

**MINUTES  
CVP GENERAL MEETING  
MINET LODGE (VISITOR CENTRE)  
12 MARCH 2014**

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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <p>Ilse Steyl – IS (CVP Development Manager – Green Corridor [GC]); Jean Rolfe – JR (GC); Alison Shipley – AS (LB Hillingdon); Tom White – TW (London Wildlife Trust [LWT]); Fiorella Williams – FW (LB Ealing); Jonathan Pettit – JP (GC); Paul Busby – PB (Yeading Brook volunteer); Jasmine Killen – JK (Thames Water [TW]); Claudia Innes – CI (TW); Dennis Vickers – DV (LB Harrow); Amanda MacLean – AM (Environment Agency [EA]); Bob Barton – BB (Friends of Cranford Park); Joe Pecorelli – JP (Zoological Society of London [ZSL]); Rob Gray – RG (Friends of River Crane Environment [FORCE]); Neale Hider – NH (EA); Angela Kidner – AK (Environment Trust [ET]); Ajit Bansal – AB (LB Hounslow); Dragana Knezevic – DK (LB Hillingdon); David Allister – DA (LB Richmond); Russell Knight – RK (Heathrow Ltd. [HAL])</p>	
	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Alex Rob &amp; Andy Willmore (LWT); Frances Bennett (FORCE); Bryn Lockwood (Sustrans); Chris Slack (Laing)</p>	
<p><b>1.0</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting:</b></p> <p>Agreed</p>	
<p><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Catchment Based Approach:</b></p> <p>The Crane Catchment has an agreed catchment plan published in October 2013. The Plan was written by the LWT (Tom White) in partnership with the rest of the CVP members. This offers a good way forward to look at objectives and set actions and projects accordingly. The Plan is published on the <a href="#">CVP website</a>.</p> <p>Defra’s policy framework to aid adoption of the catchment based approach has led to the establishment of a support group managed through the Rivers Trust (the umbrella body for charitable rivers trusts and river improvement groups across the UK). Two successful conferences were held last year (May and October) – links to the CaBA Support Newsletters are published on the <a href="#">CVP website</a>). As a result a of these conferences, a number of workshops have been run to assist catchment leads in running successful catchment partnerships. IS attended both conferences and a workshop at the London Wetland Centre. These offered a good opportunity to network and share best practise.</p> <p>Through the CaBA, the London Catchment (representing all</p>	

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	<p>catchment partnerships in London), have joined together to share and discuss issues pertinent to river catchments within London. Catchment hosts will get together on a regular basis to discuss common challenges. Hosted by Thames21.</p> <p>IS will publish minutes on the CVP website. Any issues that CVP members want to raise at these meetings should be passed on to IS.</p> <p>The Catchment Partnership Fund - Nov 2013 set up to assist catchments to start up and become self-sustaining. CVP received some funding (just under £6k). This funding has assisted in printing of the Catchment Plan, website development, conference and workshop attendance, and funding the CVP Development Manager post. More funding will be made available in 2014 to further support catchment partnerships. The exact amount that will be received is not known, but the suggested amount to ask for is £9k.</p>	<p><b>CVP members:</b> Issues CVP members want raised at London Catchment Partnership meetings should be passed on to IS.</p> <p><b>IS:</b> To send e-mail around when meetings will take place.</p> <p><b>IS:</b> to publish minutes on CVP website.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Thames Water Funding:</b></p> <p>The first deadline for Thames Water Fund project applications were at the end of January. Three applications were approved, one of which subject to further information (see below).</p> <p>Applications approved were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Crane River Monitoring Initiative;</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">River Crane Phosphorus Monitoring;</a> and</li> <li>• Donkey Wood Restoration - requires further work, supporting fish passes. Site visit to take place on Monday 17 March. Budgets to be confirmed and project will then go ahead.</li> </ul> <p>The current submission rounds are end of Jan, end of May and end of September. The <a href="#">funding criteria and process</a> is published on the CVP website. Deadline for May submissions are Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>A month will be given to review applications so decisions will follow the following month.</p>	
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Riverfly and Phosphorus projects:</b></p> <p>JP presented on River Monitoring Initiative (RMI) project.</p> <p>Funding will be for two years to support river fly monitoring across the whole catchment.</p> <p>Project started in Feb, with training for 9 river monitor volunteers. The invertebrates will be used to assess the health of the river.</p> <p>The river fly method focuses on 8 different invertebrates at 8 different sites.</p> <p>Surveyors learn a standardised methodology for collecting invertebrates,(kick sampling, followed by identification).</p> <p>The information is the used to score and show abundance of the invertebrates. Trigger levels will be agreed with the Environment Agency and if the sample goes below a trigger level , this will be</p>	

