

Wales Land Management Forum (WLMF) Sub Group on Agricultural Pollution

Minutes

Title of meeting:

Wales Land Management Forum (WLMF) Sub Group on Agricultural Pollution

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Date of Meeting: 19th July 2021

Present:

Zoe Henderson, NRW (Chair)

Dennis Matheson, TFA

Creighton Harvey, CFF

Bob Vaughan, NRW

Sarah Jones, Dwr Cymru

Marc Williams, NRW

James Ruggeri, HCC

Edward Davies, NRW

Bernard Griffiths, FUW

Chris Mills, WEL

Spencer Conlon, WG

Andrew Chambers, WG

Nichola Salter, NRW

Geraint Hamer, WG

Katy Simmons, NRW

Einir Williams, FC

Fraser McAuley, CLA

Kate Snow, United Utilities

Ruth Johnston, NRW

Matthew Walters, WG

Sarah Hetherington, NRW

Rachel Lewis-Davies, NFU Cymru

Charlotte Priddy, AHDB

Additional Attendees Present:

John Owen, Coleg Sir Gâr, Gelli Aur (Item 5)

Viktoriia Skun, AgroCares (Item 6)

Secretariat:

Bronwen Martin, NRW

Apologies:

Shane Thomas, CFF

Item 1 Introductions, Apologies and Declaration of Interest

1. Zoe Henderson welcomed all to the Microsoft Teams meeting and noted apologies. Please note that the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of capturing the minutes and the digital file will be deleted once the meeting minutes have been completed.
2. No declarations of interest were raised in respect of Agenda items to be considered.
 - NB: All members of the group have completed declaration of interest forms already but should also declare if they have an interest in anything on the agenda.
3. Zoe mentioned that there were two guest presenters joining the meeting today; John Owen from Coleg Sir Gâr, Gelli Aur and Viktoriia Skun from AgroCares.
4. Zoe asked whether there was anyone who has not joined a WLMF Sub Group meeting before. Charlotte Priddy, AHDB introduced herself to the group. Charlotte mentioned that she has been working for AHDB for about three weeks and has previously worked for FUW.

Item 2 Review of Minutes and Actions

5. The Chair confirmed that once the meeting minutes have been reviewed and formally agreed by the group, they will be published on the NRW for the public to access. Therefore, it is important that the minutes are an accurate record of the meetings.
6. The group reviewed the previous meeting minutes from 21st June 2021. Regarding an action point discussed in Point 8 of the June meeting minutes, Zoe asked Ed Davies, NRW to clarify what 'screening' and 'totality' meant. Ed said that 'screening' relates to

which developments require further information. Ed said he will source some further information regarding this topic for the Update Paper, which should make it clearer.

7. No further comments were received regarding the minutes from the June meeting.

Item 3 Matters Arising

8. This provides an opportunity for the group to discuss any matters arising from the previous meeting minutes, report significant information, provide comments or discuss any relevant subjects.

9. Zoe asked the group if they had any topics to discuss in this item.

10. Marc Williams, NRW gave a brief update on the Dairy Project. Marc said that funding for the project is secured until the end of March 2022. There are currently three Dairy Officers and three Senior Dairy Officers in post. Matt Lowe, NRW has returned to his substantive role so currently there is not a project coordinator in post. Some recruitment will likely be undertaken to assign some new Dairy Officers. Marc said he had spoken to one of the Dairy Officers and they mentioned that there has been a total of 800 visits completed to date with 81 revisits completed. Going forward with the current Officers, they are visiting approximately one new farm a week and two revisits a week to follow up any improvements. Marc said that any further updates or information will go into the Update Paper.

Creighton Harvey, CFF asked Marc whether he had any figures for compliance with SSAFO regulations. Marc said he did not have them to hand but he can get those figures and send them to members within the next Update Paper.

AP July 01: Marc Williams, NRW to source the figures for compliance with SSAFO Regulations and include them in the Update Paper.

Creighton mentioned he had read the June issue of the NFU Cymru publication 'Farming Wales' and discussed one of the features with the group.

AP July 02: Ed Davies, NRW to review the 'Farming Wales' article and follow it up with NFU Cymru.

Dennis Matheson, TFA said that it is great that NRW have some funding for the Dairy Project to continue but it is a shame that the funding could not be for a longer period as recruitment will have to start all over again and could set it back.

