



ESSEX RIVERS HUB
Catchment Partnership Meeting Minutes

Monday 4th December 2023
13:00 – 15:00

Online meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Paul Hodgkin, Mandi Savage, Darren Tansley, Ben Mott, Gary Hodgetts, Andrew Warwick, Nicola Shearer, Lucy Shepherd, Matt Butcher, Andy Went (ESRT), Helen Dangerfield (ESRT), Jess Duckenfield (ESRT)

1 Introductions

2 Actions from last meeting

3. Citizen Science Update from Andy Went

Outcome: Majority vote for name to be Essex RiverWatch

4. Partner updates

Please also send any updates that you would like to publicise in the December edition of the ERH newsletter to Jess Duckenfield (info@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org) by Monday 11th December.

Anglian Water, Gary Hodgetts

- Water quality, main issues have been turbidity, soil loss and colour.
- Farm Innovation Grant has just closed, 70 bids being supported (£1.3 million worth of spend out in key priority areas in catchment)
- Farmer cluster support window open
- Next year water recycling works

Lead local Flood Authority Manager, Lucy Shepherd,

- Essex Water Strategy project draft has gone to the design team and will go out to key partners with a design draft for feedback.
- Recommendations are still to be signed off internally.

Catchment Sensitive Farming, Mandi Savage & Andrew Warwick

- Colne and Stour: 57 farms for face-to-face visits with a few more due before the end of the year
- Currently receiving 3-4 capital grants scheme applications a month
- Healthy soils event for the Stour in future
- SFI Barleylands



Environment Agency, Matt Butcher & Nicola Shearer

- NFM handbook is in final phase with internal review,
- In January, workshop date with Kings College London on latest sensors and monitors
- National EA looking at Blackwater and Colne as a case study for a complete river system.

Essex Wildlife Trust, Darren Tansley & Ben Mott

- Contract over the line for mink eradication project – 6 years.
- 76 smart rafts out in Essex, funding for another 300
- North Essex Farm cluster, talking to them about Mink project.
- Ghost ponds and pond restoration
- Citizen science mapping project for pond restoration, desk-based mapping and pond condition assessments in spring, workshops for volunteers and focus on farm clusters.
- Plastic pathways project in pipeline with marine team
- Funding success for fish passage project in Kelvedon, great community engagement potential

HEAT, Paul Hodgkin

- PFOS testing relating to Airfield fire retardants.
- Trying to work with landowners to try and get together a biodiversity net gain package that would focus on the riverbanks.

Citizen science subgroup meeting –

Meetings next year: Feb, May, September, December