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Revised 2018-2033 Local Development Plan

Position Paper Nutrient Management Boards



May 2024

Position Paper: Nutrient Management Boards

Role of the Boards

The Cleddau, Tywi and Teifi Nutrient Management Boards (NMBs) have been established to develop and implement Nutrient Management Plans for the 3 freshwater SAC (Special Area of Conservation) river catchments, by appraising the options proposed by a TAG (Technical Advisory Group) and a Stakeholder Group, both operating across the 3 catchments' sub-region. The NMBs were established in 2022. Three NMBs have been formed in West Wales; the Afon Tywi NMB, the Afon Cleddau NMB and the Afon Teifi NMB. The River Stakeholder Group was established in 2023.

The NMB is responsible for identifying and delivering actions that achieve the phosphorus favourable conservation target of a river that is deemed a SAC, whilst also meeting socio-economic needs of its surrounding communities. By facilitating responsible development that doesn't contribute additional phosphorus to the river.

The objectives of the NMBs are to independently review and analyse existing policy and the evidence base. In addition, they consider the multiple challenges surrounding nutrient management, and develop recommendations on the optimal policy approaches to minimise nutrient pollution in each riverine catchment.

Membership

Cllr Ann Davies - CCC

Rhodri D Griffiths - CCC

Cllr. Huw Williams – Powys / BBNP

Rhian Jardine – NRW

Marc Williams– NRW

Callum Firth - Stakeholder Group Chair

Owain George - DCWW

Kelly Jordan – DCWW

Gail Pearce-Taylor – NMB programme Manager

Cllr Clive Davies - CeCC

Russell Hughes- CeCC

Cllr. Jon Harvey – PCC

Harriet Lavender – PCC

Sara Morris - Pembrokeshire Coast

Huwel Manley – NRW

[West Wales River Stakeholder Group](#)

The stakeholder group is constituted of the general public and will act as the central nucleus pulling together lines of communication on the nutrient issue from a non-organisational perspective. A representative of the Stakeholder Group sits on the NMB meetings for each catchment. In this way Stakeholder concerns are fed directly to the Board.

This stakeholder group aims to bridge that gap between networks, uniting the stakeholders of West Wales and utilising the unique expertise and experience each individual brings in order to achieve the same common goal – to improve the condition of our protected Riverine SACs whilst allowing responsible development. Thereby giving the citizens of West Wales a sense of power and utilise their agency to provide betterment to the condition of protected river SACs.

[Technical Advisory Group](#)

The role of the sub-regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is to collect, collate, and analyse data used to present options for approval by the Boards. The TAG group works collectively to produce a Nutrient Management Plan for each catchment.

The TAG provides an evidence base for the NMBs, and includes officer level representatives of the Board Membership, and external subject matter experts where necessary. The people are drawn from a wide range of experts in relevant fields of research and work. Each member

has a strong background in one or more of the following subjects: soil science, agriculture science, nutrient modelling, animal science, hydrology, ecology, impact assessment methods on eutrophication, and water quality. The TAG Group is comprised of a number of smaller TAG Working Groups.

The TAG Group is comprised of several smaller focused working groups, the task and finish group and commissioned workstreams. The Working Groups aim to allow for a holistic personalised approach to phosphorus management within West Wales drawing from expertise across organisation and the general public. The three operational focussed working groups are the TAG Agricultural Working Group, the TAG Citizen Science Working Group and the TAG Monitoring Working Group. Catchment management is as much a social science as it is an environmental one. People skills; the power of engagement, through insight, influence and persuasion are key to changing practices that deliver water quality improvements.

[TAG interaction with the NMB](#)

The TAG is accountable to the NMBs who should ensure that the identified actions are carried out. The NMBs should define the TAG's objectives, set the timescale to deliver these and should hold to account the TAG for delivery. NMBs can change TAG Chairs or close TAGs entirely if they do not consider necessary actions are being undertaken or if their purpose has been fulfilled.

[TAG interaction with the Stakeholder Group \(SG\)](#)

This will be made up of organisations and individuals with an interest in the outcomes of the Nutrient Management Plans. The SG chair attends the TAG group meetings and the TAG chair attends the Stakeholder Group meetings. In this way priority actions, information sharing, support and learning can be advanced. Chair of SG (elected by the Stakeholder group on a rotational basis) reports concerns, progress, and aspirations at quarterly Board meetings.

