

Minutes of Slowing the Flow at Pickering

Programme Delivery Group Meeting

Forestry Commission, Outgang Road, Pickering

10am 27 July 2009

Attended by:

Simon Marrington - Forestry Commission
Vince Carter - Forestry Commission
Rachel Pickering - NYMNP
Lucy Huckson - Environment Agency
Liz Newbronner - Sinnington Parish Council
Sally Thirsk (Forestry Commission - minutes)

- 1. Introductions and welcome**
- 2. The Programme to date, Board Meeting on 13 July 2009, funding update, Press Release (VC)**

Following the board meeting on 13 July 2009, the official start date of the project is June 2009. There is a promise that providing the project is achieving, Defra will extend the funding beyond March 2011.

- 3. Governance Arrangements**

The core membership has now been set and meetings of this group will take place on a monthly basis. There is a direct link from the Community Advisory Group to the Programme Delivery Group. The Community Advisory Group are to meet later in the year (probably September). The main structure is there to make sure the main organisations deliver what they are supposed to deliver. There are 3 strands that will be taken forward: Strand 1 – Pickering Beck Catchment; Strand 2 – Bunded Storage Option and Strand 3 – Sinnington/River Seven Catchment. The wider delivery group will meet every quarter. The Parish Council will normally sit on this wider group. The core group is intended to be those people who own the land or perform a regulatory role. It is important to have a structure in place, but not to be tied to it. Meetings can occur outside of the formal structure. Simon's role is to ensure the right people are included at the right time.

- 4. The work Programme, Selected measures, Tasks, Milestones (Paper 09/02)**

The delivery group are the 'nuts and bolts' of the project team. In terms of timescale, there has been some slippage already. Work with Durham University has been delayed until September. Durham University are looking at identifying preferred locations for measures within the catchments which

sits within tasks 5 and 6 on the list. In broad terms, the rest of the summer and into the autumn is available to assess the viable options. As large landowners we are looking at options on the ground and converting theory into firm options. We need to understand how these options fit into the hydrological model. By autumn firm options under the various headings need to be fixed. The main work is to be carried out in winter 2010.

5. Action points:

a) Bunding (Lucy)

Environment Agency are leading on the bunded storage option. EA have commissioned JBA to build a computer model based on the Durham model. JBA validated the Durham model and the 2 models now match. They are looking at putting bunds in the positions that Durham identified and are looking at the different impacts these bunds have. In terms of funding, they are looking at properties in the flood zone in Pickering and how many of these properties are deemed to be at risk to enable costs to be worked out associated with the different bunds. The model can't give that answer at the moment. The Community Advisory Group and 'working with others' approach will help to decide once options are in place. In reality, because of the nature of the catchment, there are realistically 3 locations for the bunds (Park Gate area; corner of Little Park Wood and Kingthorpe Straight). The size of the bunds needs to be assessed and funding for this is led by EA. Ryedale District Council have funding available that may be available as a contribution towards the bunds. In terms of the project and the strands, the bund storage is slightly ahead. Pickering will not get 1 in 100 year flooding protection. JBAs model will be available at the beginning of August. Mapping of the flood zone is due in August, and a public release of the revised flood maps will be in January 2010. These must be a legal document as planners and insurance companies will use these in the future. There are no other known flooding measures/projects running outside of this project within the catchments.

b) Floodplain woodlands/land owners River Seven (Simon/Vince)

Most owners seem to be amenable to talking about planting woodland in the catchment area. The proposal is to go out to meet owners and discuss individual needs. 60,000m³ is needed for storage capacity. Rather than commission a survey company, the idea is to talk to individual landowners. Most of the land in question is in set aside or grazing. Enhanced rates of grant for woodland creation is available. RDA funding has been secured and up to £4000/ha can be offered for floodplain woodland. The funding also covers up to £3000 for applications for riparian planting and up to £2000 for wider woodland planting. Mark Antcliffe, NYMNP, has a role with the Forestry Commission to generate applications and it is hoped that this role will continue with this project. Vince to talk to Richard from NYMNP regarding the apprentice scheme and the possibility of using this to source a pool of trained people to do the planting work in the future.

Setting up a management agreement between NYMNP and the landowner, as in the past, would be a mechanism to take the work off the landowner.

Action – Simon and Liz to talk to XXXXXX in Sinnington. Vince to follow up apprentice scheme with NYMNP. Simon and Vince to liaise with Mark Antcliff/Mick Hoban and arrange initial visits with other landowners.

- c) Riparian woodland Pickering Beck (Simon/Vince)
Still waiting for data from Durham on this although work could start with the NYMNP. NYMNP are looking to plant 1000 trees on common land. Durham are looking at the hydrological model to identify key sites within the catchment area. The idea will be that Durham sit in on the monthly delivery group in the future.

Action – Simon and Rachel to liaise and Rachel to send NYMNP GIS layer for common land to Simon.

- d) Local woody debris dams (Simon)
Most local woody debris dams are associated with Cropton, but not entirely. Waiting for identification of preferred sites/tributaries by Durham University.

- e) Moorland drains/no burn buffer zones (Simon/Rachel)
NYM have an agreement that no burning takes place within 5m of all watercourses. NYM Association have expressed an interest in providing funding for a project in the past, funding a drains survey would be a possibility.

Action – Rachel to approach NYM Association regarding funding a moorland drains survey. Vince to approach Defra (Chris Dean) to see if they have someone who could help.

- f) Farm measures – 5ha woodland, CSF soil management plans/diffuse pollution measures. (Simon)
Simon meeting David Rees from NE at the Ryedale Show 28/7/09 to discuss what can be done in terms of co-operative working within the Project delivery period.

Action - Rachel to check if any funding is available.

- g) Cropton forest FDP review, drain survey and strategy (Simon)
Cropton forest straddles the 2 catchment areas. Simon is liaising with the FC District/Planning Department in Outgang Road to ensure a drains/water survey carried out towards the back end of the year. The forest design plan is being revised at the moment and is going to consultation within next 2 weeks. Woody debris dams – areas within Cropton will be assessed. Forest and Water Guidelines are being reviewed at the moment and will be feed into FC policy on the ground.

- h) **Community Advisory Group (Simon)**
EA would like to organise a meeting with the community, looking at who we need to have there and how we are going to do this, involving as many people as we can. Facilitated by an external facilitator. Who from the core delivery group is taking the lead? All should be there, but Simon should be the lead with assistance from Jeff Pacey. Key partners within the project team should be represented. Liz suggested Parishes other than Sinnington/Pickering should be involved in the meetings. Two internal meetings are proposed before we go out to the wider community.

Action – Simon to contact people to see who wants to be involved.

- i) **Project website (Simon)**
The webpage for this project will sit on the Forest Research pages. Nothing has been published yet. A press release is due out later this week announcing Simon's appointment. This will also suggest the public meeting in September.

Action – Vince to contact Tom about the website location

6. Any Other Business

Simon asked who fulfils what role in Ryedale District Council – Vince to check with Andy Wilson.

7. Dates/Locations of future meetings

The next meeting will take place on 11 August 2009 at 10am in the Outgang Road office followed by 9 September 2009 10am venue TBC.