



Newsletter

Meeting: BAWAG Committee
Date: March 12 2024
Venue: AF Group Offices, Honingham Thorpe, Colton, NR9 5BZ

Hi there – it's been a couple of weeks since the AGM and for those who couldn't make it, this is a quick summary of the proceedings. The key points were:

1. Annual subscriptions for 2024/25 were fixed at **£3.30/1,000m³** licenced volume of abstraction. This means no change from last year and no levy for the Norfolk Sustainable Abstraction (NSA) programme. The invoices will go out in the next few weeks.
2. Benny and Nick were re-elected as Chair and Treasurer and the Committee was re-appointed pending the change to Norfolk Environment Food and Farming. This will happen in the next few months. We already have applicants for Directors for the new Board. Anyone else who is interested should apply to Nick or Benny in writing. All applications will be considered at the next Committee meeting, expected to be in May.
3. The accounts for 2022/23 were signed off. We've raised nearly £200k in the current year for the NSA programme from members and contributors including Lamb Weston, McCain Foods, Strawsons, Valeo Snackfoods and G's-produce. This funding means that we can continue our technical work into 2025, and
4. We've made significant progress re-purposing the "Water For Food" (WFF) group, so that we have a national platform to work with Defra, the Environment Agency and water companies on issues linked to sustainable abstraction. In our WFF work, we're collaborating with the NFU, the CLA, ESWAG & other abstractor groups, the UK Irrigation Association and GB Potatoes.

In terms of a forward look for 2024/25, our main focus will be on the NSA programme. For this, we've divided the membership into the following Planning Groups:

- Ant Broads and Marshes
- Bure and Thurne Broads and Marshes
- Yare and Waveney Broads and Marshes
- Upper Ant
- Upper Bure
- Wensum
- Nar
- North-west Norfolk, and
- Upper Yare and Waveney

We'll be writing to you shortly with details about the programme. Mostly, this will involve using the Environment Agency North East Anglia Chalk (NEAC) model to assess the risks posed to licences from future reductions and then working out how best to deal with these.

For members in the Broads, we will also be responding to the Environment Agency "Broads Plan", helping with the Ant Broads and Marshes (Section 52) Planning Inquiry and progressing our new "Broads Water Level Management" project with Cranfield University, the Broads Authority and Norfolk FWAG. For this, we've been awarded a £160k grant by the Environment Agency.

Finally, we still need new members, particularly in south and west Norfolk, so if you know anyone with an abstraction licence who isn't already a member, please put them in touch with us. The more members we have, the more work we can do!

As ever, if you have any queries please let Benny, Nick or myself know.

Kind regards

Steve Moncaster
BAWAG Membership & Technical Advisor.