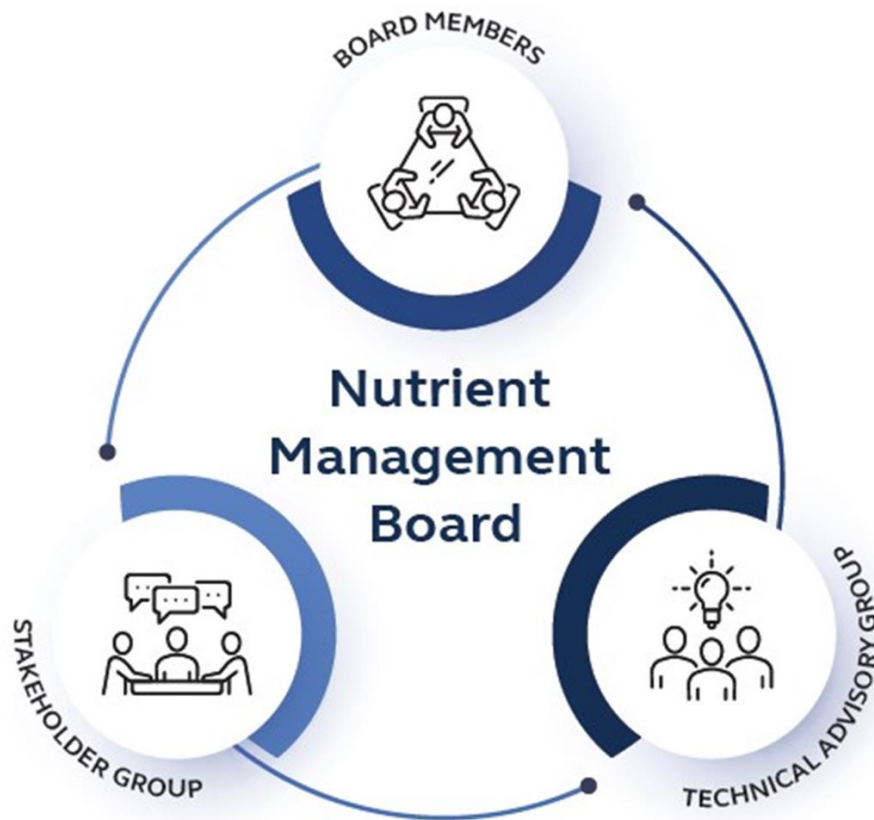


Figure 1: Interaction of parts

Nutrient Management Plans

The goal of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is to review the current evidence base, identify the sources of excess nutrients in rivers, calculate the necessary nutrient removal required, suggest ways to reduce this pollution, with clear outputs and specific timeframes. An NMP will also identify any gaps in information and provide a clear direction to the amount of nutrient reduction required and the most effective locations and the necessary. That is, a clear plan of action with targets to achieve and deadlines to meet. The NMPs provide strategic opportunity areas to align with the quantity of nutrient removal required along with the potential wider benefits that could be provided. It will be updated as new

information comes to light. The NMPs will be voted on by Board Members to ensure that the actions identified are delivered in a timely manner.

Website and GIS Platform

Our GIS portal aims to provide the geospatial information necessary to inform the creation and monitoring of mitigation in the catchments. It aims to pull together the existing activities in the catchments and present the additional areas of opportunity to support the goals of the NMB. It can be used by interested parties to design removal and reduction measures and together with the information provided support development.

| Stakeholder | Work and Documents to support delivery of rLDP |
|----------------------------|---|
| Nutrient Management Boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference. • Regional Technical Advisory Group and TAG sub groups. • West Wales River Stakeholder Group. • Nutrient Management Board Support Officer. • Nutrient Management Board Programme Manager. • Nutrient Management Board Nutrient Neutral Ecologist. • Interactive Website and GIS Platform. • Separate Nutrient Management Plans for the Tywi, Teifi and Cleddau Riverine SAC Catchments • Lobbying and collaboration with Welsh Government and NRW for greater clarity where necessary, to ensure the plans are deliverable • West Wales Nutrient Budget Calculator and Mitigation Guidelines |

Table 1: Work and Documents to support delivery of rLDP