

Date and time: 12:30 Thursday 23 September 2021

Meeting held by MS Teams: DWMP Steering Group



# Minutes of September 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  
Alison Edwards, Welsh Water  
Steve Foster, Environment Agency  
Rebecca Frost, Defra  
Steve Grebby, CCW  
Phil Hulme, Environment Agency  
Jonathan Hunter, Environment Agency  
Paul Hurcombe, Severn Trent Water  
Mark Jacob, South West Water  
Alex Lane, Environment Agency  
Adrian Lee, Northumbrian Water

Victoria Lemmon, Anglian  
David Martin, Wessex Water  
Sian Padfield, Thames Water  
Deborah Redfearn, Yorkshire Water  
Juan Scouller, Defra  
Jennie Seymour, Ofwat  
John Spence, Programme Manager  
Giles Stevens, NIC  
Max Tant, ADEPT  
Geraint Webber, NRW  
Rob Wesley, Water UK

## Apologies

Simon Carey, Defra  
Kieran Downey, Scottish Water  
Hannah Freeman, Blueprint  
Neil Ogilvie, South West Water  
Jackie Sullens, Defra

## 1. Welcome

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

## 2. Minutes and Actions from last meeting (11/03/21)

All actions from the meeting of 11 March 2021 were on track or were covered under items on the main agenda.

### 3. DWMP Implementation Update

Mark Worsfold gave an update of progress on DWMP implementation, noting the progress since the last meeting:

- 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
- Continued tracking of COVID-19 impacts
- Final Draft version of 'Guiding Principles for DWMPs' circulated
- DWMP RMA Engagement Survey carried out
- ODA work programme progressing, including quarterly meetings with national stakeholders
- Established Phase 1 Working Groups A to D within the Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Group and commenced work

Mark also noted that the development of the first cycle of DWMPs was entering a critical phase with high stakeholder expectations and the public prominence of DWMPs increasing, including in Parliamentary debates and Committee hearings.

While it is important to recognise that the development of DWMPs will be a journey over several cycles, it will be important to maintain focus on delivery of the first cycle and to be clear about required outputs. To aid this, Mark proposed to move from bi-annual to quarterly meetings of the DWMP Steering Group; the Steering Group agreed this would be appropriate.

#### Action

**Quarterly DWMP Steering Group meetings to be arranged for 2022 (Complete)**

### 4. Policy Update

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

- Rebecca Frost noted that the open consultation on the draft Strategic Policy Statement (deadline 27 September, subsequently extended to 15 October). The publication of the 'Guiding Principles for DWMPs' was expected shortly.
- Juan Scouller noted the progress of the Environment Bill, including amendments on duties on Government to publish a plan for Storm Overflows by 1 September 2022 and to report on progress and the elimination of harm; duties on WaSCs and the EA to publish data; and two further amendments which would require WaSCs to provide real time EDM data on Storm Overflows and to monitor water quality impact

Juan Scouller also noted the public and political attention that Storm Overflows continued to receive. Defra wishes to see significant progress at the next Price Review; improvements in frequency and

harm should be prioritised and targeted. Additional guidance would be provided to WaSCs in January 2022, which was likely to reflect a prioritised approach; Juan outlined Defra's current thinking.

It was noted that companies were looking at scenarios but in order for companies to plan it was imperative to understand potential targets and have early visibility of them. Juan Scouller recognised this, and also noted that catchment and nature-based approaches would be encouraged. It was noted that the green infrastructure can be higher cost than traditional solutions, albeit for higher benefits. It was also noted that engagement between Defra and the Welsh Government is ongoing.

