

# South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership

## **MINUTES: BOARD MEETING – Wednesday 2nd June 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Liz Ballard (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust) – Chair, Daniel Hartley (Sheffield City Council), Alison Holt (Natural Capital Solutions), Melissa Massarella (Doncaster MBC), Brian Tinnion (independent), Paula Tweed (Barnsley MBC), Tom Wild (The University of Sheffield), Mike Winstanley (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust),

**Also present:** Ian Cracknell (SRWT) – Secretariat, Claire Argent (Natural England), Anthony Downing (Environment Agency), Andy Godfrey (Rotherham MBC), Laurie Heykoop (SCR), Matt North (SRWT), Nick Sellwood (Woodland Trust), Andrew Simpson (Environment Agency), Jim Smith (Forestry Commission)

**Apologies:** Jenny Barlow (EA), Kevin Burke (RMBC), Cate Hammond (SHU), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission)

### **2. Minutes of last meeting, actions and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

LB noted an action point follow up from JB on the previous item on Source to Sea. IC replied that JB had given apologies for the meeting and had now left her position but offered to provide an update by email following the meeting. MW confirmed awareness of a workshop to be held on this, date TBC.

AD - working on various areas of the Don, with the Upper Don being the current focus with delivery of work, flood management strategy etc – will follow for other catchments.

MN - attending Sheffield natural flood management meeting. Needs outreach to landowners/managers. Also noted that JB had indicated a funding issue, has had conversation with her and NS re: Nature for Climate Fund.

NS - pretty close to signing off on Nature for Climate Fund – if it can be used for Source to Sea he is happy for this.

AD re: point about a funding issue – delivery spend for Grant in Aid, being reassessed for delivery plan.

TW asked re Source to Sea being multi-beneficial – if Grant in Aid is focus for the current funding round, does any funding need to be monetised for flood risk management? AD confirmed this.

LB - update to the LNP seems needed. Can we invite JB to update in an agenda item?

AD confirmed he works with JB on catchment plan and Source to Sea – Jenny Longley is the EA lead on the catchment plan.

TW re: his action point for a presentation on analysis on river quality etc – to be added as an agenda item for next meeting.

JS - would be good to map landowner engagement and coordinate how we engage in SY.

LB raised Dasgupta Review – did LEP/SCR have awareness of this, and is there any benefit in highlighting the report to SCR Mayor and the Chair?

LH - mapping work could be a good hook for referring to this. LB agreed and will consider reference to this.

### **Actions:**

**LB/IC** to add agenda items on Source to Sea and TW river quality analysis at next meeting

### **3. Nature Recovery Networks & Strategies**

Paper circulated with Agenda, authored by Pete Tomlin

LB introduced the report and how it relates to natural capital maps etc. Also highlighted NE seed corn funding opportunity. Asked what do we as an LNP want to see going forward?

LH - natural capital mapping work should finish end June when it will then be disseminated. Two routes were identified for this – a briefing session held on 21 May and a workshop session with a date set for around two weeks' time. The steering group had the idea for two sessions - briefing session as a hook for senior decision makers etc so aware of maps, why it is important, what can be done with them and how it is linked to strategies. Thought briefing was a useful session, positive feedback and awareness raising is a success. The workshop will have two themes – NRNs and Woodland Creation – and what maps can tell us on these themes. Will have hi-res maps, need to think about partners, how other groups can interact and data access issues.

AH - the project has produced an evidence base for SY, lots of different GIS layers that can be used to visualise natural capital and ecosystem services. Base map of SY habitats, base for modelling of different ecosystem services – carbon sequestration, recreation, water quality/flow etc. Map for each ecosystem services that can be cut for different sites, boundaries etc. From that, more maps for workshop – what opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services? Can be used any way required in development of Nature Recovery Strategy. Can use to look at flood risk areas, social deprivation etc. Is about knowing it exists, that everyone has access, can use it and what can be done. Can track any changes to base map for biodiversity, calculate whether a single development or those across SY have achieved BNG or not. Project finishing end June with all methodology and calcs – start of longer process where different people and groups can use to enhance biodiversity/ecosystem services.

MM - briefing session was really good, some messages were about mismatch between areas like transport etc, so we can see where pressures will be for ecosystem services and support them.

LB agreed – need to bring in natural capital at senior policymaking levels. How do we do that and take forward? Have spoken in past about a Natural Capital Development Plan and prospectuses, to coordinate development and reach outside of sector – it feels like this is the asset to do that. Need for discussion across SY, if not careful could end up contradicting each other, need for landowners to understand priorities and for strategic approach - LNRS plan to bring together.

TW agreed re: different landowners being approached by multiple brokers. Questions around methods and models. Can the link be shared?

AH - models are really important. Method not able to be shared at present, is a recoded version of EcoservR – due to be shareable within next month. Is neither complex nor simple – trying to

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set balance. This is about an overview of lots of services across large areas. Lots of tools available but this was best for us as methodology was clear. Other models can be applied in future, should other areas need more clarity/data.

LB - need care on how maps are interpreted and used – understanding methodology key to what the maps are telling us. Need to draw on AH's expertise with consideration of her time as volunteer and that we may need to commission work.

MW - how do we begin to integrate into this work? Concern that this becomes standalone piece of work – secret of success is to collaborate/combine with other work. Big gap is landowners, winning hearts and minds to work with us is key for connectivity.

NS - will be interesting to learn from NE pilots for what we can use in SY. Clarity on timescale and how we engage others to develop framework and process. Suggest a small group to look at this, break down into small chunks and project manage to tackle this.

