

Date and time: 10:00 Thursday 24 September 2020

Meeting held by MS Teams: DWMP Steering Group



Minutes of September 2020 DWMP Steering Group Meeting

Attendees

Mark Worsfold (Chair), South West Water
Yvette de Garis (Deputy Chair), Thames Water
Andy Adams, Southern Water
Nick Adjei, Ofwat
Ed Beard, Defra
Richard Behan, South West Water
Alice Cardew, United Utilities
Alex Codd, Hull City Council
Orla Crothers, Northern Ireland Water
Kieran Downey, Scottish Water
Alison Edwards, Welsh Water
Vicky Farwig, Wessex Water
Steve Foster, Environment Agency
Grant Gahagan, Defra
Steve Grebby, CCW
Chris Hall, NRW
Paul Harrison, Welsh Government
Phil Hulme, Environment Agency

Paul Hurcombe, Severn Trent Water
Adrian Lee, Northumbrian Water
Victoria Lemmon, Anglian Water
Sian Padfield, Thames Water
Kevin Ridout, Ofwat
Chris Royce, Anglian Water
Michael Smith, Yorkshire Water
John Spence, Programme Manager
Max Tant, ADEPT
Christian Wadey, Defra
Rob Wesley, Water UK

Apologies

Martyn Andrews, Ofwat
Alice Carrington-Windo, Water UK
David Martin, Wessex Water
Deborah Redfearn, Yorkshire Water

1. Welcome and introductions

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

2. Actions and matters arising from last meeting (05/03/20)

All actions from the meeting in March had been completed or were covered under other agenda items with the exception of:

Steve Foster to confirm timescales for dissemination via the FCERM Forum update and RFCC meeting papers

Steve Foster advised that this would form part of the next update in November.

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

Steve Foster reported that there was still a potential need for this group and would discuss further with JS following the meeting.

Rob Wesley noted that Matt Crossman and Francis Heil, both former members of the DWMP Steering Group, had now left the NIC and that a successor had yet to be appointed. In the meantime, Water UK would liaise with Giles Stevens, Head of Policy at NIC.

Actions:

- **John Spence to discuss potential need for a joint modelling procurement group with Steve Foster**
- **Water UK to brief NIC**

3. DWMP Implementation Update

Mark Worsfold gave an update of progress on DWMP implementation:

- All companies continuing to develop their DWMPs with the DWMP Implementation Group acting as a 'self-help' group of water company practitioners to share learning experiences & best practice
- Sharing different approaches (driven by COVID-19) to Stakeholder Engagement e.g. Web Portals and Virtual Workshops rather than the more usual Face to Face Workshops
- Shared the 6 finalised BRAVA Common Planning Objectives with the DWMP Steering Group and published on the Water UK website
- Shared BRAVA Bespoke Planning Objectives with DWMP Steering Group stakeholders
- Continued tracking of COVID-19 impacts
- Capturing issues for early consideration in the Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review
- Further development of BRAVA data table formats and visualisations
- Further development of Generic Options and ODA areas

Kevin Ridout noted that the timeline slide, taken from the original published Framework document, indicated that final DWMPs would be published in Q2 2023 whereas Ofwat's deadline remains 31 March 2023.

4. Guiding Principles for DWMPs

Ed Beard (Defra) introduced the draft document 'Guiding Principles for DWMPs', which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The aim of this document is to set out the joint expectations for DWMPs of the respective Governments and Regulators in England and Wales, noting that there are some differences between expectations in England and Wales. The document recognises that establishing DWMPs is a journey that will continue over several cycles, and that while the lead role in developing plans is for water companies, they will be better plans if all RMAs, and other relevant parties, are also involved.

Feedback was now being sought from the DWMP Steering Group; to date the document had not been shared with other UK Government departments.