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	<p>reported to the EA for further investigation.</p> <p>Events will be identified quickly, seasonality, shifts in water quality etc. This will help to identify trends.</p> <p>RG presented on the Phosphorus Monitoring project.</p> <p>Working alongside JP, RMI volunteers will also support phosphorus monitoring. Field sample at each site, sent to TW for analysis. Flow will also be monitored.</p> <p>Test done to work out phosphorous loading.</p> <p>Universities are very interested, St Mary's Twickenham will adopt a site, they will also specifically look at algae and its link between phosphorus and invertebrates. Kingston University is offering a postgraduate for 4 months to support the project.</p> <p>Specific areas will be identified to look at impact re storms, loading etc.</p> <p>Thames Water mis-connections and the phosphorus/RMI projects will link together.</p> <p>Possible link with Middlesex Poly who ran a similar phosphorus project within another catchment. Thames21 also have a project currently underway in which water quality of the River Thames is monitored through volunteers. The Crane Valley partners are linking with this project as well, where appropriate.</p> <p>Rob to circulate a logistics paper to identify sites, leads and volunteering opportunities. Get in touch with Joe/ Rob if you wish to volunteer.</p> <p>IS to put initial phase 1 phosphorus report on the website and any other relevant funded project updates.</p> <p>Universities are keen to get involved and they could be a beneficial source of broadening support for river based activities.</p> <p>Next river fly training in May - JP</p>	<p><b>RG:</b> To send logistics paper to IS for circulation.</p> <p><b>IS:</b> publish final report of Phase 1 of phosphorus project. <i>Done.</i></p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Big Green Fund projects:</b></p> <p>JR &amp; RG</p> <p>Four wetland sites, Pevensey, Donkey Wood, Mill Road, significant matched funding from other sources (£250k).</p> <p>Developed as marginal wetlands and backwater channels as fish refuge and wetland value. Balancing improved access with environment value. Longer term project to look at what we have, what we need.</p> <p>Woodland archaeology report due.</p> <p>Initial stages:</p> <p>30 to 40 volunteer days.</p> <p>Also funding for the big balsam bash project, date second Sunday in June (8<sup>th</sup>). Activity up and down the catchment.</p> <p>Work to be done before and after to see how successful the project is.</p> <p>Possible EA team event, would need to be week day TCV and</p>	

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	<p>FORCE planning three days May, June and August - good partnership opportunity.</p> <p>Thames Water may also be able to offer team event (CSR).</p>	
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Water quality surveys at Heathrow:</b></p> <p>RK presented summary.</p> <p>Add results presented to minutes.</p> <p>HAL monitoring project quite tight, and very detailed. The monitoring should complement other projects.</p> <p>Monitoring up steam and at outfall.</p> <p>Monitoring chemistry.</p> <p>Biological working party (River Monitoring Initiative)</p> <p>Details published through HAL website.</p> <p>HAL also undertake fishery surveys, as well as monitor twin rivers (DNR &amp; Longford). These sections were de-culverted as part of the T5 development. Recreated a river aquatic environment inside a concrete box. They are netted to avoid bird strike. Interest in predator and prey relationship.</p> <p>HAL will provide data as and when they can, please ask if you need something specific. Send request to IS to liaise with HAL.</p> <p>RG - 5 year programme, could the partnership do anything to encourage HAL spend in terms of HAL five year programme. RK to investigate if CVP could help encourage.</p> <p>Is there value in transferring more water into the Crane due to the good quality of water coming out of Heathrow( not withstanding de-icer) during low flow periods.</p> <p>RK to investigate.</p> <p>HAL to release statement re investment.</p> <p>TW - How does the differences In temperature between balancing pond and river impact on discharge?</p> <p>RK - Outfall would be wider so water trickles over it, helping to manage temp and sediment.</p> <p>Opportunity for electro fishing demo at Shot Tower.</p>	<p><b>IS:</b> Include results as part minutes</p>
<p><b>7.0</b></p>	<p><b>River Basin Management Plan update:</b></p> <p>Cost benefit analysis around recommendations that are proposed within the draft management plan.</p> <p>The Cost Benefit Analysis has been undertaken to understand the cost and benefits to justify the activities suggested for improving rivers to achieve its WFD status.</p> <p>A long list of actions for each water body has been developed, primarily to resolve pollution (namely phosphorous), physical alterations and invasive species.</p>	

