

Date and time: 10:30 Thursday 11 March 2021

Meeting held by MS Teams: DWMP Steering Group



Minutes of March 2021 DWMP Steering Group Meeting

Attendees

Mark Worsfold (Chair), South West Water
Yvette de Garis (Deputy Chair), Thames Water
Andy Adams, Southern Water
Ed Beard, NIC
Alice Cardew, United Utilities
Orla Crothers, Northern Ireland Water
Kieran Downey, Scottish Water
Alison Edwards, Welsh Water
Hannah Freeman, Blueprint
Steve Grebby, CCW
Christopher Hall, NRW
Paul Harrison, Welsh Government
Paul Hurcombe, Severn Trent Water
Mark Jacob, South West Water
Alex Lane, Environment Agency
Adrian Lee, Northumbrian Water
David Martin, Wessex Water
Sian Padfield, Thames Water

Deborah Redfearn, Yorkshire Water
Kevin Ridout, Ofwat
Jennie Seymour, Ofwat
John Spence, Programme Manager
Jackie Sullens, Defra
Max Tant, ADEPT
Rob Wesley, Water UK
Daniel Williams, NRW

Apologies

Rob Collins, Blueprint
Phil Hulme, Environment Agency
Victoria Lemmon, Anglian

1. Welcome and introductions

Mark Worsfold (Chair of DWMP Steering Group) welcomed attendees to the fifth of the six-monthly (post framework publication) DWMP Steering Group meetings, including new (or returning) representatives Jackie Sullens (Defra), Ed Beard (NIC), Alex Lane (EA) and Jennie Seymour (Ofwat). The group expressed its appreciation to Kevin Ridout, on his retirement from Ofwat, for his contributions to the development of DWMPs from the start of the journey.

2. Actions and matters arising from last meeting (24/09/20)

All actions from the meeting in September had been completed or were covered under other agenda items with the exception of the two actions below, which Alex Lane agreed to carry forward:

Actions

- Alex Lane to confirm timetable for dissemination via FCERM Forum update and RFCC meeting papers
- Alex Lane 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

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
- Companies had been determined to maintain progress and deliver the BRAVA outputs by December 2020 as planned, despite the serious implications of COVID-19 restrictions
- Shared BRAVA Outputs of the 6 Common Planning Objectives with DWMP Steering Group as planned in December 2020 (Spatial Visualisations and Data Tables)
- Shared BRAVA company methodologies for determining thresholds of the 6 Common Planning Objectives with Defra and the Environment Agency in February 2021
- Continued tracking of COVID-19 impacts
- Developed ODA work programme
- Developed Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Group draft Terms of Reference

4. Policy Update

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

- Jackie Sullens noted that the Environment Bill had been paused at the Report stage, but was due to recommence shortly (date tbc, likely to be May/June)
- In addition, comments from the Steering Group on the 'Guiding Principles for DWMPs' had been taken on board; the aim is to produce the final version shortly
- Rob Wesley noted the continued high-profile of issues related to storm overflows, and the ongoing work of the Storm Overflows Task Force, with an [announcement](#) in January relating to shorter term actions around data and longer-term ambitions, and the establishment of a Storm Overflows Evidence Project (project managed by John Spence) to build an evidence base to inform government decisions on the level of ambition and timescales for addressing storm overflows.
- It was noted in discussion that it would be important for any steers from government arising from this work to be provided in sufficient time for companies to be able to incorporate them into their plans, and that it is important for customer views on the level of ambition and pace to be considered, given the impact on customer bills.
- Ed Beard updated the group on the NIC's plans for a second National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA2). This would build on the initial assessment (NIA1); the scope of NIA2 is being finalised but is likely to be narrower than for NIA1; surface water management is a likely focus area.

