

<p>Name of meeting: Water Management in Lowland Catchments Venue: Shire Group of IDBs, Adwick-le-Street</p>	<p>Date: 30/01/20 Time: 10:00-12:30</p>
<p>Chair: Ian Benn</p>	<p>Minute takers: Steve Rose & Ian Benn</p>
<p>Present: Ian Benn, Shire Group of IDBs Steve Rose, JBA Alison Briggs, Shire Group of IDBs Jamie McEwan, Yorks WT Clare Sterling, Lincs WT Amanda Jenkins, Lincs WT Matthew Hodkin, EA Sue Plaxton, NE Sarah Swift, EA Jess Moloney, Hull Council Melissa Massarella, Doncaster Council Bill Symons, York Consortium of Drainage Boards Chris McGregor, NE Katie McNamara, EA Marie Taylor, YDRT Mark Adams, EA Emily Howes, City of York Council Amanda Foster, EA</p>	<p>Apologies: Seonaidh Jamieson, RSPB Andrew Barron, EA Lydia Burgess-Gamble, EA Anthony Blanchfield, Albanwise Jon Trail, YWT Charlotte Simons, YDRT</p>

Agenda Item	Notes	Action by
1.	<p>Introduction to workshop Ian Benn welcomed everyone to the working group meeting and apologised for the late notice about the event. Very pleased that so many people were still able to attend and take part in all the discussions. Reminder that all minutes and presentations from the working group meetings (together with other relevant publications) will be stored on the Shire Group of IDBs website at: https://www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk/natural-flood-management-nfm-working-with-natural-processes/</p>	
2.	<p>Presentation from Mark Adams, EA Senior Advisor, Flood & Coastal Risk Management, Louth Mark gave a presentation about the challenges that faced the EA after the winter 2019 flooding of the Ancholme drainage system (incl. Brigg) and their responses.</p>	

	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe risk of flooding caused by prolonged very wet period Oct 2019 to Dec 2019. • Evacuation of water from catchment hampered by twice daily tide locking at downstream outlet into the Humber. Tide locking problem will increase with future sea level rise, so flood risk will increase into the future if no action taken. • Flood management action in this period included controlled management of water in tributaries before they reached the main Ancholme channel, esp. upstream of Brigg to help reduce risk in Brigg. • Only one property thought to have experienced internal flooding as a consequence of flooding from the river. Some surface water flood issues also occurred. • Flood recovery programme is still underway. • Normal channel management (esp. of vegetation) could not be undertaken in Autumn 2019 due to very wet conditions. • EA now wanting to consider their long-term strategy for the future management of water levels, flood risk and silt in the Ancholme catchment (incl. need to maintain navigation on main Ancholme). This needs to be a more holistic strategy for the whole Ancholme catchment (both pumped areas and gravity drained areas) and should look to include Natural Flood Management (NFM) and other environmental enhancements. • The revised Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) appraisal system (due to commence in April 2021, though details should be available from Apr 2020) will give more weight to the quantification of wider environmental benefits to help justify a new scheme. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Presentation from Alison Briggs (Shire Group of IDBs)</p> <p>Alison gave a presentation about how NFM and other catchment management initiatives could be supported through the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) [public money delivering public goods] and provide a valuable (and potentially essential) income stream to farm businesses to keep them sustainable into the future.</p> <p>Information on Farm Business Income by type of farm in England, 2018/19, can be accessed from the Defra website at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847722/fbs-businessincome-statsnotice-21nov19.pdf</p> <p>Challenges to farmers in very low/flat heavily modified catchments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining appropriate control of the in-field watertable (by artificial drainage systems) to support the crops being grown • Raising awareness of what NFM and other land management measures might be acceptable to them with the context of their farming systems and businesses. <p>There's also a website on payments received by all farmers/farm businesses on which searches can be made against individuals or business names which may or may not be useful knowing how much of a driver getting into ELMS and NFM might be for that business. CAP payment amounts by landowner/farm business -</p>	