Dennis recalled that when he had to have a new effluent tank, it had to be certified by a qualified engineer and he had to have a proper certificate which detailed the size of the tank and confirmed that it complied with the regulations which were enforced at the time. Bob said that for the newer tanks this information is usually available, however for older tanks this information is often not available due to there not being a requirement at the time for an engineer to sign them off. Therefore, it is for the farmer to provide this information and NRW can only work with the information that is provided to officers.

Kate Snow, United Utilities mentioned that the Dairy Project has been really well received and that it is great that it is continuing. Kate said that earth bank stores and

clay lined stores are interesting because the amount of storage is always wrong because they are often never fully emptied as you do not want the clay liner to crack and leak. Kate said they have actually emptied some to show the farmers how much depth they actually have, and it often does not match up with the figures as they have often slumped over time. Kate mentioned that an interesting point was mentioned earlier about how to manage the stores and United Utilities would be very interested in working with others to draw together some really basic usable guidance that can be approved by the group. Kate said she is not aware that this information is already out there but asked if members know of information covering this then she would like a copy. Kate mentioned that this is something that United Utilities are looking at with the Environment Agency (EA) and NFU in Cheshire. Zoe asked Kate whether this is something she would take on and lead because there would be good support through this group. Kate said that United Utilities have got some funding which could be put towards it, but they would need the technical support of an organisation like AHDB. Kate said she would be happy to project manage it but would not be the person to write it. Marc said NRW would also be happy to support this work. Katy Simmons, NRW also volunteered to help and mentioned that the Dairy Project colleagues would also be interested in this. John Owen, Gelli Aur said that he would be happy for this project to use Gelli Aur to demonstrate good practice. Charlotte Priddy, AHDB said she would also be willing to have a conversation about this work.

AP July 03: NRW to support Kate Snow, United Utilities in setting up a project to provide basic usable guidance about how to manage slurry stores.

11. Marc Williams, NRW mentioned that there was an action from the June meeting to set up a small working group to look at Alternative Measures. Marc said he will be setting this up over the coming weeks and will have a discussion with individual members to determine whether they are willing to engage in this working group. In the meantime, Marc asked the members whether there was anyone who did not want to be involved in the working group. No objections or comments were received.

Bob said that he has spoken to a few individuals and there has been a lot of interest in working as a collective to produce something and submit it to Welsh Government. Bob clarified that being a part of the collective group would not prevent anyone from producing something else on behalf of their organisation which would also be submitted to Welsh Government. Bob said a programme will also be set out to detail what/when things will be done by and the projected level of resource.

12. Bronwen Martin, NRW mentioned that Shane Thomas, CFF had sent through some suggested agenda items for future meetings for the group to consider. Bronwen said the first suggestion was regarding 'weed zapper technology' which has recently been in some of the farming press. This technology has been developed by the Small Robot Company and they suggest that it supports sustainable farming practices by reducing the use of herbicides as well as improving soil health by reducing soil compaction. Bronwen said that if this is a topic that the group would like to hear more about or want more information then she will look into inviting a representative from the Small Robot Company to a future meeting. Members agreed that they would like to hear more about this interesting technology.

AP July 04: Bronwen Martin, NRW to invite a representative from the Small Robot Company to a future meeting.

The second suggestion received from Shane was regarding the Pembrokeshire Maize Under sowing Project and perhaps there is an opportunity to invite the Maize Growers Association to give a presentation at a future meeting. Shane mentioned to Bronwen that they are the main organisation representing maize growers in the UK and would be well placed to give an overview of where the sector is currently at and what trends we can expect to see in future. Sarah Jones, DCWW asked whether the Pembrokeshire Maize Under sowing Project which Shane referred to was the same project that DCWW are doing, if so, they would be happy to give a presentation on this with Field Options which is a contractor that they work with. Creighton said that Shane was specifically interested in hearing from a representative from the Maize Growers Association to give the group a more general overview of the type of information and guidance they provide to their members.

AP July 05: Bronwen Martin, NRW to invite a representative from the Maize Growers Association to give a presentation at a future meeting.

Creighton mentioned that he and Shane also discussed the topic of Organic Farming and whether the group could have some inputs on the requirements to establish organic production, both in terms of crops like maize, and in terms of milk. Creighton said that for some farms this might be a way of increasing income without necessarily intensifying. Creighton suggested perhaps inviting the Soil Association or somebody with knowledge and experience of organic farming and what the requirements are to certify production as organic.

