

Date and time: 10:30 Thursday 5 March 2020

Meeting: DWMP Steering Group Meeting

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



Minutes of 5 March 2020 DWMP Steering Group meeting

Attendees

Yvette de Garis (Deputy Chair), Thames Water
Andy Adams, Southern Water
Richard Behan, South West Water
Alice Cardew, United Utilities
Kieran Downey, Scottish Water
Alison Edwards, Welsh Water
Vicky Farwig, Wessex Water
Steve Foster, Environment Agency
Grant Gahagan, Defra
Paul Grabham, Welsh Water
Steve Grebby, CCW
Phil Hulme, Environment Agency
Paul Hurcombe, Severn Trent Water
Gian Illari, Atkins
Adrian Lee, Northumbrian Water
Victoria Lemmon, Anglian Water
Sian Padfield, Thames Water

Deborah Redfearn, Yorkshire Water (by phone)
Kevin Ridout, Ofwat
Hisham Sabbagh, Defra
John Spence, Programme Manager
Jackie Sullens, Defra
Max Tant, ADEPT
Geraint Weber, NRW
Rob Wesley, Water UK

Apologies

Alex Codd, Hull City Council
Orla Crothers, Northern Ireland Water
Dominic Scott, Welsh Government
Mark Worsfold (Chair), South West Water

1. Welcome and introductions

Yvette de Garis (Deputy Chair of DWMP Steering Group) welcomed attendees to the third of the six-monthly (post framework publication) DWMP Steering Group meetings.

2. Actions and matters arising from last meeting (12/09/19)

All actions from the meeting in September had largely been completed or were covered under other agenda items. In relation to actions not covered under other items:

Timing of Defra Policy Statement on flooding: Grant Gahagan advised that owing to the intervening election, timescales had been revised and that the publication would now take the form of a Flood Policy Plan. Timing was uncertain; the DWMP Steering Group would be advised once clearer.

Dissemination of 'working together guide to DWMPs:

Rob Wesley noted that a short presentation using Water UK branding had been developed for the presentation to ADEPT, which could be converted into an un-branded version that other stakeholders could adapt. Steve Foster, on behalf of Jonathan Hunter, noted that dissemination via FCERM Forum updates and RFCC meeting papers would take place at a later date. Andrew Hagger noted that the Working Together document would be promoted at the 18 March CIWEM UDG national event.

Establishing shared expectations

Jackie Sullens advised that it was the intention of Defra to produce a high-level guiding principles document for DWMPs. This document would be drafted collaboratively with Ofwat and the Environment Agency and would be the subject of a Steering Group sub -group workshop with the water industry.

Joint Modelling Procurement Task and Finish Group

It was noted that the need for this Task and Finish Group was unclear; Steve Foster to investigate.

Actions:

- **Water UK to circulate an unbranded version of the ‘working together’ presentation**
- **Steve Foster to confirm timescales for dissemination via the FCERM Forum update and RFCC meeting papers**
- **Grant Gahagan to confirm timescale for Flood Policy Plan**
- **Hisham Sabbagh to arrange a workshop for Steering Group sub-group to consider the high-level principles document, with the aim of establishing shared expectations**
- **Steve Foster to establish whether the EA still consider that the need exists for a Joint Modelling Procurement Task and Finish group, and if so, provide a draft Terms of Reference**

3. DWMP Implementation Update

Yvette de Garis gave an overview of progress on DWMP implementation. All companies were continuing to develop their DWMPs and engage with their local/regional stakeholders, with the DWMP Implementation Group continuing to act as a ‘self-help’ group of water company practitioners to share learning experiences and best practice. The RBCS dataset had been shared with the Steering Group in December 2019, and there had been greater involvement of Steering Group members in work between meetings e.g. socialising the release of the ‘Working Together’ document and reviewing initial outputs of the BRAVA Task and Finish Group.

Industry thinking on presenting BRAVA outputs have been developed further, as had thinking on the post-BRAVA stages of Generic Options and ODA. A log had also been established to capture issues that should be reviewed after the first cycle of DWMPs had been produced. Contributions from all Steering Group members would be welcome; it was noted that the ‘Future Developments’ document produced at the same time as the original DWMP Framework might be helpful in this regard.

Action: Issues to review after the first cycle of DWMPs should be provided to John Spence

4. Policy Updates

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

- Jackie Sullens noted that Environment Bill had been reintroduced into Parliament (2nd reading 10 March; six Committee stage hearings planned before Parliament rose on 31 March).
- Rob Wesley advised that Water UK had been invited to present evidence at the Committee Stage and in relation to DWMPs, key points were that the Bill as it stands only has obligations for water companies (in relation to DWMPs) whereas it would be beneficial for other RMAs to also have obligations within the DWMP statutory framework, and the different terminology used in the Bill
- Grant Gahagan described how the Environment Bill uses the term 'DSMPs' rather than DWMPs to be consistent with the Water Industry Act. He also commented that the issue of collaboration is being handled via an amendment to the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act. Jackie Sullens noted that if the Bill was enacted, the statutory status of DWMPs would be implemented via regulations after the first cycle had been completed
- Steve Foster updated the Steering Group on the FCERM Strategy. Following the December 2019 consultation, the language had been strengthened regarding linkages between FCERM and DWMPs, resilience and climate change. The Strategy was with the Secretary of State for approval and the intention was for it to be laid before Parliament before Easter
- Geraint Weber advised that the statutory status of DWMPs in Wales will be broadly in line with the approach taken by Defra and that Welsh Government are currently updating their Water Strategy
- Kevin Ridout noted that all companies had submitted DWMP timetables in line with Ofwat's initial assessments of company business plans, which had called for companies to provide a plan for producing DWMPs in August 2019, including a timetable for producing a draft DWMP by the summer of 2022 and a final DWMP by early 2023. Kevin referred to a letter from Thames Water received 4 March with a query relating to the final plan publication date. Whilst this letter would receive a response in due course, he referred to a 'working assumption' of early 2023 with another working assumption of PR24 Business Plans being submitted in September 2023. Broad expectations were set out in the Performance Commitments for four companies in terms of evidence and prioritisation.

