



Representing Abstractors in Broadland CAMS & North Norfolk CAMS

Newsletter

8th December 2017

Dear member

Renewing time limited licences that expire on 31st March 2018.

Only 50% of renewals have been received by the Environment Agency.

Please ensure that you submit your renewal forms by 31st December 2017. In an ideal World this should be done six months before the licence expires. If you leave the renewal until after 31st December 2017, your abstraction licence process is different and you may find it is not renewed on the same terms.

Countryside Productivity Grants for Reservoirs

RPA have extended the deadline until 29th June 2018. This is probably the last opportunity for some time to obtain grant funding for reservoirs.

The Article 46 handbook has been re-written but only about 40% of Eastern region is eligible for funding.

Locally LEADER has money available for smaller projects such as underground mains, pumps, IT etc. Currently, there are very few projects coming forward, so now would seem a good time to apply, even if it's not a water resources project, especially in Broads LAG area where uptake is low. www.norfolklags.co.uk

Broadland Groundwater Chalk Aquifer Review/RSA programme

This should be completed by the end of March 2018. Licences are being aligned with historic maximum abstraction 2000-2015. In addition and running parallel, the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme around Ant Broads & Marshes SSSI complex should be completed by 31st March 2018. This RSA assessment takes into account the effect of abstraction (particularly groundwater abstraction) on the water quality in the SSSI. In addition, the effects of all abstraction on saline incursion, coming up from the tidal Bure catchment, on the integrity of the SSSI will be scrutinised. There has been intensive lobbying from a third party with the aim to prevent or reduce abstraction on 41 agricultural and two PWS licences in Ant and tidal Bure catchments

(Potter Heigham-Wroxham-Marsham-Ridlington area). We are currently aware of two time limited licences which are unlikely to be renewed.

BAWAG's committee has met Environment Agency and Natural England to discuss the situation and our concerns over the accuracy of the lobbying has been taken on board. A copy of the third party's hydro-ecological report is attached.

Water Bill/Licence reform 2020.

It appears that the Cabinet office is too busy with Brexit to worry about this complicated piece of future legislation. It appears to be on hold. However trickle Irrigators from non-licenced sources, currently abstracting from deregulated sources, are to be given licences but must conform to Habitat Directive and Water Framework Directive.

20cm/day licences

On the whole, the agricultural sector is pretty good on getting licences in place prior to abstraction. There are a growing number of businesses coming forward who are not conforming to 20cm/day. For a farm which has an existing abstraction licence plus domestic and other sources, all the sources should be licenced under one licence if the aggregate is over 20cm/day on any day. They are not permitted an additional 20cm/day source. This includes tenants on short term FBT licences for uses such as outdoor pigs.

www.BAWAG.co.uk

Looking forward it is more than likely that communication with members will be via this website. For the time being newsletters will still continue to go out to members via Christopher Deane (NFU North Walsham). Please make every effort to start using this website.

Licensed volume

The Environment Agency's national policy is to remove headroom from all licenced abstraction. This will mean reduced licenced volume. BAWAG are not automatically kept informed of changes by the Environment Agency, so when your new licence comes through, please remember to inform BAWAG and we can keep our members details as accurate as possible.

Latest water availability- see attached maps for surface and groundwater

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