- Jennie Seymour shared Ofwat's thinking on the interaction between DWMPs and Price Reviews, noting the informal engagement with companies planned in February to April 2022. Guidance for PR24 on strategic planning frameworks (e.g. WRMPs and DWMPs) would be issued by Ofwat in the autumn which would include expectations as well as guidance on how to evidence the plans. This will include adaptive planning, as part of Ofwat looking at PR24 in the context of longer-term plans. In discussion, it was noted that there may be a need for flexibility and potential refocussing between summer 2022 draft DWMPs and Business Plans.
- Giles Stevens noted the NIC's development of the second National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA2), planned for September 2023. NIA2 would be preceded by a Baseline Report in autumn 2021 which would include coverage of water, flooding and waste. This would highlight specific challenges, including surface water, would be taken forward including a call for evidence consultation (expected to be in November). Surface water will feature in this process. Expert and expert panels are assisting the thinking on themes and challenges. Giles Stevens also acknowledged the timing tensions between NIA2 and the Price Review process. Mark Worsfold commented that we would need to understand any data requirements for NIA2 and coordinate activity as appropriate.
- Jonathan Hunter suggested that in view of time he would circulate his update on the FCERM Action Plan outside of the meeting

#### Actions

- **Jonathan Hunter to circulate an FCERM Action Plan update outside of the meeting (Complete)**
- **Water UK and NIC to discuss any data requirements related to NIA2**

## 5. DWMP Engagement Survey

As part of taking forward actions arising from the FCERM Strategy, the Environment Agency, in co-ordination with Defra, Ofwat and Water UK, had carried out a 'pulse' survey in a three-week window in July, to gain initial insights into engagement on DWMPs across all RMAs. It was noted that in a follow-up survey next year, a different approach may be taken to seek to increase response rates across RMAs, and it was also suggested that the next survey could be broadened to include customer groups. A question was raised on whether it was possible to share who had responded to the survey; this would be checked.

Results from the survey were outlined by Alex Lane and recommendations arising were highlighted:

- a) A summary of good practice examples of engagement in the DWMP process should be developed and shared between WaSCs and RMAs
- b) Sharing good practice on data sharing between RMAs should be captured
- c) Guidance on how co-developed solutions from the DWMP could lead to co-funded and co-delivered schemes

#### Action

- EA, Water UK and Ofwat to develop approach to taking forward recommendations and keep the DWMP Steering Group updated
- Alex Lane to check if the identity of organisations responding can be shared

## 6. Options Development & Appraisal (ODA) Update

Sian Padfield and David Martin described progress by the ODA Task & Finish Group, including a presentation on 'Catchment Journeys'. A key point emerging is that any Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) needs to be pragmatic and proportionate, given the strategic nature of DWMPs. Stakeholders were asked if they could identify an example of an SEA for a strategic plan.

#### Action

- Steering Group members to identify examples of an SEA for a strategic plan

## 7. Cycle 1 to Cycle 2 Review Group (Update)

John Spence noted that the review work was being undertaken by nine Working Groups within five phases. The Phase 1 Working Groups (A to D) were live; progress was reported as below:

### Working Group A – 'Risk Assessment'

Adrian Lee reported that the group had held two meetings with the second focussing on RBCS. Indicators from other stakeholders (i.e. outside of WaSCs) were being examined. The expectation was that there would be 'small tweaks' rather than wholesale change.

### Working Group B – 'Future Research Needs'

Phil Hulme reported that with the departure of Deborah Redfearn from Yorkshire Water a new Co-Chair had been appointed (Alice Cardew). In advance of the planned first meeting of the group, a long list of potential project areas had been reviewed down to a short list; the next step was to align research programmes with others e.g. UKWIR.

### Working Group C – 'Working across RMAs'



Steve Foster reported that the group were looking at potential joint modeling approaches and shared evidence bases across RMAs. An updated ToR had been issued and the inaugural meeting was due to be set up.

#### **Working Group D – ‘Non Statutory to Statutory’**

Rebecca Frost reported that the first meeting had taken place and that a ToR and timeline were being drafted. Lessons would be learned from the WRMP process

## **8. Next steps**

Mark Worsfold outlined the next key dates as:

Ofwat guidance – November 2021  
NIC Call for Evidence – November 2021  
Storm Overflow Guidance – January 2022  
Draft DWMPs published – June 2022

#### **Dates of next meetings**

- **27 January 2022**
- **24 March 2022**
- **5 July 2022**
- **25 October 2022**

**All meetings via MS Teams from 10:30 to 12:30**