



**Note of PR09 Chief Executives Group Meeting
29 January 2008
11:00 – 13:00, Ofwat, Birmingham**

Attendees:

Ofwat

Regina Finn – (Chair)
Fiona Pethick
Mark Hann

Jonathan Hodgkin
Carolyn Baker (notes)

Tony Smith – Consumer Council for Water
Martin Hurst – Defra
Tricia Henton – Environment Agency
Claire Bennett – Welsh Assembly Government
Jeni Colbourne - Drinking Water Inspectorate (item 5 onwards)
Helen Phillips – Natural England (via video link)

1. Notes and actions from 23 November meeting

Agreed amendments to the actions. We will place the notes from the meeting on the Ofwat website.

2. Strategic Direction Statements (SDS)

Ten meetings have taken place with companies with the rest taking place in February. The SDS will set the business plans produced by the companies in a longer term context. CCWater will discuss the SDS with companies through the quadripartite meetings with DWI and EA.

3. Water Strategy and Social Environmental Guidance

Defra's water strategy and social and environmental guidance will be published on 7 February 2008.

WAG will be publishing its social and environmental guidance and statement of obligations towards the end of February after the next Wales PR09 Forum.

4. Sustainability & Infraction risk

A holistic view needs to be taken by all as per the water framework directive for existing statutory duties, where the law gives this flexibility. Statutory duties need to be complied with. Areas to be considered include sustainable solutions versus end of pipe solutions, energy efficiency, climate change and innovation.

5. Land Management Issues

Where it is cost effective, all agreed that companies can use a more flexible approach to achieve outcomes for raw water quality upstream of a water treatment works by working with land managers. Further discussion is required about downstream clean up.

6. Consumer research stage 3

The group gave their support conditional support to the stage 3 consumer research, but felt that the choices presented to consumers needed to be more sophisticated. The steering group will be working on the detail of the next stage in the consumer research programme.

7. AOB

The EA are working on simplifying, and reducing the administrative burden of applying for environmental permits.

Defra discussed the water scarcity communication from the European Commission.

8. Date of next meeting

29 April 2008; 11:00 – 13:00 at Ofwat, Birmingham.

Ofwat, January 2008