

## Tay Area Advisory Group Meeting

**29<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Perth**

### Draft Minutes

#### **Present**

Colin Anderson	Chair, SEPA
Lynda Gairns	Tay RBMP Co-ordinator, SEPA
Jeni Boyle	EQ Specialist Scientist, SEPA
Lindsey Regan	EQ Specialist Scientist, SEPA
Ben Bickle	Scottish Water
John Burrow	SNH
Gordon Pyper	Angus Council
Graham Esson	Perth & Kinross Council
Alan Hendry	SGRPID
Dave Summers	Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board
Colin Gray	Senior Specialist Science, SEPA

#### **Apologies:**

Marshall Halliday	Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust Director
Kelly Ann Dempsey	Angus Council
Eleanore Cooper	Flooding specialist, SEPA
Stephanie Little	Fife Council
Robert Duck	University of Dundee
Derek McGlashan	Forth Ports

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action by</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Introduction and Action Update from last meeting (CA /LG)</b></p> <p>The chair welcomed the group to the meeting and made introductions.</p> <p>LG &amp; CA talked through the actions set at the last meeting and reported on progress:</p> <p>Action 1: Carry forward Action 2: Carry forward Action 3: Complete Action 4: Complete Action 5: On-going Action 6: Complete Action 7: Complete</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Tay AAG RBMP Update (LG)</b></p> <p>LG talked through the Tay AAG update note that had been sent to members prior to the meeting.</p>	

	<p><b>Update on National &amp; local actions to improve the water environment (LG)</b></p> <p>AAG members discussed looking at diffuse pollution issues outwith priority catchments (PC's). DS stated that the Eden and Lunan are not currently being looked at and they are worse than the PC areas. The main focus should be on raising awareness of big DP issues in other areas. CA stated will look into how best we do that and have a DP sub group meeting before the next AAG meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 3: Arrange a DP sub group meeting focussing on raising awareness</b></p> <p>LG gave an update on Marshall Hallidays behalf</p> <p>DS stated that Fifes biodiversity plan is developing strategic direction regarding INNS in the Eden catchment.</p> <p><b>Action 4: LG to look into Fife biodiversity plan for info for INNS sub group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•DS updated the group that spraying for Japanese knotweed has been on-going in the Earn catchment and that checking in June 2012 to see impact. More spraying is taking place in Autumn 2012, which is involving local angling interest.</li> <li>•DS also stated that hydro-electric have agreed a loss of 2% in generation for WFD issues.</li> <li>•GE stated currently digesting responses to their latest consultation with a plan to submit final plan to ministers at the end of 2012. The Inner Tay project is currently doing pond work below Friarton bridge. And lastly the forestry and woodland strategy will be out for consultation at the start of summer.</li> <li>•JB updated the group of INNS work being carried out at Dunkeld/Blairgowrie lochs SAC, spending 8k over 3 years to try and control himalyan balsam. Currently engaging with owners in catchment with the aim being to prevent Himalayan balsam. Also updated the group on the unquantified population of beavers in Tayside. David Bale has set up a group aiming to gather information and monitor the impacts of beavers.</li> <li>•GP stated Angus Council are publishing their MIR in Autumn. Also Brechin flood prevention scheme is on-going. The woodland forestry framework is now completed. The implementation guide for renewable energy is currently being consulted on and will be finalised later in the year. There is also potential work with SNH on looking at landscape capacity in Angus.</li> <li>•AH stated that inspection season is about to start. Raising awareness of DP issues is on going with farmer meetings taking place. Nutrient budgeting programme is being developed. James Hutton Institute are currently researching filter fences, which involves using a fine mesh to prevent soil erosion. Also raising awareness for potato growers on potential use of a ridger that will build mini dams on slope, to prevent the movement of water and have added benefit of minimising the need for irrigation.</li> <li>•CA updated the group on the CAR licence reviews that are underway for irrigation with the 1<sup>st</sup> round of reviews being completed in 2012. SEPA are currently reviewing 800 irrigation licences and building up a picture of what's really happening in the environment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LG</b></p> <p><b>LG</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Scottish Water best practice incentive scheme</b></p> <p>BB gave a presentation on Scottish Waters best practice incentive scheme. A number of issues were then discussed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•JB advised improving the understanding of potential sources e.g. Lintrathen is a SPA for geese.</li> <li>•BB showed input of P from tributaries and the project is targeting measures to</li> </ul>	

