

Slowing the Flow at Pickering

PROGRAMME DELIVERY GROUP MEETING

The Mill Suite, Memorial Hall Pickering

19th February 2010

11.00 - 12.30

MINUTES

Present: Simon Marrington, Vince Carter, Tom Nisbet, Jon Bates, Jeff Pacey (chair), Lucy Huckson, David Rees, Justine Clark, Rachel Pickering, Mike Roberts, David Steel, David Summers, Neil Hugill, Don Davies, Mike Potter, Gordon Clitheroe, Howard Keal, Linda Cowling, Liz Newbronner, Helen Stuart, Rachel Moseley

Apologies received: Nick Odoni, Mick Hoban, Matt Millington

1. The Work Programme: Selected measures, action points for progress report and discussion:

Bunded storage update - LH provided an update on the modelling work via Powerpoint - details of which will be available on the website in the form of a project update and Q+A paper.

(discussion)

HK - has GIA been dismissed as a funding mechanism? It is difficult to make an informed decision for bunds when the effects of the land management measures are unknown.

LC - the EA need to consider the PR to be had from this i.e. national significance and possible replication elsewhere.

HK - there is a political element and appreciation that this needs to be resolved, stakeholders and the community are not bothered where the funding comes from.

General discussion over river levels pertaining to flood events in 2000, 2002, 2007, 2008.

MP - there is a fundamental problem with return periods. The community would prefer to see and have a greater understanding of a protection level i.e. to river level of 1.2m or 1.5m at Ropery Bridge.

LC - how difficult is it to factor in protection measures for the Beck Isle area to the overall cost of the scheme? What would these look like?

TN - maybe land management measures would kick-in here, though obviously this is time-bound?!

LC - this sort of information needs to be provided as soon as possible in order to enable decision making.

DS - how many properties were affected in 1 in 100 year return period event?

LH - approximately between 130 -150 within the 1 in 100 year return period event floodplain).

MP - at a cost of £7 million according to the CPRE figures. Are we happy to accept these figures as it may prove beneficial from a cost/benefit perspective?

LH - yes.

JP - we are moving closer to agreement on the bunded storage options.

HK - the pattern appears to be a combination of near-misses and major events. Our protection resources need to be divided between the two.

LH - from a modelling perspective the decision remains between two levels of protection; 12 and 15 cumecs.

LC - it is not fair to say that flood events are increasing in severity.

MP - it is also important to explain carefully why simply building bigger bunds won't work.

JB - yes, presumably this is only prohibitive for L-shaped bunds?

MP - clarity required here.

TN - how confident are the EA on the recent high water level monitoring?

LH - extremely accurate.

MP - I would like to request a firm timeline for bund construction.

LH - the difficulty with this is due to modelling refinements and funding.

JP - though we could set out next steps.

MP - these need to be communicated to the public.

JP/LH - we can agree to setting out next steps if not a timeline.

MP - the optimum level of protection needs to be determined and related to the number of properties protected.

HK - can I stress the urgency for taking a proposal forward to RDC if they are going to be asked to provide the funding, we need a timetable and must approach them by a specific date.

LH/JP - the EA has the resources to push this forward - there is no limitation due to manpower.

ACTION POINT - Environment Agency to agree next steps and produce timeline for circulation.

Hydrological modelling update - NO unavailable so TN updated the group on the CRIM modelling - details of details of which will be posted on the website in the form of a 'Land Management' section in the project update. NO will now begin the optimisation phase based on consultation with project partners. Optimisation of LWD dams should be complete by spring/summer 2010.

(discussion)

HK - are we still confident of a 30% reduction in flood peak from the land management measures and when will work start on the ground?

SM - to clarify, the impact of the land management measures was never estimated at 30% of the total flood peak volume, I think you are referring to approximately one third of the estimated excess volume. This relates to approximately 2-3 cumecs, or 10% during the 2007 event.

TN - the hydrograph shows 100-120,000 m³ of potential flood storage.

Project success criteria - SM thanked the group for contributions received thus far and said that DEFRA wanted a success criterion which captured the level of public engagement.

ACTION POINT - group to consider this and respond to SM.

AOB - Discussion took place over the need to ensure interaction with the farming community via David Rees CSFO, Rob Hicks NFU and also any complimentary work done by the Internal Drainage Board outside the project.

DR - 35 farmers are attending a CSFDI workshop on 23rd February here in Pickering and there is a demonstration event for grassland compaction/aeration to the STF project planned for early June at Saltersgate which may be of mutual benefit. Details tbc.

ACTION POINT - SM to attend both events.

SM - webpages are up, largely positive feedback so far, comments welcome.

Confirm Dates/Locations for Future Meetings

Next meeting scheduled for 11am Wednesday 14th April @ Pickering Memorial Hall, tbc via email nearer the time.