In discussion, the following points were noted:

- Having a document setting out joint governmental and regulatory expectations, and this document being available at this stage in the process, was welcome
- Recognised that DWMPs are a journey and like WRMPs will evolve over several cycles also helpful
- Recognition that to be successful DWMPs will need involvement from all RMA's welcome; suggested that the document would be more impactful if there was a stronger message regarding the need for all RMA's to allocate sufficient resources into participating in the DWMP process
- Expectation that across RMA's and different regions, organisations outside of the water sector would be at different stages of awareness of, engagement with and commitment to the process, particularly with the first cycle being non-statutory
- Suggested that a short summary highlighting the benefits from engaging, and case studies, may be helpful (the [Working together](#) document could be drawn on)
- Clarity required on whether capital maintenance should be primarily covered through the price review process or DWMPs; expectation that the price review process would be more appropriate and that DWMPs would adopt a similar approach to WRMPs
- Noted that some environmental stakeholders had limited capacity to engage with DWMPs (and other planning processes) and in some cases have sought funding from water companies
- Requested that references to CSOs were replaced with 'storm overflows' to align with other communications, including the storm overflows task force

Actions:

- **All to provide feedback to Ed Beard on the document by 31 October**

5. Policy Update

Ed Beard updated the DWMP Steering Group on the formation of the Storm Overflow Task Force. This reflected stakeholder and public interest in the topic, and was intended to address questions of what to do next about storm overflows, recognising that what was acceptable in the past may not be as acceptable now or in the future. Questions to be addressing included what should the destination be, over what timescale, and at what cost. The task force is currently early in its work; a statement is expected later in the year.

6. Impact of COVID-19

John Spence provided an update on the impact of the COVID-19 on the DWMP Programme. Since April, companies have tracked on a monthly basis the impacts on DWMP implementation. The most significant impacts continue to be related to stakeholder engagement, with face to face engagement not being possible and some stakeholders having limited capacity and capability to engage. Mitigation measures

include virtual workshops and using online resources.

Approaches to customer engagement were discussed; Welsh Water offer to share the 'willingness to support' results from their early customer engagement.

Action:

- **Alison Edwards to provide 'Willingness to Support' results to John Spence for circulation**

7. Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review

John Spence presented an outline proposal for a Joint Working Group to begin a review of lessons learned in Cycle 1 of DWMPs, to be used to inform and enhance Cycle 2. The starting point would be the Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Log which has been used to capture items raised by companies implementing the Framework and stakeholders.

Mark Worsfold commented that one of the issues that the Review Group should examine is accommodating unexpected events (e.g. COVID-19) looking at the sensitivity to these events and changed behaviours.

John Spence requested volunteers from the DWMP Steering Group stakeholder representatives to join the proposed Joint Working Group.

Action:

- **Stakeholder members wishing to participate in the Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Joint Working Group to contact John Spence**

8. BRAVA Task & Finish Group 'What's the Gap?'

Adrian Lee (Chair of the BRAVA T&F G) provided an update, including a preview of the format of BRAVA outputs (data tables and spatial representations). The work programme was on target to deliver BRAVA outputs by December 2020.

Phil Hulme queried whether the national spatial map would be consistent if thresholds were established locally. Adrian Lee responded that as data was not yet available there had been no opportunity to assess the opportunity for consistency in this first cycle.

Actions:

- **BRAVA T&FG to consider opportunities for threshold consistency when Cycle 1 data is available**
- **Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Group to consider opportunities for greater consistency for cycle 2**

9. Generic options & ODA Task & Finish Group

‘What interventions could be implemented?’

Sian Padfield (Chair of Generic Options & ODA T&FG) provided an update, covering how stakeholder feedback from the March DWMPSPG on Generic Options had been incorporated, an introduction to screening frameworks and next steps. Stakeholder members of the Steering Group stakeholders were invited to work with the group in the New Year to discuss deriving best value solutions.

Action:

- **Stakeholder members wishing to participate in the work of the Generic Options & ODA T&FG to contact John Spence**

10.AOB

Mark Worsfold suggested that there was a need to incorporate the outputs of the Storm Overflows Task Force into DWMPs and that this would be a good topic for the March 2021 Steering Group agenda.

Steve Grebby encouraged companies to liaise with their local CCW teams on customer engagement, and Steve Foster suggested that a one-page summary of the process for engaging with DWMPs would be helpful.

Actions:

- **Storm overflows task force outputs to be included on the agenda of the next meeting**
- **Stakeholder members wishing to participate in the work of the Generic Options & ODA T&FG to contact John Spence**
- **Companies to liaise with their respective local CCW teams on customer engagement**
- **Steve Foster to provide a draft of a one-page summary of the process for engaging with DWMPs**

11.Next meetings

As for 2020, steering group meetings would be held in March and September, dates to be arranged.

Post meeting note

Dates of next meetings:

- **11 March 2021**
- **23 September 2021**