

# Draft Note of Meeting

Community Room, Hillsborough Courthouse, Hillsborough

17 May 2012

## Attendees:

1. Kerry Anderson, Head of Regional Operations & Agricultural Regulations, NIEA (Chair)
2. Jo Campbell, Belfast Lough & Lagan Catchment Management Officer, NIEA (Presenter)
3. David Miller, Senior Water Quality Inspector, NIEA (Presenter)
4. David McCullough, NI Water (Presenter)
5. Trevor Ogborn, Lagan Rivers Trust (Presenter)
6. Gary Houston, Lagan Rivers Trust (Presenter)
7. Peter Scott, Lagan Canal Trust (Presenter)
8. Bridgeen Magorrian, Head of North Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Planning Group, NIEA
9. Kevin McGrady, Senior Scientific Officer Regional Operations, NIEA
10. Stephanie McGee, River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (Note taker)
11. Mert Thompson, Crawfordsburn Country Park, NIEA
12. Philip McMurray, DOE Environmental Policy Division
13. Paul McMurray, Student
14. Peter Lynch, DCAL Inland Fisheries
15. Judith Bankhead, Rivers Agency
16. Michael Shanks, Dromore & District Angling Club
17. Chris Harper, Lagan Canal Trust
18. Jim Taylor, Iveagh Angling Club
19. Eddie Carson, Iveagh Angling Club
20. Alastair Kells, Iveagh Angling Club
21. Jonathan Kerr, Iveagh Angling Club
22. Dick Jones, Iveagh Angling Club
23. Marcus Malley, Craigavon District Council

## 1. Welcome, outline of agenda and introductions

Kerry Anderson opened the meeting and welcomed all to the meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG Meeting. Kerry introduced himself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves to the group.

## 2. Note of the last meeting and update on progress made in addressing the issues raised at the last meeting.

- 2.1 The note of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 had been issued by email and posted to all parties present at the last meeting. The note was agreed by the group.

**Action:** Jo Campbell to add agreed minutes from the Autumn 2011 meeting and the

presentations from the Spring 2012 meeting to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website.

Summary of actions from the last meeting:

Ref	Action	Update
2.1	Jo Campbell to add agreed minutes from the Spring 2011 meeting and the presentations from the Autumn 2011 meeting to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website.	<i>Minutes from Spring 2011 Meeting and presentations from Autumn 2011 meeting have been added to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website:</i> <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm</a>
2.2	Kerry Anderson to update the group at the next meeting on the progression of polluters paying towards river enhancement.	Kerry stated that polluters are paying. Kerry stated that this should be kept on the agenda and an update provided to the Group at each meeting.
3.12	Gary Houston to email Mark Livingstone with specific examples of consents in the Lagan which consistently fail.	Gary Houston supplied Mark Livingstone with details of repeat offenders and Mark Livingstone provided a written response to Gary on 01 March 2012
4.5	George Butler to investigate any possible measures NIW could have to alleviate sewage overflows to Bog Meadows Nature Reserve.	David McCullough, NIW, informed the group that following the last WFD stakeholder meeting NI Water initiated a review of the options for short and long term solutions. The discharges from the Ballymurphy stream is part of a sewerage network linked to the large Glenmachan Street pumping stations which is the subject of a major appraisal study. Any solution linked to the Glenmachan Street PS is several years away so the review considered localised solutions which would limit the discharge from Combined Sewer Overflows using screens. There are technical issues to be resolved and inevitably limitations on funding to be addressed before any solution can proceed. The draft report is being considered by the NI Water network modelling team and we will advise the forum of the next steps at the autumn meeting.
5.7	Bridgeen Magorrian to find out fish monitoring data for Three Mile Water in Belfast Lough LMA.	AFBI don't carry out any fish monitoring on the Three Mile Water. Electro fishing surveys have been carried out by DCAL when resources have been available
5.9	Jo Campbell to liaise with Daniel Clarke about possibility of incorporating NIEA Water Pollution Hotline number in Lagan Valley Regional Park signage.	Jo Campbell stated that the signage project for the Lagan Valley Regional Park is still in the very early stages and further discussions are likely to take place Autumn 2012.