AP July 06: Bronwen Martin, NRW to look into inviting the Soil Association or somebody with knowledge and experience of organic farming to a future meeting.

13. Ed mentioned that there was an action point from the last meeting to continue working with Red Tractor and share information. Ed and Nichola Salter, NRW met with a colleague who is the internal GDPR specialist and looked at the existing system which Red Tractor have in place for members of the public to report to them. Ed said they are hoping to set something up internally, but from the initial discussions it should be possible to have something similar to the referral scheme with cross compliance and Rural Inspectorate Wales. Ed mentioned that they are also having a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) because they have been trialling a similar information sharing agreement with red Tractor in England. Ed said he can provide an update on this as and when he has more information to share.
14. Chris Mills, WEL mentioned that Afonydd Cymru have offered to present to the group about some of the initiatives that they are currently engaged in regarding agricultural pollution.

AP July 07: Bronwen Martin, NRW to liaise with Afonydd Cymru and arrange for them to present to the group at the next meeting.

15. Marc mentioned that guest speakers can be arranged for the next meeting, but August is generally quiet due to people going on holiday. Marc asked the group whether many members will be available to attend the next meeting or perhaps it could be pushed to September when more people are around. Bronwen confirmed that the date of the next meeting is Monday 23rd August. Marc said that if there are any issues, members can

get in touch with him, Ed or Bronwen. Zoe suggested a poll could be created to establish whether many members are available to attend the August meeting.

AP July 08: Bronwen Martin, NRW to create a poll to establish whether many members are available to attend the August meeting.

Bob said thinking ahead now that England have released all Covid restraints on people, perhaps the time will come when Wales will do so as well. Bob asked whether there are any particular locations that members would like to visit possibly towards the end of the year. Bob said he has spoken to Fraser and some people in NFU Cymru about a particular farmer in the Vale of Glamorgan as there was an offer to visit that farm to see what is going on there.

AP July 09: Members to suggest any locations and details of possible future in-person site visits.

16. Zoe mentioned that the draft Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Tenanted Land document was sent to the members ahead of our WLMF Sub Group meeting. Zoe recommended that seen as many people may not have had chance to review the document yet, this topic should be briefly discussed during the 'Any Other Business' item today and perhaps on the agenda for the next meeting.

Item 4 WLMF Sub Group Newsletter Draft

17. The draft WLMF Sub Group Newsletter document was sent to members ahead of the meeting to review. Katy Simmons, NRW asked for feedback on the overall look of the Newsletter, the layout and the name. Katy said that the team came up with the name 'Agri-culture' which was a strong contender internally which is why a poll was not sent out with other alternative names. There will also be an accompanying strap line to go beneath the title of the Newsletter. Katy said any feedback is welcome and she will then revise the document for final sign off.

18. Ruth Johnston, NRW asked how well 'Agri-culture' translates into Welsh. Einir Williams, Farming Connect mentioned that she would rather the name is not literally translated into Welsh and suggested that an alternative/similar Welsh version would be better.

19. Dennis mentioned that he was disappointed that the group obviously did not like his suggestions; 'Poo Bare' and 'Much-a-do-about Muck'.

20. Zoe said she is not too keen on the 'Agri-culture' title but would be happy with it if everyone else is happy with it. Katy said she would collate the suggested names and send out a poll.

AP July 10: Katy Simmons, NRW to create a poll with alternative names for the Newsletter for the Sub Group members to vote for their preferred title.

21. Ed mentioned that it is important for the Sub Group members to be happy and comfortable to share the Newsletter with their members to make sure it reaches as wider audience as possible. This Newsletter is a way of sharing news, experiences and information about each other's organisations.

22. Sarah Jones, DCWW mentioned that she liked the layout of the Newsletter but is not sold on the name.
23. Fraser McAuley, CLA asked whether the Newsletter will only be available in an electronic format which is sent out via email or whether there will also be a printed version made available. Katy said it is mainly an e-newsletter but perhaps it could be converted to a PDF and printed off to reach others. Fraser mentioned that members often get bombarded with emails and there are a group of farmers who are not email savvy, so depending on budget it would be useful for a small amount to be published and sent out. Ed agreed with Fraser and said that those people are the ones that the Newsletter should reach. Marc said it would also be useful to be able to hand some out at any future shows.

