

Slowing the Flow at Pickering

PROGRAMME DELIVERY GROUP MEETING

The Mill Suite, Memorial Hall Pickering

17th September 2010

11.00 - 12.30

MINUTES

Present: Simon Marrington, Crispin Thorn (chair), Tom Nisbet, Jeremy Dick, Jon Bates, Lucy Huckson, Mark Antcliff, David Rees, Rachel Pickering, Mike Potter, Gordon Clitheroe, Peter Croot, Nick Odoni, Mark Young, Neil Hugill, Nigel Trotter, Phil Long.

Apologies received: Jeff Pacey, Vince Carter, Stuart Lane, Don Davies, David Steel, Justine Clark

1. Progress on Delivery Timetable and Key Tasks/Milestones - TN gave the group and update on progress with the work programme (7 measures stated in the Defra Project Submission) and Progress against the 18 Project Milestones. TN highlighted that the greatest risk to stated tree planting targets was achieving private landowner buy-in. TN confirmed that a formal application for further funding and extending the project has been made with Defra, detailing future plans and pursuit of additional measures, ongoing communications and further funding of SM's Programme Manager post on a part-time basis.

2. Bunded Storage Update - LH gave the group an update on the planning process for the construction of the bunds. She confirmed that a joint planning application would have to be made to dual-determining authorities (NYMNPA/NYCC) due to existing precedents. She was still hopeful of a March/April 2011 construction phase.

(general discussion)

MP - will the group be able to see the planning application?

LH - planning documents are public documents and as such would be available for stakeholders to see under statutory consultation procedure.

NT - it is worth bearing in mind that if construction work is carried out when the railway is operating there are obvious H+S implications as crossings will have to be upgraded and adequately staffed.

3. Land management Update - SM and RP presented updates via PP detailing work plans and progress to date. RP confirmed that activity on Levisham Estate provisionally agreed includes approximately 6.9ha of tree planting on preferred reaches, LWD dams on three positive CRIMS, blocking eroding tributaries and heather restoration. The primary focus for tree planting was on gill woodland. LWD dam construction is subject to material being made available and brought in to site - possibly with the assistance of FC NYM?

(general discussion)

MP - is the message to farmers about water management/buffer strips getting through?

DR - yes and no. Awareness is increasing.

4. River Seven Floodplain Modelling Update - TN presented a summary of draft conclusions from the modelling report. Indications are that woodland planting on a relatively small scale will have a reasonable effect by increasing water storage during flood events. Water levels may be increased by up to 50cm locally and this reduces and delays flood peak depending on the type of flood/rainfall event.

(general discussion)

NO - I assume this is without debris dams. It appears to be a fairly big ask to get the water out of bank?

TN - agreed.

NO - are debris dams possible on the River Seven?

TN - not really practical.

5. Community Engagement Event (Board Paper 04) - SM and LH highlighted the proposal by the Core Programme Delivery Group to hold a second community engagement event. The proposal has approval from the Programme Board and Defra and the support of the Wider Programme Delivery Group was requested. The group voted to approve the proposed event as a means to update the community on progress with the STF project.

6. Main Beck LWD dams, Mini-bund proposal, Resilience Measures - items raised for discussion by MP but agreed that LWD dams on Pickering main beck had largely been addressed during the course of today's meeting. Any progress with the 'mini-bunds' proposal from Durham University

TN - The possibility of exploring the idea is included within the application for a project extension submitted to Defra.

MP - what would be required to make things happen?

NO - possibly a couple of weeks modelling work.

TN - without funding in place this is difficult. Suggest waiting for confirmation from Defra initially.

ACTION POINT: TN to work with NO to look at mini-bund potential and possible funding mechanisms.

MP - Any progress with resilience measures for Beck Isle residents or those who remain unprotected within the town?

PL - we (RDC) hope to be able to announce a capital grant scheme for flood resilience measures in whole of Ryedale in early 2011. This is likely to be some sort of match-funding from a limited capital fund. Not yet confirmed, watch this space.

7. AOB

None (general discussion)

8. Confirm Dates/Locations for Future Meetings

Next meeting scheduled for 11am Thursday 9th December @ Pickering Memorial Hall, tbc via email nearer the time.