- The initial output towards NIA2 is planned to be a 'baseline assessment' in autumn 2021, with the aim of publishing NIA2 in autumn 2023.
- It was noted in discussion that this timeline presented some challenges in relation to DWMPs and the water sector price review process in that the baseline assessment would be in advance of draft DWMPs being produced for summer 2022, and NIA2 would be likely to coincide with PR24 Business Plan submission.
- Rob Wesley noted that, as with Storm Overflows, there was a need to consider how timelines could be aligned as far as possible, and that it would be helpful to explore this further with relevant stakeholders.
- Alex Lane updated the group on the development of an Action Plan to take forward the [National FCERM Strategy for England](#).
- The Environment Agency has been engaging with stakeholders, including Water UK and water companies to develop the Action Plan, with the aim of publishing it in April 2021; a proposed action of particular relevance is one arising from Measure 2.7.1, to assess the degree to which all RMAs are working together to contribute towards the development of DWMPs.
- Rob Wesley highlighted two recent Water UK publications – the [Net Zero 2030 Routemap](#) and a discussion paper on [Developing a 2050 Vision for the Water Sector](#)

Actions

- Jackie Sullens to advise on the publication date of 'Guiding Principles for DWMPs' once finalised
- Water UK to discuss with stakeholders (in particular NIC and Defra) how best to manage the potential challenges related to the respective timelines for the delivery of the first cycle of DWMPs and a) the development of NIA2 and b) the outcomes from the Storm Overflow Taskforce
- Alex Lane to share the link with John Spence on publication of the FCERM Strategy Action Plan
- Any feedback on the Water UK consultation on 'Developing a 2050 Vision for the Water Sector' to be provided to Water UK by 31 March 2021

5. Impact of COVID-19

John Spence provided an update on the impact of the COVID-19 on the DWMP Programme. Since April 2020, 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.

6. Reflections on BRAVA

Adrian Lee, chair of the BRAVA Task and Finish Group, provided reflections on the BRAVA process and the BRAVA outputs that had been shared with the DWMP Steering Group in December 2020. Whilst 2020 had been a challenging year (in terms of COVID-19 impacts) there had been a determination to produce the BRAVA outputs by the original deadline.

7. Options Development & Appraisal (ODA)

Sian Padfield and Paul Hurcombe outlined plans for the ODA Task & Finish Group, including the programme of work throughout 2021 leading to the completion of the ODA phase in December 2021. As part of this programme of work, stakeholder members of Steering Group would be meeting with the ODA T&FG quarterly to engage in, and provide input to, work of the group; this input is welcomed and appreciated by the T&FG.

8. Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review

John Spence outlined the proposed Terms of Reference for the Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Group. The context for the establishment of this group is that the creation of DWMPs is a journey, and DWMPs will be developed and improved over successive cycles; there is therefore a need for all stakeholders involved in DWMPs to capture learning from cycle 1 and to review lessons learned in good time for Cycle 2.

In discussion, it was suggested that a further phase of work would be useful, to capture learning points beyond the consultation process on DWMPs. Jackie Sullens noted that the Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Group would be useful in preparing for the transition to a statutory basis for DWMP and informing the Regulations for Cycle 2.

Action

- Any further comments on the draft Terms of Reference to be provided by 19 March

9. DWMP Framework Change Proposal

John Spence introduced Change Proposal 'J' for approval by the Steering Group. The purpose of this technical proposal was to amend the original published date for DWMP publication of Q2 2023 to the revised date of 31 March 2023. The Steering Group approved the change.

Action

- Water UK to arrange for the DWMP Framework to be updated with the revised publication date

10. Next steps and date of next meeting

Mark Worsfold outlined the next steps in implementing DWMPs for Cycle 1. Companies will continue to progress the ODA stage, supported by the ODA T&FG, which will have quarterly meetings with stakeholders during 2021. Joint work on the cycle 1 to cycle 2 review will commence, and COVID-19 impacts will continue to be tracked. Given the collaborative nature of DWMPs, all DWMP Steering Group members were asked to encourage their respective communities to continue to engage in the DWMP process.

Date of next meeting

- 23 September 2021