

Water Sector Innovation Leadership Group

Meeting minutes 3 October 2013

Nobel House, Defra

Attendees:

Tom Flood (Independent Chair)	Dr David Smoker (SBWWI)
Chris Newsome (UKWIR and Anglian Water)	Mark Worsfold (Ofwat)
Simon Cocks (Severn Trent Water)	Sonia Phippard (Defra)
Russell Ball (BIS)	Keith Mason (Ofwat)
Daniel Osborn (UKRIP)	Rupert Kruger (Water UK)
Piers Clarke (Thames Water)	Alison Maydom (Defra)
Mark Lane (Pinsent Masons) Guest speaker	Graham Lott (Defra)

1. Introduction

Tom Flood welcomed all to the 4th meeting of the Group.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted and would be published on the Ofwat website.

Alison Maydom informed the Group that the Chairman of the Select Committee for Science and Technology (Andrew Miller) had been invited to attend the Leadership in Innovation event 17th December.

3. Indicators project

Dan Osborn reported that WRc had been awarded the contract for the indicators project and that a project start-up meeting had taken place. A key focus of the meeting was to ensure that there would be sufficient project progress to present a substantive presentation at the December Innovation event.

Alison Maydom said that members of the Group would be approached by WRc over the next two weeks in order to provide key reporting/project information. The Group agreed to provide Graham Lott with relevant contacts to pass to WRc, he would also circulate the minutes of the start-up meeting to the Group. Alison Maydom reported that a MOU between Defra and UKWIR was being developed.

Tom Flood said the current list of indicators was lengthy and that he considered the innovation event would provide a good opportunity for the water sector to help refine the list, in particular identify the market demand appetite and what success would look like.

Tom Flood thanked Richard Kirby and Dan Osborn for their work on the project.

4. Model for innovation

Simon Cocks provide the Group with a presentation of the insight model. He reported that most of the last quarter had been spent ensuring the model worked from a functional perspective. The model had been populated with some live data and testing had been done on the system to ensure its robustness. The next step would be to continue to populate with more data and verify system functionality. More user functions would also be added to the system. A demonstration of the model would be provided to Defra and Tom Flood in Coventry, 12th November.

The model development team were considering how best to present the model at the innovation event 17th December. Simon Cocks would consider building a story board for the event which would be discussed on 12th November. Simon Cocks reported that the demonstration would be real and presentational. It was intended to promote the positive value of the model, its credibility and value to the water sector. The Group agreed that a list of TSB initiatives would be sent to Simon Cocks to assist with the population of the model. Mark Worsfold suggested someone from the supply side may consider speaking for the model at the event.

5. Innovation event update

Graham Lott reported that the first batch of invites had been issued and that the event registration page had been set-up. He expected to hear by the end of the week from the event organisers how many had already registered. The Group agreed that the event timetable was extremely tight and that the timings would be reviewed. Tom Flood said that it was important to consider how the dialogue with event delegates would continue after the event.

6. Forward look

The Group agreed that the forward look should also include in addition to innovation events, other mainstream water events. Piers Clarke suggested including dates for the UKWIR review meetings.

7. EIP conference

The group reported that the EIP Conference 21st November would include a presentation by Isle Utilities. Other UK presence at the conference would include Cranfield University, Ashton University, Coventry University, and EPSRC

8. Plans for 2014

The Group agreed to hold a telecom in December before the innovation event to discuss final preparations for the event. The event would be fully reviewed by the Group at its February meeting along with progress with the indicators and insight model projects and plans and aims for 2014. Tom Flood stressed the importance of keeping the momentum going post event.

9. Presentation by Mark Lane

Mark Lane (Chairman of British Water) updated the Group on the breadth of the work of the Business Economy Working Group. The working group's report would be themed on innovation would have an international dimension looking at the work of overseas water sectors. The report is expected to be published towards end 2013. How the report would be lunched was still to be decided.

10. Any other business

Dan Osborn provided the Group with an update on the recent Business Advisory Board meeting.

Tom Flood thanked Alison Maydom and Graham Lott for their work on the Group.

11. Date of next meeting

February 2014