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	<p>A rough cost has been identified for each action, high and low. Cost for the Crane catchment came to approximately £50 million.</p> <p>Benefits over the whole catchment was calculated to be in the order of £90 million and the benefit to cost ratio was 1.9 (needs to be above 1). These suggested improvement projects will be assessed by Defra and any funding (if money is available) will be allocated according to the need of the catchment. Time scale for this is unknown.</p> <p>Consultation on the river basin plans to be announced.</p>	
8.0	<p><b>Mapping of projects and other important catchment features:</b></p> <p>IS discussed the mapping activities underway to assist in understanding the spatial relationships within the Crane catchment. These include mapping the locations of project and their objectives, land use, access, river impacts, etc. These maps will be published on the CVP website in due course.</p> <p>If partners want specific maps generated, please contact IS.</p>	<p><b>IS:</b> publish maps as and when available.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Contact IS with specific mapping requests.</p>
9.0	<p><b>Potential restoration of lower River Crane:</b></p> <p>IS presented a brief synopsis of the potential for restoring the lower River Crane (downstream of Mereway weir). This could include removal of concrete structure and weirs, fencing and re-shaping of river profile.</p> <p>A workshop to suggest proposals and actions will be held during the summer. IS to send information to partners.</p>	<p><b>IS:</b> send invitation to workshop to relevant partners and proceedings of workshop to all partners.</p>
10.0	<p><b>Other potential restoration projects and funding sources:</b></p> <p>De-culvert sections of the Longford River in Hanworth Park; SUDS projects across the catchment.</p> <p>None of these were discussed at the meeting. IS to discuss these and other projects with Boroughs and the EA in the first instance.</p>	
11.0	<p><b>CVP Development Manager Action Plan for 2014:</b></p> <p>IS went through the goals and actions for the CVP Development Manager during 2014 – attached below.</p>	
12.0	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>TW noted the public consultation exercise that is currently underway on establishing Crane Meadows as a nature reserve. He will be writing up proposals and costings for potential restoration projects along this stretch of the River Crane, to be used for future project proposal, e.g. Thames Water Fund.</p>	
13.0	<p><b>Next meeting date:</b></p> <p>TBC</p>	<p><b>IS:</b> send meeting date to partners.</p>

## ACTION PLAN

### CRANE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

	ACTION	OUTCOME
1.	Expand representation on Core Strategic to include representatives from London Boroughs of Hillingdon and Harrow. Although there is communication between Development Manager and Councils, there is no representative sitting in on the Core Strategic meetings.	Hillingdon and Harrow are fully represented on Core Strategic.
2.	Expand geodatabase for Crane catchment and generate maps that can be used by members of the Partnership and on the website. Use geodatabase to gain strategic overview of projects and their status across the catchment	Fully functional ArcGIS geodatabase Maps published and distributed to Partnership members.
3.	Support Thames Water Fund and Big Green Fund projects where possible as well as other related projects.	Assistance given to Partners regarding TW funding and project coordination between TW and BGF projects.
4.	Website management.	Regularly updated website (including Twitter & Facebook).
5.	Engage further partners, where appropriate.	Additional partners joining CVP.
6.	Engage with River Restoration Centre where feasible and appropriate.	Communicate with RRC, attend conference, discuss issues.
7.	Engage with London Catchment Partnerships group.	Attend meetings, give presentations, etc.
8.	Engage with Catchment Based Approach initiatives	Attend meetings and sharing of knowledge, information, workshops.
9.	Engage with neighbouring catchment (Brent and Colne).	Closer relationship between Crane, Brent & Colne catchments
10.	Coordinate projects where necessary and appropriate, e.g. assisting with joint volunteering opportunities between Partners.	Joined-up projects.
11.	Find further funding support for catchment hosting role as well as projects.	Additional funds available to support role in the future.