Action: As NIC were unable to attend the meeting, Rob Wesley to seek an update

Post meeting note: Following helpful discussions with NIC, NIC will be joining the call arranged for 4 May (see item 6)

5. Progress since last meeting

RBCS Data Release Review

John Spence presented an overview of the RBCS data that had been shared with stakeholders in December 2019. Noted that RBCS is a preliminary step towards producing DWMPs, to identify which catchments need focussed effort due to there being an identified risk or vulnerability which requires further investigation through the 'BRAVA' process.

Indicative expectations shared in March 2019 with the Steering Group suggested that on average around 60% of catchments, covering over 98% of connected population equivalent, would trigger BRAVA.

Outcomes shared in December 2019 showed 63% of catchments, covering 91% of connected population

equivalent, triggered BRAVA. Companies would be carrying out annual 'light touch' reviews of level 3 catchments, focussing on known changes to catchments, with full reviews every five years.

Steering Group members welcomed RBCS data share in December. Specific comments included:

- Phil Hulme noted that the RBCS exercise only considered supported elements of the WINEP and suggested that in the BRAVA stage both supported and unsupported elements should be considered. The rationale being that although not supported at PR19 through lack of evidence they could be back at PR24 with a stronger evidence base.
- Kevin Ridout queried whether the RBCS outputs gave an indication of work to be done. In response, it was noted that the outputs from RBCS were not at a sufficient level of detail to determine resources requirement and hence cost. For example, when passing to BRAVA there were different levels of complexity which had differing resources requirements.
- Phil Hulme noted that there was a difference between England and Wales owing to a different approach to L3 being taken in Wales.

'Working Together' guide – Publication and use for engagement

Rob Wesley and Max Tant reported that the new guide, being more engaging than the full Framework Document, had been useful in their joint presentation to ADEPT. Max Tant noted that the scale of the DWMP task many not yet be fully appreciated by the local authority community and that engagement now needs to be local rather than national. Vicky Farwig reported that Wessex Water had recently held a formal launch of DWMPs with 45 attendees including all LLFAs. The session was used to gain feedback on Planning Objectives

Steve Grebby suggested that water companies share feedback from their launch events especially relating to Planning Objectives; Phil Hulme noted the benefits of doing things once on a national basis.

Action: DWMP Implementation Group to collate feedback on Planning Objectives

6. BRAVA Task & Finish Group ('What's the Gap?')

Adrian Lee, Chair of the BRAVA Task & Finish Group, presented the further work on BRAVA outputs since the September Steering Group meeting, focussing in particular on the development of industry-wide Planning Objectives and their presentation, while also touching on company bespoke Planning Objectives.

The Task & Finish Group had held a helpful meeting with stakeholders on 14 February to test initial thinking and further work had been progressed taking on board stakeholder feedback. In summary the proposed industry-wide national Planning Objectives were now:

Current baseline:

Pollution incidents, WwTW compliance, internal sewer flooding, risk in a 1 in 50-year storm (common resilience measure), sewer collapses and CSO performance

2050:

WwTW compliance, risk in a 1 in 50-year storm (common resilience measure) and CSO performance
In discussion, points made included:

- It would be helpful to understand how BRAVA uses the RBCS outputs; for example could a table be produced showing which RBCS criteria feed into BRAVA Planning Objectives
- There would be benefits in having consistency across bespoke planning objectives where possible – although this would need to be balanced with the need to reflect the views of local stakeholders, who may have interest in locally specific planning objectives
- While the 1 in 50 metric was common across the water industry, other RMAs use other return periods e.g. 1 in 20 and 1 in 70 are more common, with mapping usually at 1 in 30 and 1 in 100.
- The proposed inclusion of a CSO performance planning objective was welcomed given the high profile of issues related to CSOs
- Interest was shown by Steering Group members in what BRAVA mapping could look like at the local level, Level 3
- In addition to a meeting for companies and stakeholders on BRAVA planned for 8 June, an earlier meeting would be beneficial

Actions:

- BRAVA Task & Finish Group to produce a table mapping RBCS criteria to BRAVA Planning Objectives
- BRAVA Task & Finish Group to provide an example of BRAVA mapping at Level 3
- A further meeting on BRAVA for companies and stakeholders to be arranged

Post meeting note: additional call arranged for 4 May 2020

7. Generic options & ODA ('What interventions could be implemented?')

Sian Padfield presented on the on how the work in this area had been progressed since the last Steering Group meeting in September. It was noted that Framework lists 15 Generic Options (GOs), grouped into 4 themes. The task and finish group has expanded this to around 40 GOs; this list is draft only as it has not yet been tested with the full range of stakeholders, and companies anticipate further refinement as they consult with stakeholders and roll out optioneering. While the Framework states that companies can produce their own GOs, there was found in practice to be much commonality between companies.

Action: Comments on or additions to Generic options to be provided by 19 March

8. Next Steps and date of next meeting

In addition to the actions noted above, key next steps were noted as further development of BRAVA prior to sharing of outputs in December 2020; further development of the approach to generic options and ODA; and development of a high-level principles document by the Defra-led sub-group. Noted that the next meeting of the Steering Group would be 24 September 2020.