Ref	Action	Update
5.12	Jo Campbell to provide an update on the progress of the Anglers Monitoring Initiative (AMI)	Bridgeen Magorrian updated the Group. An AMI pilot was run on the Ballinderry. Training for Six Mile River Trust volunteers has taken place and Gary Houston attended this training as an observer on behalf of Lagan Rivers Trust. Training for Roe Angling Club is organised for the start of June. Ulster Angling Federation has been asked to suggest other clubs where the AMI could be rolled out. NIEA need to set trigger levels.
7.2	Jo Campbell to liaise with Trevor Ogborn about the possibility of delivering a presentation on the Lagan Rivers Trust at the next meeting.	Presentation on Lagan Rivers Trust forms part of the Agenda
7.5	Jo Campbell to liaise with Mark Horton on the possibility of providing a presentation at the next meeting on the Ballinderry Anglers Monitoring Initiative and the setting up of Rivers Trusts.	Mark unable to attend this meeting but willing to deliver a presentation at the next meeting.
7.6	David Miller to address how pollution incidents are classified and how medium and low severity incidents are dealt with in his presentation at the next meeting.	David Miller to cover classification of pollution incidents in his Regional manager's Update presentation.
7.7	Kerry Anderson to provide information on breaches by farmers and penalties applied by DARD	This information was circulated to the group with the minutes of the Autumn 2011 meeting.

### 3. Catchment Management Update

*Jo Campbell, Catchment Management Officer, NIEA*

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Belfast Lough and Lagan website:*

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/belfast\\_lough\\_and\\_lagan.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm)

- 3.1 Jo Campbell gave a presentation on the Belfast Lough & Lagan Catchment providing information on the recently published Action Plan for Belfast Lough and updates on the Lagan Action Plan
- 3.2 A member of Iveagh Angling Club asked how the river walks were being co-ordinated and followed up on. He also asked how skills and problems are co-ordinated. Jo explained that all observations made on a river walk were recorded on a database and any problems encountered were passed directly to the relevant teams. A spreadsheet was used to record each problem, which team / individual it was passed on to and the eventual outcome. Bridgeen Magorrian added that when other agencies were involved, it still came back to River Basin Planning to co-ordinate on a catchment level. As an example, David Miller stated that if a pollution incident was identified during the course of a river walk, an immediate response would be initiated, an ID number given and followed up on.

### 4. NIEA Regional Manager Update

*Presentation from David Miller, Senior Water Quality Inspector*

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Belfast Lough and Lagan website:*

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/belfast\\_lough\\_and\\_lagan.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm)

- 4.1 David gave a presentation on recent pollution incidents and prosecutions, giving a breakdown of their severity, source and the outcomes of recent cases.
- 4.2 David said that more pollution incidents had been reported since the start of the year in this area than in any other area in NI. The number of pollution incidents related to agriculture is much higher than normal and this is directly attributable to the river walks carried out.
- 4.3 David talked about the categorization of pollution incidents, which had been reviewed recently. He listed low, medium and high severity incidents and showed photographs of typical incidents within each classification. He outlined a notable low severity incident caused by misconnections in Bangor which were identified as part of the Bathing Water catchment investigation highlighted because of high microbiological counts in Ballyholme River.
- 4.3 Trevor Ogborn asked if EU farm payments were automatically rescinded after a conviction. David said that this didn't happen automatically but that the amount of funding removed was ramped up depending on severity of incident.
- 4.4 Trevor Ogborn asked about how repeat offenders were dealt with and David Miller said that it was not appropriate to discuss at this point as court proceedings may be ongoing.
- 4.5 Kerry Anderson stated that this approach is a neater solution as NIEA staff make visits to farms and then recommend to DARD that Single Farm Payments should be docked.
- 4.6 Trevor Ogborn asked a question about the low severity incident in Bangor that David Miller had outlined previously. He asked why Building Control is not involved in the prevention of these misconnections
- 4.7 David McCullough stated that when plans for housing estates are proposed there is a consultation with NIW. However, as there are hundreds of building sites, it is not possible to police all these to ensure the correct procedure is being followed. He also stated that if a period of time had passed since the building had been completed it was very difficult to get the builder to take responsibility.
- 4.8 Trevor Ogborn stated that more should be done by Building Control and Planning service to prevent these problems.
- 4.9 David McCullough stated that it could be only one or two houses in a system causing the problem. This makes it difficult to detect and incurred huge costs. He said it is impossible to police every connection.
- 4.10 Kerry Anderson urged the group to report any misconnections that they are aware of. NIEA recognises that misconnections are a significant problem.

