

Forth Area Advisory Group Meeting

Clearwater House, Stirling

9 October 2013

Action update & action note

Present

Ian Buchanan (IB)	SEPA, Head of Operations (SE) (Chair)
Alexa Armstrong (AA)	SEPA, River Basin Planning Co-ordinator
Shona McConnell (SM)	SEPA, River Basin Planning Co-ordinator
Colin Davidson (CD)	Midlothian Council
David Anderson (DA)	RSPB
Derek McGlashan (DM)	Forth Ports
Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN)	Perth and Kinross Council
Gordon Roger (GR)	Clackmannanshire Council
Graeme Hedger (GH)	West Lothian Council
Ian Watson (IW)	Coal Authority
Julie Dewar (JD)	City of Edinburgh Council
Neville Makan (NM)	SNH
Richard Callendar (RC)	Stirling Council
Rob Christie (RCh)	SEPA, Senior Scientist
Steve McLucas (SM)	West Lothian Council
Tom Hobbs (TH)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Vanessa Kind (VK)	SEPA
Patrick Fotheringham (PF)	Forth Fisheries Trust
Kirsten Thorburn (KT)	SEPA
Scott Callow	East Lothian Council
Alex Coull	East Lothian Council

Apologies:

Jean Squires (JS)	East Lothian Council
Chris Alcorn (CA)	West Lothian Council
Kath Leys (KL)	SNH
Keith Wishart (KW)	Forestry Commission (Scotland)
Mandy Brown (MB)	Falkirk Council
Martin McGroarty (MM)	Fife Council
Olivia Burns (OB)	Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Association
Chris Cutts (CC)	Forth Estuary Forum

The action note comprises two parts:

- 1) The update provided at the 9 October 2013 meeting on actions arising from the previous Forth AAG meeting on 13 November 2012**
- 2) Outstanding actions carried forward from 13 November 2012 meeting and new actions arising from meeting held on 9 October 2013**

1. Update of Actions from 13 November meeting 2012

Action number	Action	Owner	Date to be completed	Update
1	Local authorities to request RBMP session as and when they require one	All local authority reps	Ongoing	Ongoing Session delivered with Fife Council in January 2013. <i>Carry forward on an ongoing basis – local authorities to request as required.</i>
2	Give progress update on licence reviews undertaken/future reviews (<i>standing action</i>)	Shona McConnell	As and when information is available.	Close out Updates will be provided at key points in the process
3	Feedback AAG ideas (<i>as listed in action 4 - May 2012 meeting</i>) to SEPA's planning service regarding appropriate developer groups to deliver RBMP and planning messages presentation Speak with NAG COSLA representative in relation to incorporating RBMP messages into the Improvement Service's half day Planning Reform training programmes	Shona McConnell	March 2013	Complete Feedback passed to SEPA's Head of Planning (January 2013). Discussed at a meeting with COSLA and HoPS (March 2013). Will be considered/taken forward as part of ongoing engagement with local authorities.
4	AAG reps continue to send in photographs and grid references for fish barriers	All	Ongoing	Ongoing <i>Carry forward on an ongoing basis</i>
5	Check if Scotland's Environment web could be used to gather info on fish barriers	Shona McConnell	May 2013	Complete This is a possibility and can be explored if further interest is identified.
6	Follow up discussion/actions regarding action 7 on invasive non-native species from May 2012 meeting: Key issues identified were training inspectors on how to identify species and training for inspectors and farmers on how to tackle. SM to discuss following internally to see if could be taken forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine links with Scottish Agricultural College/find out what they are doing 	Shona McConnell	August 2013	Closed SE Web will, in time, be able to be used as gateway for inputting INNS sightings, however, this is not yet available. There are a number of invasive species apps on the market: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Bristol and CEH "Plant Tracker" app - http://planttracker.naturelocator.org/ Sealife Tracker - http://www.brc.ac.uk/sealife_tracker/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for SEARS partners to work together to address training/inspection issues Develop tools for communicating with farmers e.g. simple, visual fliers at local Auction Marts, NFU boards Check if Scotland's Environment web could be used to log information on sightings and obtain update on development of smart phone application 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AqualInvaders - http://naturelocator.org/aquainvaders.html <p>Actions relating to INNS will be taken forward by Julie Bhatti, RBMP lead.</p>
7	Follow up potential Midlothian Council funding contribution to Forth strategic INNS project (<i>carried forward from May 2012 meeting</i>)	Colin Davidson/ Patrick Fotheringham	As soon as possible	Complete Discussions were carried out relating to funding, however, no money was currently available.
8	Forth strategic INNS project - AAG need to understand why urban areas excluded from INNS project and what plans there are to drive forward works in these areas to ensure catchment approach is followed	Shona McConnell/ Patrick Fotheringham	As soon as possible	Complete River Forth Fisheries Trust provided an update paper which was presented at the meeting.
9	Circulate elected members river basin planning information sheet to local authority reps. Local authority reps to forward to member services.	Shona McConnell/All local authority reps	As soon as possible	Carry Forward Drafts have been circulated to local authority reps for approval. <i>Local Authority reps to circulate to elected members and relevant internal functions.</i>
10	Forward available pressure information on small water bodies in City of Edinburgh Council area to Caroline Peacock	Shona McConnell	As soon as possible	Complete
11	River Avon/Slammanan restoration project – feed back to steering group potential to link with River Avon Heritage Trail and CSFT	Shona McConnell	January 2013	Complete
12	Restoration Fund – all AAG members to think about potential projects. Pre-application discussions should be held with SEPA restoration specialists where possible	All AAG members	Ongoing	Ongoing
13	Forth multiple benefits project – investigate if delivering multiple benefits projects could be a future SRDP funding priority	Shona McConnell	May 2013	Complete SEPA have been influencing discussions on the new SRDP for some time through our land unit policy staff. Multiple benefits is expected to be a strong theme as is targeting to priority areas.

2. Actions arising from 9 October 2013 meeting (including actions carried forward from 13 November 2012)

Action No	Action	Owner	Date to be completed	Update
1	Local authorities to request RBMP session as and when they require one	All local authority reps	Ongoing	
2	AAG reps continue to send in photographs and grid references for fish barriers	All	Ongoing	
3	Water Environment Fund – all AAG members to think about potential projects. Pre-application discussions should be held with SEPA restoration specialists where possible	All AAG members	Ongoing	
4	Local Authority reps to circulate river basin planning information sheet to elected members and relevant internal functions.	All local authority reps	November 2013	
5	SEPA to circulate the link to the Water Environment Fund internet page	Alexa Armstrong	October 2013	Complete http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_environment_fund.aspx
6	SEPA to discuss Water of Leith micro hydroscheme with City of Edinburgh Council	Alexa Armstrong	October 2013	Discussions underway
7	Circulate electronic version of River Forth Fisheries Trust INNS update with action note	Alexa Armstrong	October 2013	Complete Published with meeting papers on website
8	SEPA to provide to provide Forth Ports with an update regarding amendments to the non-rural land use general binding rules	Alexa Armstrong	October 2013	Complete Link to explanatory note forwarded. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/176/note/made