LB - LNRS proposal shared with group. Previous work on this was how do we get resource to take forward with LNP etc. SY Nature Networks was successful – feedback said it was the most strategic proposal in the north! Have some resource with Pete Tomlin at SRWT, can also do project management work. First stage is small group working with him to look at next steps to develop this. Has been discussing with others at pilot stage to look at reporting, some learning in paper shared round – group to work out project management process? What is project, end point, outputs, who involved, 10/20 years, fit with strategic economic plan etc. Nature Recovery Plan?

TW - what kind of competencies needed from LNP - matrix of board/skills? Money for further development of programme approach. Where are we up to on engagement from LAs?

PT - BMBC would support what set out in paper and would keep cabinet spokesperson briefed and look whether to be shared further through cabinet. Services Director attended briefing with very positive feedback and keen to input, so do not see any problems getting on board. One query was two groups, could be capacity issue. Landowner reps to join stakeholder group?

DH - SCC are supportive. LB replied she had also spoken to Chris Wilson.

AG - RMBC approval for initiatives, was no problem funding mapping work. Don't have links with senior management on green issues, may be stumbling block. Just funded pollinator project, Env Bill initiatives communicated to planning dept. Green spaces senior management supportive.

MM – attended last briefing, multi-disciplinary tool, needs to be useable by planning and ecology etc. LAs need to buy-in and be embedded at strategic level where plans are contradictory, gaps, large areas for development in SY. Have been approaching LAs about cross-boundary opportunities. Public engagement – landowners, those working for and voting for councillors etc. Look at how it works for those at each step down the pyramid.

NS - Dan Jarvis could be helpful in encouraging all 4 LAs to support. would make sense if the plan can be agreed across LNP with sign off at senior level from each LA. Workshop may be focussed way of working through high level questions being raised. Key that a really compelling case is made as to why this is right way forward.

LB - how do we get people on the ground to marry up with big strategic national recovery ambition? Don't think LNRS pilots looked at community input.

AG - targeting councillors is important

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TW - celebrations and local events as successful way to involve local people/communities

AH - Fitzwilliam Estate submitted data so should be part of this. Are other LAs doing this that we can learn from, different ways of working and find fit for SY? Value of buying into greater network has benefits for wider work – e.g. tree planting upstream has benefits for those downstream. Data sharing – how, who doing it etc? Ways of setting up with small income through fees, set up with learning from others. Needs someone with tech knowledge to layer all this up.

JS - ask of steering group to have more strategic/operational people on the ground during stakeholder engagement, linking in with tenders he is looking at. Have been through a lot of recruitment at FC, key this is linked through to young people. Legacy issue re: potential careers.

LH – Youth MCA potential audience.

AH - green finance mechanisms can be used. Good to have stages to delivery activity on ground – short, medium and long term projects. Maybe subgroups could reflect themes that come out in the vision and priorities of the strategy?

LH – is a piece of work for someone to look at how this can engage with different groups on different areas of strategy. Big part of Env Bill likely to land with SCR – could result in resource, as if statutory obligation can earmark funds for this. If confident enough is statutory obligation for SCR, can use our boards – Transport and Environment etc) to reach all councillors in region on these issues to shape strategy.

NS – establishing end goal, process and timescale will make it easier to establish resource and people needed to drive and coordinate work.

LB – Draft Env Bill is unclear who responsibilities are for. Are some bare bones in expectation for LNRS – evidence base and setup here suggests we should aim for 'Rolls Royce' strategy.

CA – What we're hearing is landscape scale and LA boundaries for LNRS, over next few months will be busy with pilots and Env Bill , get group set up so when more info emerges already up ahead – overarching group and working subgroups. NE perspective wider SY strategy locally welcomed. Our area team across SY not large, so having to pull back some support to ensure fair share. Overarching strategy can help more joined-up landscape scale approach we need.

AH – May never have clear signal on what LNRS area should look like. Will be general guidance for LAs that PAS are drawing up.

LB – Facilitated workshop as action?

NS – Structured workshop to work through bigger questions, small group that drafts something initially with comments in from wider group. Other key thing is to have idea of what we need to produce – easier then to work out steps and process to get there.

LB –Task of small group is to develop project scope, timeline, stakeholders, what in/out of project, interdependencies, principles, collaboration, gaps, not usual suspects etc.

LB asked who would like to be in the group - nearly all attendees volunteered. LB noted the names of those who nominated to join the group, and continued that a project scoping template has been drafted by SRWT for basic nuts and bolts, which will be circulated to group by email.

**Agreed:** Broad support and agreement to take forward LNRS development work as set out in Paper by PT.

**Actions:** LB to circulate project scoping template to those who volunteered, in order to secure feedback / comment and help finalise. Workshops to follow.

#### **4. SY LNP Woodland Creation update – Matt North**

MN gave a verbal update, presentation document to be circulated following the meeting.

**Actions:** IC to circulate MN's WC presentation document following the meeting.

#### **5. Nature North**

Briefing note had been circulate with the Agenda. LB suggested attendees find out who in their organisations is in Nature North or contact LB for more information.

#### **6. Roundtable updates**

There were no roundtable updates due to time constraints.

#### **7. AOB**

A short discussion took place re: additional board members for decision making. LB had been recently considering this and a refresh of the board's Terms of Reference. LH to find out if ok to be on LNP board. Yorkshire Water need to be formally added and consider approaching other water cos such as Severn Trent.. TW, need to refer back to Terms of reference for appointing new Board members.

BT noted that Dearne Valley has received SSSI notification, which was roundly celebrated.

**Actions:** LH to confirm whether able to be LNP board member.

#### **Future agenda items:**

Source to Sea catchment plan  
TW river quality analysis  
MM update on metrics  
LNRS project  
Mapping update  
Woodland Creation  
Dearne Valley SSSI  
HS2

#### **Date of next meeting:**

Doodle Poll of potential dates to be circulated by Lynn Campbell at SRWT.