

East Suffolk IPC Pre-meeting Action Minutes and discussion notes

Ipswich – Tuesday 22 May 2018

Attendees

CHAIR Jane Burch (Suffolk CC)
Jonathan Thompson (EA)
Chris McArthur (Rivers Trust)
Will Jolly (Farmer)
Paul Bradford (Consultant)
Anna Mason (EA)
Claire Watkins (EA)
Paul Hammett (NFU)
Katy Anderson (CLA)
Tim Darby (ESWAG)

Doug Ingles (Farmer)
Rob Wise (NFU)
Giles Bloomfield (WMA)
Sarah Hollingham (EA)
Katy Steed (EA)
Hazel Knights (EA)
John Patrick (Consultant)
Barry Bendall (Rivers Trust)
Tim Pratt (Farmer)

Apologies

Steve Moncaster (AWS)
Will Robinson (ESW)

Discussions and Actions:

- EA provided national statistics for waterbody statuses, un-used/underused licence project etc.

Action – Jonathan Thompson to scale down stats to the East Suffolk catchment and share with the group

- Concerns surrounding the move of water resources into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR).

Action – Katy Steed/Hazel Knights to share EPR briefing note to the group and add to mailing list for future briefings

- Note to be aware of the terminology used when consider the impact of abstraction – for East Suffolk, recent historical abstraction isn't negatively impacting the environment at present, however the maximum licenced quantity might do (e.g. if all licence holders abstracted their full licenced water, there could be consequences).
- Agriculture may be more interested in winter storage as an option for security if they could have the guarantee of a longer licence. Time limiting a licence for 12 years does not make it viable, they would need a minimum of 20 years for it to be a secure investment, could this considered?

- Improvements in data and monitoring are required to allow more informed decisions, for example transitional waterbodies, to allow to know the consequences of taking this water.
- Some of the rivers or sections of rivers in East Suffolk have more risks than others, which may link into the amount of licences of each.

Action – Jonathan Thompson to see if more information for specific watercourses could see if there's hotspots or no-go zones. Map? Scaled down ALS?

- For high flow abstraction there are limited gauging stations to tie licences to. Businesses might consider installing their own small flow monitoring if it would mean greater access to water. Is it possible to know places where it would help before something is installed?
- Important we manage water as a resource – at times there can be too much water and needs to be pumped away to stop flooding of not just land and properties but other environmental features such as nesting birds
- We need to better understand what licence holders want - more water, security of the water they currently have, or better resilience at times of drought?

Action – ESWAG to speak with members to discuss what their needs are.

- Multi-year aggregates could help bridge the gap instead of cutting back to maximum recent actual usage, to help in those years when water is scarce. This could help those who are unable to have water storage for such times
- Consider the data and monitoring we look at for licensing, are we seeing specific trends heading in a certain direction whereby we can predict where things could be in the future, or are we just looking at the current 'today' and historical data?
- Could we consider financial instruments – for example to limit unused/underused licences, stop the two part tariff agreement? Everyone to pay their full licence quantity with the hope they might reduce the licence to cut their costs? Conversely, could we consider financial benefits for those that help with put and take schemes to help water access for others, or environmental stewardships.
- Pre-agreed trades could be useful tool which we could 'switch on' at short notice. May still be long to set up initially, but much speedier in the long run
- Will/Can CaBA gain extra funding for being an IPC? The existing catchment partnership contains all the key partners as the IPC group
- Who will lead the catchment group? Jane won't be around for much longer before a well-deserved retirement

Action – anyone interested in taking on the role of chairing the group to volunteer and explain why they feel they would be suitable

Other stakeholders to consider adding to the group:

Food and Drinks Industry

Water Companies

Gravel works

RSPB

Wildlife Trust

Golf Courses

Rivers Trust

Academics

Action – IEP team to consider suitable additional stakeholder members anyone who knows of suitable candidates should let the project know.

Date of next meeting to be agreed late June early July.