	<p>deal with pollutant of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•AH advised that in regard to understanding source apportionment that SG can fund SAC to add research into DP projects and also that potentially SGRPID staff could help</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 5: BB asked to keep the Tay AAG updated on the project</b></p> <p><b>Action 6: BB to send LG pdf of leaflet and can link details from SEPA RBMP web pages</b></p>	<p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Restoration plan and AAG work</b></p> <p>LG gave a presentation on SEPAs forthcoming restoration plan and plans to tackle in stream barriers, urban areas, rural areas and coastal areas. Figures were also given for the Tay to put the presentation into context. A copy of the presentation is being sent to AAG members with these minutes. Please contact LG if any queries.</p> <p><b>Action 7: LG/JB to look into the identified ‘quick wins’ where improvements could be made easily ie Leddown Burn, River Isla, Dean water, Balmenoch burn. An update will be given at the next AAG meeting</b></p> <p><b>Action 8: LG to discuss downgraded urban waterbody in the Dighty catchment with LA</b></p> <p><b>Action 9: LG to meet with RAFTS to confirm prioritised fish barriers and then work with appropriate members of AAG to address.</b></p>	<p><b>LG/JB</b></p> <p><b>LG</b></p> <p><b>LG</b></p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Classification Update</b></p> <p>JB gave a presentation on SEPAs 2011 draft classification results. The presentation is being sent to AAG members with these minutes. A number of questions were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GP asked why the bad waterbodies (WB) were getting worse. JB stated this is due to new hydrology/morphology tools</li> <li>•DS ask what happens when hydro schemes are built on a WB that is at good status. CA stated that this would result in a downgrade.</li> <li>•BB stated would be useful to know which WB's have downgraded due to ecological reasons from those downgraded to changes to SEPAs tools. CG stated easier to understand downgrades when using spotfire (see agenda item 6)</li> <li>•GP asked if the approach SEPA are using is in line with other European models ie we're not being too over onerous. JB stated that changes that we are making are in line with Europe e.g. copper levels are the same in Europe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 10: JB to find out correct position relating to hydrology/ecology tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CA stated that SEPA are currently looking into sub dividing ground waterbodies</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 11: JB to provide more detail regarding ground water bodies at next AAG meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•DS asked why River North Esk at high status.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 12: JB to put together summary of how water bodies are classified, send round the Tay AAG and add to the Tay AAG webpages</b></p>	<p><b>JB</b></p> <p><b>JB</b></p> <p><b>JB</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Spotfire demonstration</b></p> <p>CG introduced the AAG to a new tool that SEPA are currently developing called spotfire. This is an excellent visual tool to show us classification results and</p>	

	<p>understand pressures and measures in more detail. CG showed how the tool can easily show Tay relevant information including the exact parameter which is causing a downgrade and identifying potential degradations before they happen which would allow us to address them.</p> <p>The AAG were very enthusiastic about spotfire and had lots of questions.</p> <p><b>Action 13: All AAG member to send comments regarding the use of spotfire to LG who will pass onto CG.</b> For example what specific information would they like to see e.g. owners of measures in 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, WBS downgraded per pressure type etc.</p> <p><b>Action 14: LG/JB to use spotfire at future sub group and AAG meetings where possible</b></p>	<p><b>AAG members</b></p> <p><b>LG/JB</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Flooding Session</b></p> <p>Unfortunately Eleanor Cooper was unable to make it to the meeting. CA talked through a couple of her key slides. A flooding update note is being sent to AAG members with these minutes. Please contact LG if you have any queries</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>AOB &amp; Close (CA)</b></p> <p>•CA asked who from LA's is on local flood partnership groups</p> <p><b>Action 15 : LG to find out from EC</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am – 1pm, Strathearn House, Perth</p>	

Action number	Action	Owner	Date to be completed	Update
1	Set up a DP subgroup, aiming for the first meeting to be in the new year	LG	Early in the new year	Carried forward from May 2012 meeting
2	If the bid EU freshwater pearl mussel LIFE bid is successful, could SEPA could draft a letter to farmers encouraging them to comply with GBR's, particularly 19 and 20, and backing off farm visits and inspections.	CA	By next AAG meeting	Carried forward from May 2012 meeting
3	Arrange a DP sub group meeting focussing on raising awareness	LG	August/Sept 2012	Being discussed at AAG meeting on 7 Feb 2013
4	Look into Fife biodiversity plan for info for INNS sub group	LG	July 2012	Being carried out by Julie Bhatti
5	Keep Tay AAG updated on the SW's best practice incentive scheme	BB	On-going. Update in November 2012	Being discussed at AAG meeting on 7 Feb 2013
6	Send LG pdf of leaflet and LG link details from SEPA RBMP web pages	BB/LG	July 2012	Not carried forward
7	Look into the identified 'quick wins' where improvements could be made easily ie Leddown Burn, River Isla, Dean water, Balmenoch burn. An update will be given at the next AAG meeting	LG/JB	July/August 2012	Meeting between Jeni and Lynda did not take place
8	Discuss downgraded urban waterbody in the Dighty catchment with LA	LG	July 2012	Not known if completed
9	Meet with RAFTS to confirm prioritised fish barriers and then work with appropriate members of AAG to address.	LG	August 2012	Not known if completed
10	Find out correct position relating to hydrology/ecology tools	JB	July 2012	Awaiting information from EQ
11	Provide more detail regarding ground water bodies at next AAG meeting	JB	November 2012	Groundwater classification is not yet available. There should be more information available in the new year
12	Put together summary of how water	JB	July 2012	Classification

	bodies are classified, send round the Tay AAG and add to the Tay AAG webpages			being discussed at AAG meeting on 7 Feb 2013
13	Send comments regarding the use of spotfire to LG who will pass onto CG	All AAG members LG feedback to CG	July/August 2012	No responses received
14	Use spotfire at future sub group and AAG meetings where possible	LG/JB	On-going. Report progress in November 2012	On-going
15	Find out who from LA's is on local flood partnership groups <i>Post meeting note update:</i> Susan Veitch – P&K Council Sally Philips – P&K Council Bernard McFarlane (corresponding) P&K Council Walter Scott – Angus Council Ian Young – Stirling Council Alayne Finlay – Stirling Council Alison Gallacher – Stirling Council Jim Moodie – Fife Council	LG	July 2012	Complete