Item 5 Prosiectsyri Project Presentation

24. Zoe welcomed John Owen, Gelli Aur to the meeting and thanked him for returning to give an update on the interesting Prosiectsyri Project at the Coleg Sir Gâr's Gelli Aur agricultural campus.
25. John thanked Zoe for the invitation and opportunity to provide an update on the project. John mentioned that there are some misconceptions out there that the original Prosiectsyri Project was not successful. Current developments are in partnership with commercial companies who are looking to roll out this system commercially.
26. John began by mentioning that a final report was published on their website – [Prosiectsyri Project Website](#).
27. John recapped why and how Prosiectsyri Project was set up in the first place. The project came about through a partnership between Coleg Sir Gâr and Power & Water, a Swansea based company specialising in electrochemical-based water treatments. The initial discussions were supported by Welsh the Government Innovation Team and through a number of collaborations and discussions they eventually put forward a bid to work collectively on a process system which would actually dewater slurry. John said that slurry typically has about 95% water and the whole purpose of the project was to extract the water, retain all of the nutrients in the solid form, recirculate the water and then look to discard any surplus water.
28. John explained that the partnership with Power & Water was to utilise the system they had developed for municipal sewage and to adopt that system on cattle slurry. There were some initial technical issues and they found that the inconsistency of slurry dry matter created an issue with fouling the electrodes used to generate the chemicals within the treatment process. A number of ways were used to try and eliminate that issue. Having tried a number of methods, they reverted back to liquid chemical treatment which has proved to be very successful.
29. John mentioned that the original project ended up with a system that was a lot simpler, a lot lower in capital demand and far easier to manage than what they started with. They now have a product which is three quarters of the way to producing clean water.
30. The interest generated from the original project enabled them to look at developing the project further and taking what they originally developed to commerciality. To generate

the funding for this, they put in for SMART Expertise funding with support from Welsh Government Innovation.

31. John explained that the next stage through SMART Expertise involved a number of modules working with these commercial companies who have processes that they want to bring to the system that has been developed. A company called Netafim also want to develop an irrigation system alongside the dewatering system.
32. Another company called N2Applied who have a process system where they can extract ammonia from the atmosphere and introduce it to slurry solids or slurry liquid to enhance the nitrogen content within it. This process would deliver liquid through drip irrigators out to the field whilst enhancing the nitrogen content at the same time.
33. The project continues its relationship with NRW on the analysis of all of the samples produced and working with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water on monitoring the quality of the water running through the tributary near Gelli Aur.
34. Some funding from Welsh Government through the Water and Flood Division has been secured to apply the improvements which have been developed in the original project. John showed an image of a new DAF tank which has been introduced to reflect development outcomes from Prosiectsyri Project and explained the process.
35. John briefly recapped that the electrochemical treatment was replaced by chemical treatment and explained a photo of the new chemical blending tanks.
36. John mentioned that they are very aware that they need to make the most of the nutrients delivered in whatever form. They have a system where the nutrients are delivered in a solid form and have introduced a whole farm precision application regime. John said they are aware that not everyone has their nutrients in this form, so they are also looking at traditional slurry application with precision application. John explained that the purpose of this module is to look at whole farm nutrient efficiency in all forms and explore the efficiency gains they can achieve.
37. John mentioned they are also looking at the whole nitrogen cycle of the farm and any ammonia losses. The aim is to have a net zero farming operation at Gelli Aur using these techniques.
38. John gave an overview of the Tywydd Tywi Weather Project. This project includes six weather stations located in the Tywi Valley which measures the weather conditions as well as using soil sensors to measure soil moisture, soil temperature and leaf wetness. The aim of this project is to give up to date information on the suitability of the land at any time throughout the year for application of nutrients. There is a simple to use App for farmers which demonstrates the information generated from the weather stations to help them make their nutrient management decisions. There are five operations which are available for the farmers to look at including slurry spreading, muck spreading, pesticide spraying, harvesting and fertiliser application. The App displays the suitability of the current conditions in a traffic light form to apply those nutrients. The App also gives a 5-day forecast. John mentioned that this is a tool for farmers to use alongside their Nutrient Management Plans. The data can be captured to use it as part of the farmers management records and demonstrate compliance and show that they have based their decision on data and information. This project has not yet been officially

launched but it will be launched to coincide with the feature in an upcoming episode of 'Fermio'.

