population. The steering group considered this this level of progression to BRAVA was broadly in line with expectations.

Having a standard approach to presenting RBCS outputs was welcomed by the group. It was though noted that greater clarity was needed on the timetable for reporting, and the colour scheme to be used for visually presenting RBCS results would need further consideration, as a catchment triggering BRAVA did not indicate a failure, so a standard Red/Amber/Green colour scheme could be misleading.

**Action: DWMP Implementation Group to consider the timetable for RBCS reporting and alternative colour schemes for presenting RBCS outputs and report back to the DWMP Steering Group**

#### 5. Case Studies on experiences of DWMP implementation

Andrew Hagger (Thames Water) presented the approach to DWMP stakeholder engagement being taken by Thames Water, and outlined key points from the training day on DWMP implementation held by the CIWEM Urban Drainage Group.

Steen Nasapen-Watson (Northumbrian Water) presented initial findings of DWMP pilot studies carried out by Northumbrian Water.

The importance of embedding Natural Capital approaches as companies implement DWMPs was noted by the steering group.

#### 6. Working together to meet the revised timetable and stakeholder views on progress on DWMP implementation

The steering group discussed the implications of the revised timetable, with Draft DWMP publication brought forward from the end of 2022 to summer 2022. It was noted that given that it would be impractical to bring forward completion of the BRAVA phase from the end of 2020, the revised timetable would compress the time available for engagement and co-creation with partners.

It was noted that while some compression was inevitable, there would be subsequent cycles of DWMPs and it would be important to carry out a review following the first cycle, to incorporate learning points and best practice into subsequent cycles.

It was also recognised that further consideration needed to be given to the process following publication by companies of Draft DWMPs in summer 2022, and of the expectations that regulatory/governmental

stakeholders would have of these draft plans. It was agreed that in the first instance, a sub-group of the Steering Group should consider these points, and report back to the full Steering Group.

Stakeholders welcomed the updates in the meeting on the progress made by companies on DWMP implementation. For subsequent meetings, stakeholders would welcome more information on the work of the DWMP Implementation Group, and the opportunity to participate in practitioner level discussions on areas of particular interest, such as developing approaches to co-creation.

The importance of engagement with, and the participation of, a wide range of stakeholders in producing DWMPs was noted by the Steering Group. Steering group members noted that the published material on DWMPs is technical in nature, and largely focused on water company audiences; a guide to DWMPs for other stakeholders would be helpful, and a number of steering group members indicated they would be willing to play a greater role in promoting DWMPs.

**Actions:**

- **A sub-group of the steering group (including the chair, deputy chair, Water UK, NIC, Ofwat, Defra and EA) to consider the process following publication of draft DWMPs and the expectations of regulatory/government stakeholders, and report back to the steering group**
- **DWMP Steering Group to have greater visibility of the work programme of the DWMP Implementation Group and the opportunity to participate in relevant practitioner level discussions between Steering Group meetings**
- **Water UK to consider potential for commissioning a guide to DWMPs for non-water company stakeholders**
- **Next steering group meeting to include a greater focus on engagement, including potential roles for steering group members and their organisations**

## **7. Proposed changes to the DWMP framework**

The Steering Group considered 8 technical amendments to the published DWMP framework that had been proposed by the DWMP Implementation Group to provide greater clarity or resolve ambiguities that had been identified by companies as they had sought to implement the framework.

The change proposals, incorporating views from Atkins, had been circulated to Steering Group members in advance of the meeting.

**Proposal A:**

- this proposal was to provide greater clarity on how, when they carried out RBCS, companies should take into account schemes that companies are committed to deliver to meet the PR19 WINEP (Water Industry National Environment Programme) but had not yet been delivered at the time of carrying out RBCS.
- the Steering Group recognised that in principle it was appropriate for the framework to reflect 'committed to but not yet delivered' schemes, but the Environment Agency felt that further consideration was needed on the detail of the proposed change.

Proposal B:

- this proposal was to provide greater clarity on what the 'base year' should be for the first cycle of DWMPs
- the Steering Group approved the proposal

Proposal C:

- this proposal was to define the term 'Population Equivalent' for the purposes of DWMPs
- the Steering Group approved the proposal, subject to a minor drafting amendment

Proposal D:

- this proposal was to clarify that while companies are obliged to review the position of L2 and L3 planning units annually, this does not preclude a more frequent review if there are significant regional events that impact materially on risks in the catchment
- the Steering Group approved the proposal

Proposal E:

- this proposal was to resolve ambiguity on how companies should apply the pollution indicator as part of Risk Based Catchment Screening
- the steering group recognised the need for greater clarity, but the Environment Agency and Blueprint for Water had questions on the detail of the proposal

Proposal F:

- this proposal was to provide greater clarity on how companies should apply the Capacity Assessment Framework indicator as part of Risk Based Catchment Screening
- the Steering Group recognised the need for greater clarity, but the Environment Agency had questions on the detail of the proposal

Proposal G:

- this proposal was to improve regulatory consistency in how companies should apply the sewer flooding indicator as part of Risk Based Catchment Screening
- the Steering Group approved the proposal, subject to a minor amendment to clarify that this measure would be kept under review by the steering group

Proposal H:

- this proposal was to provide greater clarity in how companies should apply the sewer flooding indicator as part of Risk Based Catchment Screening
- the Steering Group approved the proposal

**Actions:**

- **Proposal A to be discussed with the Environment Agency to identify how their concerns could be addressed**
- **Proposal E to be discussed with the Environment Agency and Blueprint for Water to identify how their concerns could be addressed**
- **Amendments agreed to Proposals C and G to be incorporated**
- **Subject to satisfactory resolution of proposals A, E and F, and final review by the chair of the DWMP Steering Group, published DWMP Framework documents to be updated to incorporate amendments A-H**

## **10. Next steps**

In addition to taking forward the actions identified during the meeting, the Chair noted that for the next Steering Group meeting, companies are aiming to be able to present a proposed standard approach to BRAVA reporting, for consideration by the Steering Group.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Next meeting noted as being 12 September 2019.