



OFFICAL DAERA MINUTES

MEETING TITLE	Meeting with Lough Neagh Partnership
DIVISION/BRANCH REFERENCE	NIEA WMU
VENUE	MS Teams
DATE/TIME	18/02/2025 2-4pm
LIST OF ATTENDEES	<p>NIEA: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>LNP: Gerry Darby (GD), Alan Keys (AK), Crumlin District Anglers: David Kennedy (KD), Rivers Trust: Ian Dodds (ID), Joanna Braniff (JB), Ciara McGlade (CMcG), Mark Horton (MH) NIW: [REDACTED] National Trust: Elmarie Swanepoel (ES)</p>
APOLOGIES	[REDACTED]
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED	
<p>Notes and actions All previous actions complete or to be covered on agenda today</p> <p>Update on Forever Lough Neagh</p> <p>ES provided an overview of Forever Lough Neagh which is a large long-term (2024-2028) strategic partnership project under action 35 of LNAP. Early stages of project and work have concentrated on NT engaging stakeholders which include 7 core partners NT, NIW, LNP, RSPB, WTNI, RT and UFU. First meeting to be held 1 April to scope out what is currently happening, gaps and what is needed. GD added that Forever LN will be different from Forever Mourne in terms of complexity of land ownership but also that LNP will have new structural role.</p> <p>[REDACTED] welcomed the update on the Forever Lough Neagh partnership and highlighted the complimentary work to develop a conservation management plan (CMP) for Lough Neagh ASSI/SPA/Ramsar site, requiring effective management and governance to be in place.</p> <p>[REDACTED] raised question on where does iLab sit in relation to Forever LN.</p> <p>[REDACTED] provided an update on iLAB and how this is a longer vision piece (20-30 years) for LN. Workshop being held on 18/19 March to develop Vision and Forever LN is to develop strategy to deliver it.</p> <p>Catchment Update – NIEA</p> <p>[REDACTED] provided overview of Freshwater Blitz which will be held 25-28th April and has support from Minister. NIEA will promote this over coming weeks and will be hub to</p>	



distribute the kits. The Blitz will be beyond LN catchment and across LN as a whole. NIEA are meeting with Earth Watch later in week to arrange logistics.

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/program/freshwater-watch-in-the-uk/>

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/greatukwaterblitz/>

AP: NIEA will issue email providing info on Water Blitz

MH highlighted it coincides with UK River Watch and will direct monies towards promotion of the Blitz. River Watch has app which enables public to download photos and this gets uploaded to national hub. The results of which are fed into the State of our Rivers Report. RT are holding 2 Riverfly training courses 5/12 April and would like to promote widely on Western shores of Lough.

AP: MH to liaise with GD for training groups on western shores of LN

DK highlighted he would promote through the angling networks but raised concerns regarding H&S. Individual RA would be the responsibility of the coordinator of the group. He indicated he would like NIEA to provide training similar to river fly ie look at top 4 indicators. ■■■ indicated have limited resources but would look at what could be delivered. A potential solution could be for Crumlin Anglers to get trained through the Ballinderry RT as they are considered best route for River Fly training.

AP: DK and MH to liaise regarding RFT opportunities

AP: ■■■ to look into potential NIEA training in the absence of RT training

■■■ provided a detailed update on catchment investigations undertaken so far within LN. Team have carried out baseline surveys, habitat surveys, temp, DO, Cond, Turb and biological sampling using 2 methods - RFI and CCSI.

Team have assessed 135 sites in total across several Lough Neagh catchment areas.

Six Mile Water

Lisnalinchy Burn = 14 sites

Ballylinney Burn = 35 sites

Crumlin River

Crumlin main stem = 18 sites

Dundrod River = 11 sites

Dundesert River = 14 sites

Glenavy River

Glenavy main stem = 26 sites

Stonyford River = 12 sites

Moyola

Moyola = 2 sites

(3 waterbodies in the Moyola LMA have been identified as Priority Catchments for 2025)

Ballinderry

Dunamore = 3 sites



Both GD and AK congratulated team on great work done to date

█ indicated the need to link up with NIW CMOs.

AP: █ to link up with █ and NIW staff after the water quality statistics are published

Update by LNP

GD provided an overview potential projects that could be taken forward including scoping out SCP work in East Rivers of LN. In addition, a number of WQIS proposals have been submitted. GD shared presentation with slide mapping all the work that is ongoing (1) within LN body, (2) the LN Landsacape and (3) the LN catchment.

He indicated the LN development Trust are looking at the ownership of the bed and discussions with Earl Shaftsbury were positive.

The Trust were lobbying HOP in relation to navigation.

Communications

█ outlined draft communication brief is being prepared which will be shared with trusted partners. A brief update on actions within LNAP including 22 actively progressed and 5 to be progressed.

█ and █ highlighted the importance to ensure that alignment across the different partners regarding comms and encouraged to keep communications open.

Funding

█ stated WQIS closed 14 Feb.

█ highlighted that the Department's Nature Recovery Fund was still open for applications until 5 March

GD also highlighted the Heritage Lottery Fund stream

AP: █ to circulate link

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/nature-recovery-challenge-fund-competition-202526-202728>

AOB

Discussion held around frequency of meetings and all agreed quarterly and aim to align being held before Minister's Stakeholder Group on LN.

AP: NIEA to set date for next meet and draft ToR for the group

ACTION POINTS/OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE/TARGET DATE:

AP NIEA will issue email providing info on Water Blitz

AP MH to liaise with GD on training groups on western shores

AP DK and MH to liaise regarding RFT opportunities

AP █ to look into potential NIEA training in the absence of RT training



AP [redacted] to link up with [redacted] and NIW staff after the water quality statistics are published
AP: [redacted] to circulate link - **complete**
AP: NIEA to set date for next meet and draft ToR for the group

Minutes written by:

[redacted]

Date:

21/02/2025