

**Date and time:** 10:30 Thursday 12 September 2019

**Meeting:** DWMP Steering Group Meeting

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



# Minutes of September 2019 DWMP Steering Group meeting

## Attendees

Mark Worsfold (Chair), South West Water  
Yvette de Garis (Deputy Chair), Thames Water  
Andy Adams, Southern Water  
Alice Cardew, United Utilities  
Grant Gahagan, Defra  
Paul Grabham, Welsh Water  
Steve Grebby, Consumer Council for Water  
Andrew Hagger, Thames Water (by phone)  
Phil Hulme, Environment Agency  
Jonathan Hunter, Environment Agency  
Paul Hurcombe, Severn Trent Water  
Gian Illari, Atkins  
Victoria Lemmon, Anglian Water  
David Martin, Wessex Water  
Steena Nasapen-Watson, Northumbrian Water  
Hisham Sabbagh, Defra  
Dominic Scott, Welsh Government

John Spence, Programme Manager  
Jackie Sullens, Defra  
Max Tant, ADEPT  
Rob Wesley, Water UK

## Apologies

Richard Behan, South West Water  
Lucy Broadie, Scottish Water  
Orla Crothers, Northern Ireland Water  
Matt Crossman, NIC  
Manuela DiMauro, NIC  
Paul Harrison, Welsh Government  
Andy Mortali, Scottish Water  
Deborah Redfearn, Yorkshire Water  
Kevin Ridout, Ofwat  
Mike Tomlinson, Southern Water

## 1. Welcome & Introduction

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

Rob Wesley reported that although NIC were unable to attend on this occasion, they were keen to highlight to the group this did not reflect any lack of interest in DWMPs and their implementation, and had asked for the message below to be provided to the group:

“The NIC is very much keen on seeing progress being made on the plans, and is looking at this progress closely. The Commission expects the plans to deliver a robust understanding on investment needs and priorities that will feed into the next price review, and that will provide evidence to the next National Infrastructure Assessment.”

## 2. Minutes & Actions from last meeting (14/03/19)

All actions from the meeting in March had been completed or were covered under other agenda items.

### 3. DWMP Implementation Update

Mark Worsfold gave an update of progress on DWMP implementation:

- All companies continuing to develop their DWMP and engage with their local/regional stakeholders
- DWMP Implementation Group continuing to act as a 'self-help' group of water company practitioners to share learning experiences and good practice
- Greater involvement of Steering Group members in work between meetings e.g. developing and road testing the 'Working Together' document, and considering change proposals
- RBCS data on track to be shared with Steering Group members in December 2019
- Initial industry thinking on presenting BRAVA outputs - for discussion under separate agenda item
- Beginning to look at post-BRAVA steps, e.g. Generic Options and ODA
- All English and Welsh companies had provided updated implementation plans to Ofwat

### 4. Updates on the policy context

Steering Group members provided updates on the key developments since the last meeting:

- Rob Wesley noted that despite the political and policy uncertainty, DWMP implementation was being taken forward at pace by the water industry
- Grant Gahagan reported on the publication of responses to Defra consultation on making DWMPs statutory (amongst other matters) and that responses had supported this; it remained Defra's policy intention for DWMPs to become statutory for their second cycle.
- Dominic Scott advised that Welsh Government's policy intention was similar, for second round DWMPs to be statutory
- Jonathan Hunter advised that there had been lots of responses to the FCERM Strategy Consultation. The intended timeline was for the draft strategy to be laid before Parliament in December, for publication in the spring of 2020. Headlines from responses were that there was strong support for the three key ambitions but with differing views on pace and scale; a stronger link between the strategy and DWMPs had been recommended by Water UK.
- It was noted that in addition to the FCERM strategy, a Defra Policy Statement on flooding was expected, but the timing of this was uncertain.

**Action: Grant Gahagan to confirm timescale of Defra Policy Statement**

## 5. 'Working Together' guide to DWMPs

Gian Illari (Atkins) presented on the development of the 'Working Together' guide to DWMPs, including the extensive involvement of a Sub-Group of Steering Group members and 'Road Testing' of the draft document carried out by Steering Group members.

The Steering Group welcomed the 'Working Together' guide as meeting the aim of providing a more engaging basis for discussions on DWMPs than the full framework documents.

The Steering Group noted that it would be beneficial to more clearly demonstrate the shared ownership of the DWMP Framework, for example by including the logos of sponsoring organisations or giving greater prominence to the names of sponsoring organisations on the cover of the document.

It was though agreed that investigating these options should be done in a timely manner, to avoid delaying the publication and use of the guide. Water UK agreed to investigate further, noting that from previous experience securing clearance for the use of logos on the document might not be a straightforward or quick process.

The Steering Group agreed that logos should only be used on the document if all sponsoring organisations were able to quickly secure approval to use their logos; if not, an alternative approach should be used to highlight the broad sponsorship of the DWMP framework.

