

Slowing the Flow at Pickering

PROGRAMME DELIVERY GROUP MEETING

The Mill Suite, Memorial Hall Pickering

27th November 2009

10.00 - 12.00

MINUTES

Present: Simon Marrington, Vince Carter, Jon Bates, Jeff Pacey, Lucy Huckson, David Rees, Mark Antcliff, Justine Clark, Nick Odoni, Rachel Pickering, Mike Roberts, Don Davies, Mike Potter, Gordon Clitheroe, Howard Keal, Steven Edwards

Apologies received: David Steel, David Summers, Tom Nisbet, Mick Hoban, Liz Newbronner

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

Bunded storage update - LH provided a general update on the modelling work. The hydrological model is currently unstable, LH to provide an update for distribution to the Wider Group once this has been addressed and further model runs have been received.

Hydrological modelling update - NO updated the group on the CRIM modelling. Initial suggestion is that there are 17 CRIM sites which provide a reduction to the peak flow rate at Pickering. The total flood flow at Pickering is estimated to be 70,000 m³ and the use of the CRIM sites appears to reduce this volume by 12-15,000 m³ and a flow reduction of between 2-5 cumecs. Calculations have to date been on the basis on the woodland creation targets stated in the DEFRA project proposal. VC commented that potential woodland creation is not restricted to the target figure, but that the creation of debris dams may be target limited due to site suitability and maintenance issues. NO commented that the creation of LWD dams would have a far greater effect on flood flows than the creation of woodland, but that woodland creation provided a small supplementary effect. NO agreed to run the model with LWD dams only in order to clarify their impact in isolation. NO will now begin the optimisation phase based on consultation with project partners. **ACTION - NO agreed to provide GIS maps indicating CRIM locations to enable initial discussions with partners.** Optimisation of LWD dams will be complete by spring 2010.

Floodplain woodland/landowner engagement River Seven - two tree planting schemes within the lower reaches of the Seven catchment which would contribute to project aims are currently being assessed. Of the remaining four key landowners north of Sinnington two are known to be unlikely to want to consider work being carried out on their land.

Farm measures - STF/CSFDI farm workshop at Dalby VC - SM and DR have organised a Slowing the Flow / Catchment Sensitive Farming joint workshop for farmers on the 9th December at Dalby Forest Courtyard. Grant opportunities will be discussed including information on mini-dams under CSF capital grant scheme, EWGS, Stewardship and YF Farm Efficiency Funding.

Moorland drain survey update - RP said that whilst no progress has been made to date, the Yorkshire Peat Partnership had recently been in touch and that they would be starting this work in the near future as it had moved up their list of priorities.

Cropton forest water-course survey - SM confirmed that this was well underway and that it was hoped the initial legwork would be completed early in the new year, depending on weather and workload of the placement student in NYM forest district.

Project website - SM stated that new guidelines had been introduced for all '.gov' websites in order to raise standards and consistency across government domains. This means it is no longer realistic to go off and do your own thing and perhaps more importantly there is now a significant additional auditing cost if you wish to set up a stand-alone website. Therefore the decision has been made to host the site on the Forest Research webpages, **ACTION - SM to upload content by the end of January 2010.**

2. Any Other Business - discussions took place as follows:

Query regarding previous use of upstream storage and farm measures in other locations. LH to provide an example of the Belford pond system (find attached two documents available on internet)

LH raised the WWO approach that has been adopted for the project and suggested that an update meeting should be held with those who attended the original brainstorming sessions - **ACTION - LH agreed to organise this with SMs assistance.**

VC commented that YF funding for woodland creation was still not confirmed.

SM/JB provided an update on the Cropton Forest Design Plan and said that the consultation document would be available online very soon. This is the first time that flood management aims and objectives have appeared in an FC design plan.

JP raised the question of highways and rapid surface water runoff. MR explained that NYCC were investigating this as part of their response to the Floods and Water Bill and may be able to look at Pickering as a pilot project for this work. **ACTION - MR agreed to look into this and update the group.** MR also confirmed that NYCC had employed a Flooding Officer - Mark Young starts work on the 4th January.

LH/JP mentioned that some tree management work in and around Pickering would be taking place in the New Year. Information on those carrying out the work to be provided to VC.

LC raised the possibility of accessing other sources of funding. RDC had mentioned at their last council meeting that the Homes and Community Agency may have

funding available and it might be worth building an economic case to them and others including NYCC, Pickering Town Council and Yorkshire Forward.

VC updated the group on press coverage of Pickering - article recently printed in the Yorkshire Post, story to follow on Look North (Yorkshire) and SM interviewed for Radio 4 You and Yours.

3. Confirm Dates/Locations for Future Meetings

Next meeting scheduled for 10am 19th February @ Pickering Memorial Hall, tbc via email nearer the time.