



Minutes of RLCP meeting held online on Thursday 16th September 2021

Attending
Ian Campbell - BWMG (IC)
Nigel Elbourne – RLCP Mildenhall Group (NE)
Cathy Emerson – RLCP Fornhams Group (CE)
George Gooch – RLCP volunteer (GG)
Chris Hainsworth – Natural England (CH)
Andrew Hinchley – RLCP Chair and Trustee, BWMG Chair (AH)
Steph Holland – RLCP Admin (SH)
David Hudson – RLCP Lark Villages, Bury Trout Club (DH)
Gary Quilter – West Suffolk Council Open Spaces (GQ)
Libby Ranzetta – BWMG, Chalk Aquifer Alliance, Sewage Group (LR)
Glenn Smithson RLCP, LAPS (GS)
Apologies
Will Cranstoun – Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RLCP trustee
Chris Gregory – RLCP trustee
Jessie Leach- Cameo, Rivers Trust
Jim Meadows – RLCP trustee, LAPS vice chair
Becks Mundy – Natural England, Catchment Sensitive Farming, Pollution Group
David Palmer – RLCP trustee
Jim Stephens – RLCP treasurer and trustee, BWMG
Richard Summers – Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership
Jon Swift – RLCP volunteer
Sam Westwood – Cameo, AW

Minutes taken by Steph Holland

1. Administration and Communications	Actions
1.1 Minutes from meeting June 2021 approved	
<p>1.2 Actions from previous meeting in June 2021</p> <p>AH to look into progress of CamEO's action regarding their governance review.</p> <p>AGM to be confirmed but likely to be the next meeting</p>	AH
<p>2. Citizen Science Development</p> <p>AH shared powerpoint summary of Lark Citizen Science project. LR explained that the project is broad ranging to enable easier access to funding. A work programme is being put together for the Lark observatory. The Lark Observatory citizen science project is a community effort to gather data and intelligence relating to problems faced by the Lark and its tributaries, and will inform the action plan. It will be convened by RLCP and potentially be supported by interested local groups. It will involve academics from Suffolk and Cambridge Universities, students from West Suffolk College, local schools and community groups, and residents. AH shared descriptions of a range of equipment for testing water quality and explained the associated costs for training, equipment and expert guidance on analysing results.</p>	
<p>3. Pollution Group</p> <p>3.1 Sewage Group - LR reported that the Sewage group has now met a few times and they are trying to understand the current situation. They are analysing data to map out the problems and decide what equipment will be necessary. There are now two academic professors involved in the sewage group, Bill Sutherland from Cambridge University and Nic Bury from the University of Suffolk. The group is also hoping to work with students from West Suffolk College. There are plans to begin the Outfall Safari in October, which will look at mapping the pipes and run off going into the river. DH is investigating sewage coming from manhole covers.</p> <p>3.2 River Lark Pollution Report - AH gave an update on the first six months since the report was published. Progress has been made in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA loan of water quality equipment (sonde) • Anglian Water maintaining existing phosphate removal levels and clarifying issues about funding further phosphate removal • RLCP developing Citizen Science proposals <p>3.3 European Plastics Project – BWMG are already making progress on this project, there is an RLCP volunteer about to start at West Row.</p> <p>3.4 MorPH – Plans to survey Cavenham Heath on the request of the Environment agency. Another cohort of volunteers will be training in October 2021.</p> <p>3.5 Lakes and Ponds BFER Freshwater Habitats – we are waiting results from</p>	

<p>BFER which were due in September 2021 but now hopefully due Oct 2021</p> <p>3.6 A14 – Sam Hurst has met with the Highways Agency at Tesco to talk about the outfall with a broken filtration system. There is funding available to fix it. Now awaiting the next stage.</p>	
<p>4. Volunteer Lark Groups/Development and Growth</p> <p>4.1 Some of the courses coming up this Autumn have had to be condensed due to low uptake. There is Water Safety Training, Advanced River Restoration Training, First Aid and MorPH habitat survey training planned in October 2021. We are coming to the end of our EU WaterCOG training funding.</p> <p>4.2 RLCP Garden Party – AH thanked Stephen and Carole Mullender for hosting our Garden Party in August. Those who attended gave very positive feedback and said they would be interested in similar social events in the future.</p>	
<p>5. Lark Abstraction Workshops and Study</p> <p>Jim Stephens is not yet back so will tell us more at the next meeting. AH gave a brief summary on his behalf:</p> <p>The Water for Tomorrow contract has been awarded. The Abstraction pilot is being taken forward by the river abstraction licence holding farm businesses entering into a formal cooperation agreement for water sharing and management. RLCP through the Water for Tomorrow project will assist the Lark Abstractors Group (LAG) identify a suitable constitution and operating form for this. Through the Water for Tomorrow project, RLCP will provide the necessary administrative and technical support for the pilot project and provide coordination, support and bridging between the farming businesses and Cranfield Water Science Institute (CWSE) who will undertake the research.</p> <p>CH expressed an interest in being involved with the project.</p>	JS
<p>6. BFER/ River Activity Ecology, Conservation and Restoration</p> <p>6.1 GS reported that the river at Flempton is too overgrown to do restoration work there at the moment. The conditions have been reported to the EA as the reed has fully encroached across the open channel and blocked the river. This project is on hold until the vegetation dies down. The next restoration work planned is now at Fuller’s Mill (conditions allowing), where the plan is to install wooden debris above the previous site worked on in 2020.</p> <p>GS, AH and JS will meet with Rob Clapham to press for a more pro-active stance on Burr-reed challenges.</p> <p>6.2 Himalayan Balsam Campaign – Thank you to all of the volunteers who took part in this year’s efforts.</p>	GS AH JS

<p>7. Cameo update</p> <p>AH reported on behalf of Jessie L and Sam W that there will possibly be a new fund accessible next year. Cameo has been using RLCP as an example for other catchment partnerships.</p>	
<p>8. Water Resources East</p> <p>8.1 The CEO of WRE is keen to do a presentation at an RLCP meeting. AH will invite them to the next meeting</p> <p>8.2 HR Wallingford Wetlands Modelling involves the River Lark</p> <p>8.3 WRE are now having local catchment workshops</p>	AH
<p>9. Future Meetings</p> <p>For now it was decided to keep the meetings via zoom to make it easier for people to attend from further afield and in anticipation of possible Covid concerns increasing as we move into winter.</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>11. Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 25th November 2021, 5.30pm via Zoom</p>	