The Steering Group also discussed how the guide could be promoted and used, and recognised the need for steering group members to play an active role in doing so.

### Actions:

- All sponsoring partners to investigate whether they would be able to release their logo for use on the guide, and if so, send a copy of their logo with the relevant approvals to John Spence by Thursday 19 September
- If all sponsoring organisations were able to provide their logo to this deadline, these would be incorporated into the document prior to publication; if not, greater prominence would be given to the names of sponsoring organisations
- When finalised, Water UK to publish the Working Together guide, and circulate to the Steering Group
- Jonathan Hunter to arrange dissemination via the six monthly FCERM Forum monthly update and RFCC meeting papers
- Max Tant and Rob Wesley to present the new document at the next ADEPT meeting
- Max Tant to suggest further LGA/ADA contacts to facilitate dissemination
- Andrew Hagger to facilitate sharing the document via the CIWEM UDG
- Water UK to consider other suggestions for dissemination e.g a standard slide set

## 6. Engagement

Steering group members provided updates on engagement on DWMPs.

## **7. Establishing shared expectations**

The Steering Group returned to a question considered at the previous meeting, the process following publication by companies of Draft DWMPs in summer 2022, and the expectations that regulatory/governmental stakeholders would have of these plans.

It was agreed that this topic needed further consideration, including how best to avoid or mitigate the risk of a disconnect between the expectations of stakeholders involved in the production and co-creation of DWMPs, and the eventual outcome of subsequent regulatory processes.

It was agreed that this should be taken forward by a sub-group of the Steering Group, and the full Steering Group updated at the next meeting.

**Action: Defra to convene a Sub Group to consider this further, involving Welsh Government, EA, NIC, Ofwat, NRW and Water UK**

## **8. Delivering together**

The Steering Group discussed opportunities for organisations to work more closely together on DWMPs, and some of the barriers to overcome. The potential for jointly commissioning modelling was highlighted by the Environment Agency; it was agreed to investigate this further through a Task and Finish Group, chaired by Jonathan Hunter (Environment Agency).

### **Actions:**

- **Steering Group members to provide nominations for representatives to form a Modelling Procurement Task and Finish Group to John Spence.**
- **Jonathan Hunter to draft ToR for T&FG**

## **9. Stakeholder views**

Steering Group members recognised the progress that had been made on DWMP implementation, and noting that the new 'Working Together' document opened up new opportunities for engagement.

## **10. Presentation of BRAVA outputs**

Water UK presented initial thinking developed by a Task and Finish Group comprised of members of the DWMP Implementation Group on how the outputs of the BRAVA process could be presented, and sought input from members of the Steering Group.

The initial thinking was informed by two objectives – for companies and local/regional stakeholders, the outputs will identify the current and future challenges that will need to be addressed by DWMPs, enabling effort to be focused; for national stakeholders, the outputs could inform a 'state of the nation' assessment, to inform policy considerations and the policy steers for the first cycle of DWMPs.

The initial work by the DWMP Implementation Group had highlighted a number of questions – the appropriate balance between standardisation and local flexibility, the appropriate geographical level to present outputs, and which planning objectives (metrics) should outputs be provided for. It was noted that one presentation format would be unlikely to satisfy all needs; a combination of approaches, such as data tables combined with spatial representation for easier visualisation, may be needed.

Steering Group members found the initial thinking on how BRAVA outputs could be presented helpful, and expressed willingness to participate in developing this thinking further, for discussion at the next Steering Group member.

**Actions:**

- **Steering Group members interested in participating in developing the thinking on BRAVA outputs further to contact John Spence**
- **More developed thinking to be presented to the next meeting**

## **11. Proposed change to the DWMP Framework**

The Steering Group considered a technical amendment to the published DWMP Framework that had been proposed by the DWMP Implementation Group to resolve an issue identified by companies as they had sought to implement the Framework.

The proposed change related to ensuring that the approach used in the Risk Base Catchment Screening stage of DWMPs for dry weather flow compliance is consistent with the approach that will be used for future Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) reporting.

The Steering Group approved the proposed change, subject to correcting a minor typo.

**Action: John Spence to correct typo and arrange for the Framework documents to be updated.**

## **12. Future meetings**

The Steering Group agreed that the format of six-monthly meetings had worked well for 2019 and should be repeated in 2020.

**Action: John Spence to arrange DWMP Steering Group meetings for 2020 (March and September)**

**Post meeting note:** dates of next meetings are Thursday 5 March 2020 and Thursday 24 September 2020.

## **13. AOB**

Steering Group members sought clarification on two points:

a) Whether marine outfalls were captured by DWMPs? Yes; although marine outfalls are not specifically named in the Framework, neither are any other type of specific asset group but all relevant assets are captured.

b) Whether DWMPs covered surface water sewers? Yes