

## LUNAN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING No. 7

DATE – 22nd March 2019 at 13.30. Guthrie Village Hall

PRESENT :- Janice Corrigan (Angus Council, chair), Andy Vinten, Remi Trenkmann – JHI, Scott Leith, Adam Carson – SEPA, Alban Houghton – Balgavies Management Committee, Anne Cheshire – SWT, Gavin Clark, Peter McPhail – SNH, Craig McIntyre - ERFT

1. JC opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending
2. APOLOGIES :- Laure Kuhfuss – JHI
3. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted

Matters arising dealt with through stakeholder reports below.

### 4. ANGUS COUNCIL UPDATE (JC)

- a. JC noted that Flood Risk Assessment was due by end of June on several Tayside rivers. Potential Vulnerable Areas would be identified first through a desk exercise. Cost of flood risk in the Lunan Water was not likely to be high enough to meet the status required for PVA. Local actions are likely to include clearance, repairs, watercourse inspections etc.  
  
AV asked if further information on estimation of costs could be provided **Action: JC.**
- b. Dredging. JC reported that AC does not have the powers to implement dredging of the Common Lade/Mill Lade d/s of Balgavies Loch. Further to the previous meeting, a site visit by Tony Allan (SEPA) took place, and it would be likely to be difficult to get a licence to dredge the lade, apart from the first 10m upstream of the bridge over the lade upstream of the confluence of Balgavies Burn. SEPA's view is that catchment measures are needed to control sediment. For more extensive dredging, a licence would be needed.
- c. Vegetation removal. This was seen as within the potential scope of AC activity, and a contractor which specialises in aquatic vegetation removal had been identified. A demonstration of the functionality of this equipment (Aquatractor) was soon to take place on Dean River, near Forfar Loch, and AC undertook to inform members of the group when this was taking place. It was thought this equipment could also be used to do vegetation removal on the common lade, with potential funds from the Revenue Budget of AC. **Action: JC.**
- d. It was noted that Water Environment Fund applications for river improvements now need to include a social element in proposals.

### 5. SNH update

- a. Soil conservation plans. It was noted that these had been completed on several farms in the upper Lunan Water, and potential funding existed for a further farm in the coming financial year. There was some discussion as to where this farm might be. See also JHI report on rural SUDS implementation under item 7 below.
- b. Peter McPhail noted updates in several of the Site Condition Monitoring reports for areas of the Balgavies and Rescobie SSSI's and undertook to circulate these. The transition open fen site at Rescobie SSSI had moved from Favourable declining to Unfavourable declining condition from 2010 to 2017. Of particular interest, given the extent of Canary grass in Chapel

Mires SSSI, was the evidence of spread of this in the area upstream of Rescobie Loch. **Action: PMcP to circulate reports.**

## 6. SEPA update.

- a. **Low Flows early summer 2018.** Scott Leith reported that 2018 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest summer since appraisal of low flow conditions began (Scott to provide starting date for this). reported 2018 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest year since 1981 (?). Can you help? During April/May letters were sent to farmers as “early warning” of low flows. Proposals for a on a new “hands off” flow condition at Q98, and limitations at Q95, with a potential for an upstream water users levy were also mentioned. It was reported that Scottish Water went into drought restrictions on abstraction in several places. He also noted that GW reserves were low.
- b. **Plans for Lunan Water becoming a Diffuse Pollution Priority Catchment.** AC reported on SEPA’s plans for awareness raising about General Binding Rules for diffuse pollution mitigation in the upper catchment, supported by catchment walks, individual farmer meetings and long term water quality monitoring. The monitoring would be using High Frequency composite sampling, in two sub-catchments (Burnside and Vinny). Awareness raising events are likely to begin in 2020 or possible not till 2021.

**We discussed the need to co-ordinate** efforts to promote update of Agri-Environment funded measures for pollution control, such as rural SUDS (see JHI report below) , and the SNH funded Soil conservation plans, with efforts to promote uptake of General Binding Rules. **Agreed** that having one or two funded measures in the monitored sub-catchments is unlikely to be a problem.

## 7. JHI Update (AV)

- a. **Water for all project update for Lunan Catchment.** AV tabled a report of activities to develop alternative water management plans for the catchment, which have been presented at various conferences. **Report A.**

It was noted that Remi Trenkmann, an intern student from ENGEES, Strasborg, France, is undertaking a modelling project assessing the impact of hydraulic structure management on flood risk. Report is due in September 2019.

- b. **Sediment retention projects.** AV tabled a report summarising plans and implementation for rural SUDS in the upper Lunan Water catchment. It was noted that one of these plans needed to be redirected to the correct owner, but it was not clear whose responsibility this was. **Report B.**
- c. **Report of trends in Water Quality in Lunan Water –** AV tabled a report which summarise trends in water quality in the upper Lunan Water and its sub-catchments. **Report C.**

## 8. Way forward with Lunan CMG

Agreed date of next meeting should be in Sept/Oct 2019.