---

**5.0 NI Water Presentation**

*Presentation from David McCullough, NI Water*

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Belfast Lough and Lagan website:*

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/belfast\\_lough\\_and\\_lagan.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm)

- 5.1 David McCullough gave a presentation on NI Water's Capital Enhancement Programme.
- 5.2 Trevor Ogborn asked if there was a proposal for a new works at Maze with the possible movement of Balmoral Show. David McCullough said that there wasn't any planned yet.

## **6.o Lagan Rivers Trust**

*Presentation from Trevor Ogborn and Gary Houston*

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Belfast Lough and Lagan website:*

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/belfast\\_lough\\_and\\_lagan.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm)

- 6.1 Bridgeen Magorrian reiterated that the Lagan Action Plan is not drawing to a close and that the actions are continuing to be worked on. She also stated that NIEA have obtained funds for a Rivers Development Officer for another year and had also secured funding for community led projects.
- 6.2 Michael Shanks asked Gary Houston and Trevor Ogborn when community groups are going to be involved in the Lagan River Trust and which areas is the Trust focusing on first.
- 6.3 Trevor Ogborn answered that the papers for the Trust have only recently been drawn up and they intend to visit classrooms and have a Summer fair to promote the trust. The Trust welcomes involvement from community groups.

## **7. Lagan Canal Trust**

*Presentation by Peter Scott, Lagan Canal Trust*

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Belfast Lough and Lagan website:*

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public\\_partic\\_3/catchment\\_stakeholder\\_groups/belfast\\_lough\\_and\\_lagan.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm)

- 7.1 Gary Houston asked if a route for the canal had been decided upon because if it hadn't, then multiple Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) would be required. Peter Scott said that several options were being considered and that they could all be covered by one SEA.
- 7.2 Gary Houston said that it looked as if the Lagan Canal Trust were concentrating too much on an economic development package. Peter Scott responded by saying that they were considering schools and leisure opportunities but that the project must also be economically viable.
- 7.3 Gary Houston said that in the Scoping Study for the Canal, it focuses on Coarse fish and not Salmon development. He also said that some Coarse fish are invasive.

- 7.4 Peter Scott said that as this was a Scoping Study it was open to amendment.
- 7.5 A question was asked how the Trust can be confident that the amount of water traffic for the canal will make it viable. Historically the canal has not had much use by canoes and boats. Peter Scott said that this would be included in the business case.
- 7.6 Marcus Malley asked NIEA how two similar projects, the Lagan River Trust and the Lagan Canal Trust are both funded by NIEA and wondered how this will sit with the public. Kerry Anderson agreed that there was a bit of crossover between the projects.
- 7.7 Bridgeen Magorrian stated that the grant given to the Lagan River Trust is a start-up fund and not long term. These grants are intended to facilitate community groups. She added that NIEA does not fund the Lagan Canal Trust.

**8 Marine Directive Consultation**  
*Presentation by Helen Nutt, NIEA*

Helen Nutt gave a presentation on the new Marine Directive Framework Directive which is currently out for consultation. Helen advised anyone who was interested in the new directive to contact her.

**9 AOB**

Kerry Anderson appreciated that the agenda had been very full and that it left too little time for discussion. He said that the autumn meeting should be structured to allow for more discussions.

**10. Close**

Kerry Anderson thanked all attendees and speakers and closed the meeting.

**Summary of all actions arising from the meeting:**

Ref	Action
2.1	Jo Campbell to add agreed minutes from the Autumn 2011 meeting and the presentations from the Spring 2012 meeting to the Belfast Lough and Lagan CSG website.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
 17 Antrim Road  
 Lisburn  
 BT28 3AL  
 Tel: 028 92623006  
 Email: Jo.Campbell@doeni.gov.uk  
 www.ni-environment.gov.uk