

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

9.00 – 10.30am Monday 3rd April 2023

Attendees: Claire W, Anna Darwood (AD), Gordon Coppock (GC), Jackie Jones (JJ), James Marsden (JM), Ellie Chowns(EC), Emily Partridge (EP), Stuart B, Steve K, Nigel Koch – HC (NK)

Herefordshire Council Support: Ben Boswell (BB) Richard Vaughan (RV)

Apologies: Claire Spicer (James Audsley invited), Kate Gathercole (KG)

1. Welcome – James Marsden

2. Minutes of the last meeting held 28th February 2023

- Matters Arising/ Actions – Board Action Log (attached)
Buildings Group to ‘tweak’ their summary plan to include Claire Spicer’s input on nature, indicate the top three actions and share template which will be used for future Action Plans.
 - Minutes to be agreed – agreed
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3. Farming and Land-Use sub-group

- Steve Klenk, Chair of the sub-group presented – previous farm/land manager for 33 years and recently retired. Co-chair of Farm Herefordshire.
- Nigel Koch from Herefordshire Council has now joined the group to support their work.
- Open invitation to board members to join any of the meetings at farms.
- Focus on Carbon and Phosphates. Phosphate stripping and de stocking may have a place (both are partial solutions). Farmers are willing to change e.g. cover crops, education of farmers has been good (including peer to peer).
- Looking at farms that can sequester carbon into soil to create cleaner environment.
- Encourage larger hedges to create wildlife corridors.
- Herefordshire farmers generally are ahead of some other counties.
- Need more support from regulators

Revised Farming and Land Use Group (FLUG) Action Plan (attached)

- Top three priority actions:
 1. Farm carbon audits – 40 funded first 9 completed

- a. **Action** - JW to ask 4R for summary of this methodology vs Duchy and share with FLUG
- b. **Action** - JW to ask 4R if sequestration is calculated as part of audits

2. New Phosphate measurement tool.

- Farm Herefordshire are working on a farm loading phosphate tool with the EA, DEFRA, universities and others.
- Based on Pool Harbour model converted to phosphates. Not user friendly and needs work before launch c. 18 months away.
- It will set out what is achievable and what is acceptable. Farmers who sign up are legally bound to give complete and honest information and then on a glide path to compliance. Those who don't sign up must comply within 1 year and are more likely to be inspected. Measures phosphate load at field level enabling farmers to adjust their loading field by field.
 - **Action - Group to update the action plan to reflect 3 points above.**
 - **Action –Group needs to review action leads as many point to HC and the purpose of the board is to mobilise countywide stakeholders.**

3. Nature recovery network map.

- Noted that several people are doing mapping.
- Group needs to discuss what 'good' looks like. Prioritising stakeholders Farm Herefordshire are already engaged. Looking to host a big event in the summer and hoping for Natural England to join as well as 4R conference, might be good to invite Duchy too.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy guidance came out last week and HC team reviewing. Resource from the climate reserve has been identified to develop this. The council are pulling together a stakeholder group for development of Nature Recovery mapping and strategy.
 - **Action** Is SK on this group?
- Farm Herefordshire looking to develop events.
 - How do we engage Young Farmers in this? Could this be a focus / topic for a future conference?
 - **Action** – Revise Action Plan to include nutrients and re-format to reflect the standard format used by the Buildings sub-group.
- Action plans need to reflect a wider range of key stakeholders i.e. Farm Herefordshire, land owners/managers rather than just the Herefordshire Council or Wildlife Trust.
- Discussion - 'where', 'who/with who' and 'how' elements of delivery (as a precursor to developing a more comprehensive stakeholder engagement and advocacy plan for the sector).

4. Inter-relationships between HCNP Board and strategic groups and summary of strategies

- Presentation made by RV& BB.
- JM presented his thoughts on the next steps once the action plans are formalised and prepare for reporting and presenting to an annual assembly.

- Monitoring county wide emissions using data sets from SCATTER will form the basis of the annual report. Midlands Net Zero Hub have been asked for support in back casting this data.
 - Finance from Climate Reserve has been set aside for events as well as an annual assembly. Decision was taken as a Board to do the Business event rather than the assembly at the end of 2022 which was very successful.
 - Group to discuss again in July meeting but can look forward to the annual assembly potentially around November and COP which was agreed by the group.
 - Seems to be more on nature and less on carbon. Also light on construction.
 - **Action** - Parish Councils to be added.
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5. AOB & Good News Items and Funding Opportunities

- Board recruitment - 4 applications to date, closing date is Tuesday 11 April 2023 assessment date w/c 17 April and subject to Board Member availability
 - GC to join subgroup and EC happy to stay on with JM and GW.
 - EC to move from buildings to transport subgroup.
 - Call for new members on transport group.
 - HC recruiting new Head of Highways and Head of Transport – BB to report back to Board when they are in post.
 - Funding opportunity – **Action** -JJ to forward Salix information to RV.
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6. HC Activity - One-Pager Update include Climate Reserve tracker (attached)

7. Date/Time of future Board Meetings & Agenda Items

- BB to present on Waste instead of Transport sub group at the May meeting.
- 5th June meeting will be in person, hosted by Caplor, as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations.
- **Action** - JM to check with GW exact time.
 - **Action** – BB, RV create plan and reporting framework with JM and GC and to speak to GC in advance.