	http://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx .	
4.	<p>Presentation from Jess Moloney (Hull Council)</p> <p>Jess gave a presentation on the newest version of the NFM Evaluation Matrix, developed by Hull Council and Arup. The intention is for this MS Excel spreadsheet tool to be Open Source for all to use, probably published on the CaBA web site. An extremely useful tool to explore the value and benefits of different NFM features across a study area/catchment. The metrics used are specially targeting lowland catchments (as developed for River Hull NFM Study), so some modification would be needed to make the tool applicable to NFM study areas that are higher up in catchments and in headwater areas.</p> <p>Jess will be describing this new tool at the River Restoration Centre Conference in Harrogate in April 2020.</p> <p>Discussions within group to try and apply/test the tool to 1 or 2 other lowland test areas (e.g. Ancholme or one of on-going ELMS pilot projects in lowland catchments – Yorks, Lincs, Humber).</p>	
5.	<p>Open discussion items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Jenkins reminded the group of the tranche of relevant partnership projects being undertaken in the South Forty Foot Catchment (also known as Black Sluice Navigation), incl. the work in the Black Sluice IDB area that is exploring multi-objective water management (incl. potable water supply, irrigation and flood risk management). • Water Resources East - This project is looking at multifunctional Water Management in the fens. Anglian Water are working with farmers, Black Sluice IDBs and other bodies as part of the Water Resources East project, within their PR19 programme. See Anglian water business plan page 62 at https://ourplan.anglianwater.co.uk/assets/PR19-Our-Plan-2020-2025.pdf. The Anglian Water lead for the project is Steve Moncaster (sMoncaster@anglianwater.co.uk). • EA / Black Sluice IDB – The EA and IDB are exploring the decommissioning of the pumps on the South Forty Foot Catchment and options as to how they will flood risk through the area into the future. Contacts are Ian Warsap Ian.Warsap@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk & Abigail Jackson abigail.jackson@environment-agency.gov.uk. • Further comment from Amanda Jenkins – as this working group is going beyond NFM perhaps we should consider inviting Natural England along to some meetings? Apparently, they have a ‘Water Group’ covering the East & West Midlands. Ian Butterfield is the group manager ian.butterfield@naturalengland.org.uk • Mark Adams mentioned that he would be happy to be the link person between this working group and the internal EA Lowlands Network which is led from Somerset. • Potential funding sources for projects/schemes incorporating NFM in lowland highly modified catchments: (a) General drainage charge (available in Anglian Northern area only); (b) Local Levy; (c) Infrastructure (highways, Network Rail, National Grid, Wind turbines, utilities, cable/telecom companies); (d) Local Growth Funds; (e) Local Prosperity Funds; LEP Funds 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding of the extremely successful iCASP NFM Practitioners Group in Yorkshire comes to an end in 2020. Need to identify a new funding stream for this group if it is to continue (may be LEP or Local Levy?). • Marie Taylor reiterated the value of having active NFM demo sites to take visitors to, which is a great way to commence stakeholder engagement or consultation activities. We should also be actively linking NFM with SuDS initiatives to address surface water flooding problems in built-up areas, and to maximise opportunities to address water quality issues (e.g. sediment). • Water Works Project - addresses the problem of the loss of peat soils in the fens which blow away and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere (so contributing to climate change) when they dry out. Over the next two years Water Works will create field scale trials of wetland farming at Great Fen to test innovative new crops for food, healthcare and industry, and to lock in carbon. A large part of the project will be working with local farmers, food producers and landowners to create and test this new way of farming and to share lessons learned along the way (https://www.wildlifebcn.org/news/water-works) 	
6.	<p>Event notice A free event to discuss the future of peat (and sustainable peatland farming / peatland management) in the East Anglian Fens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring together farmers, farm business managers, farm consultants, academics, people leading on peatland policy and conservation sector working in the fens. • To share latest evidence on peatland soils and to improve current practice in support of urgent climate action; • To listen to farmers, farm businesses and decision makers – promoting a step change in sustainable management; • To prioritise barriers, issues, opportunities and recommendations of regional importance for policy action and funding. <p>Further information and registration at: https://naturalengland.sym-online.com/registrationforms/fens/done/ The event is part of the national lowland peat pilot gathering information for the Government’s Peat Strategy, which flows from the 25 Year Environment Plan.</p>	
7.	<p>Alison’s Reading List: Wilding by Isabella Tree (2019) The Farming Ladder by G.Henderson (1943) Dirt to Soil by Gabe Brown (2018) All available for the usual suppliers</p>	

Date and time of next meeting: Thu 2 July 2020

Venue: Ian Benn offered for the Working Group to use the meeting room in the Shire Group of IDBs office. Some interest in potentially visiting an active NFM project (e.g. YDRT) as part of the meeting, so this will also be explored.