



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

Steering Group Meeting Agenda

Friday 24th June 10:00 – 12:30

Bath & North East Somerset Council Office, Bath

AGENDA

Chair: Dominic Hogg, Chairman, WENP

Item	Topic	Lead	Timing
1.	Apologies		10:00
2.	Minutes and actions from previous meeting	All	10:10
3.	WENP Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ H2020○ Working groups	RE, DH SD	10:20
4.	WENP work programme – 6 month update and review	DH / SD	10:50
5.	WENP Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Feedback and stakeholder suggestions	SD	11:10
6.	National Trust – update and priorities for natural environment	AR	11:30
7.	Bristol Resilience Officer – discussion and presentation	Sarah Toy	11:45
8.	AOB: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ GI benchmark (for September's meeting)	All	12:15
	Close		12:30

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Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Friday 24th June, 10:00 – 12:30

B&NES Offices, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath

Attendees:

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
AC	Amy Coulthard	Natural England (NE)
AR	Anna Russell	National Trust (NT)
BG	Brian Glasson	South Gloucester Council (SGC)
CH	Chris Head	West of England Rural Network (WERN)
IB	Ian Barrett	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
MMc	Mark MacGregor	North Somerset Council (NSC)
MMi	Mark Minkley	Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)
RE	Richard Ennion	Bristol City Council (BCC)
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
SM	Silole Menezes	Wessex Water (WW) (on behalf of Ruth Barden)

Apologies:

SC	Savita Custead	Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC)
RB	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water (WW)

MINUTES:

Item	Notes
1.	<p>Attendees Apologies: SC, RB Guest speaker – Sarah Toy, Bristol Resilience Officer.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes and Actions The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p> <p>Carry over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC to organise meeting with SD and Glen Gillespie from Severn Estuary team to discuss NIA. DH to arrange meeting with Nicola Yates (BCC) <p>ESIF DH to remain on ESIF committee until September, to receive a full briefing on what this means following BREXIT, as there is uncertainty about the future of the ESIF. CH noted that it would be useful to continue being part of the committee to influence the way the funding is allocated and spent.</p>
	<p>WENP update:</p> <p>Chair update: A discussion was had about the Chair’s role and possible conflicts of interest. The following points were agreed by the SG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure clear and transparent processes and appropriate governance are in place for individuals to declare any interests.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any pecuniary interests should be declared to the Chair or SD prior to a meeting, or if necessary at the start of an agenda item. • If any conflicts arise, Nolan principles should be applied. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All conflicts should be declared to SD via Register of Interest, which is updated on an annual basis. • SD to update ToR to include Nolan Principles and register of interest to include SG. • All to complete register of interest. • All to read ToR and provide feedback to ensure there is sufficient clarity around conflicts. <p>Horizon 2020</p> <p>WENP have recently been engaged with 3 H2020 bids looking at Nature Based Solutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban water resilience & climate change – ‘ACQUA’. A consortium with Bristol, Utrecht and Bologna. Stage 1 was successful and the consortium are currently working developing Stage 2 (due in Sept). 2. Developing an online platform – ‘ThinkNature’. WENP joined this consortium and have been awarded funding to participate in the development of the platform. 3. Urban regeneration and green infrastructure. This call is coming out in September, there had been some exploratory discussion with international partners and B&NES. Currently looking at whether it would be in the partnerships interest to pursue EU funding.
	<p>WENP Work Programme</p> <p>SD updated on the 2016 work programme and progress made in achieving outcomes. SD requested that partners and SG group were more active on supporting the delivering of outcomes.</p> <p>DH commented that he is still keen to develop some indicators and objectives to try and engage decision makers about how we would measure success. To demonstrate where progress has been made, or where there has been a negative impact on the natural environment. A discussion was had about whether WENP would like to develop its own targets and what we would like to see the region aspiring to, eg what does ‘No Net Loss’ look like for the West of England and how would we measure it?</p> <p>AR noted that NT are also trying to implement measurable targets.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to review work programme and provide feedback and updates where appropriate. • SD to email the leads on a monthly basis to see what progress has been made (if any). • SD to sit down with leads to look at actions when working from partner offices. • SD to add something on indicators (perhaps around • SD to organise a meeting to look at natural capital indicators – DH, AC, SM, RE, MMi, AR, LR, IB. SD to also ask James Fry. • SD to do inventory of existing indicators.
	<p>WENP Conference</p> <p>SD asked for reflections on the recent conference. She thanked everyone who helped, spoke, facilitated sessions and ran workshops.</p> <p>SD explained that stakeholders should have the opportunity to input into the WENP work programme, via the conference, as set out in the ToR. The following themes emerged from the feedback:</p>

	<p>Success of the partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulling the right people together • Influencing planning • Influencing the LEP • Mapping – producing a tangible output. <p>What should WENP be prioritising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning – influencing JSP and growth agenda • Communication – newsletters. How can you get people to listen to message? <p>CH noted that as a strategic body, and we must maintain that strategic role. MMi noted that there is a critical role for WENP to take the strategic overview of the natural environment with regards to the JSP and future growth, ensuring it is considered alongside transport and economic development, and there could be a role for WENP to highlight the cost that development will have on the natural environment and what it would cost (in £s to mitigate).</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to organise 2017 conference date – early April. • All to send SD lists of people they would like to send SoE report to – MPs, Councillors, senior management team etc. • SD to draft joint letter – from WENP and UA.
	<p>Bristol Resilience Officer – Sarah Toy, Bristol City Council</p> <p>ST presented to the group about the work she has been undertaking on 100 Resilient Cities to help develop a 50 year resilience plan for the Bristol region.</p> <p>CH queried how regional the strategy is, and whether parts of the hinterland are included. ST said it was and would like feedback on how it can be more inclusive of surrounding areas.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to circulate the ppt • All to look at the criteria to ensure they are happy with ‘framing’ of criteria. • MMi to invite ST to B&NES officer meeting.
	<p>Land, Outdoors and Nature. Anna Russell, National Trust</p> <p>NT are embarking on a full land assessment on all NT sites and have chosen top level sites that they want to bring into favourable condition. Working with farmer tenants, estate managers and other partners to work more effectively.</p> <p>NT are also looking at landscape scale to look beyond NT boundaries – including NIAs, Catchment in Trusts to see what work can be done there. They are also trialling a Natural Capital Accounting methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to circulate ppt. • AR to share documents around Land Use • SD to share NT land holdings in the West of England (if possible)
	<p>AOB</p> <p>What is the role of WENP with regards to the EU Referendum? What is the role of WENP with regards to the devolution debate?</p>
	<p>Next meeting: September 16</p>