39. Finally, John explained that they have also established a reedbed system at Gelli Aur for final scrubbing of separated water to improve its quality.
40. John welcomed members to visit the project at any time and suggested that Gelli Aur could host a future Sub Group meeting.
41. Zoe thanked John for his presentation and for updating the group on the ongoing innovative work at Gelli Aur. Questions were welcomed.
42. Sarah Hetherington, NRW asked within the analysis, how are they taking into account of the soil nutrient supply. John said they continue to monitor any changes in the soil nutrients, and they monitor any potential chemical contamination from the separation process through ongoing sampling.
43. Chris Mills, WEL asked if they have any data on the economics of this project to show that it will be economically viable for farmers. John said they monitored the costs throughout the initial project but going forward, they now have a system which is lower in capital with similar running costs. An aim of the project was to create a system which is a real alternative and an option for farmers to consider. John said they believe they have a process which will give farmers an alternative system to use which is far more efficient in using nutrients with many benefits. Chris asked if John had any ballpark figures which indicate the capital costs. John said that the system they have now is somewhere in the region of £250,000 capital cost. Chris asked about the savings if the farmer does not use artificial fertiliser. John said potentially somewhere in the region of £18,000 per year on a farm that size as an initial saving and does not take into consideration any traditional storage costs, spreading costs, water costs etc.
44. Creighton Harvey, CFF recalled that the initial project was to remove the liquid from the slurry and to remove the nutrient from the liquid so that the water could be reusable. Creighton said he read the Newsletter from May which stated, 'it concluded that extracting water consistently to the quality needed was costly in capital expenditure, running costs and management time'. Creighton mentioned that John has been talking about enhancing the liquid nitrogen content and retaining nutrients. Creighton said it seems to be a change in emphasis from the removal of nutrients from the liquid to in fact putting more nutrients into it. John explained that these are flexible options as the new system allows several different options like sending all of the water to the reedbed system or intercept the process midway to deliver nutrients directly to the field during times of a need for irrigation and nutrients.

John Said its very flexible in that approach and see different options for different people and different areas in the world; where there is massive demand in the more arid countries for irrigation and the delivery of nutrients, whereas perhaps in west Wales what they really want to do is to retain the nutrients in a dry form and get the water to a dischargeable quality as soon as possible. Creighton said that that goes back to the initial aims of the project as opposed to the new aims in terms of enhancing the nitrogen content. John said that in terms of nitrogen content they are all optional which is the beauty of the modular process that you can select what is suitable for your business. Creighton asked as far as west Wales is concerned; you would still be

looking to remove the nutrients from the liquid rather than enhance. John said there could be an opportunity with the enhancement process to actually enhance the nitrogen content of the solid as well, by enhancing the sludge produced from the separation process before incorporating that into the solids. The sludge can be acidified before going into the solid content to reduce the ammonia loss from the solids in storage.

Creighton said that when the project was launched there were a number of farmers which were saying why should they enhance the infrastructure on their farms when a 'silver bullet' was coming. Creighton asked John how far away they are in having a system which can be rolled out to farms in West Wales. John said one of the partner organisations are looking to roll this out as soon as possible in modular form, so within 18-months from now the project should be commercialised. Creighton asked what provisions they will make for giving farmers accurate information on the project. John said that they can only go at the pace of development but whatever information they supply will be accurate.

Item 6 AgroCares Presentation

45. Zoe welcomed Viktoriia Sakun, International Business Manager at [AgroCares](#) to the meeting to introduce the group to the AgroCares Nutrient Scanner tool.
46. Viktoriia introduced herself and gave a brief background and history of AgroCares.
47. Viktoriia mentioned that AgroCares enables fact-based farming with smart data driven farming solutions by using sensor technology and software. The Nutrient Scanner tool can scan the nutrients in soil, feed or leaf. They use three types of sensors; near infra-red (mainly handheld device), mirror and x-ray.
48. Viktoriia explained that to predict the nutrient status, the Scanner compares its results to a soil database, leaf database or Trouw Nutrition's nutritional database. It is able to provide quick and affordable nutrient testing and recommendation services. The AgroCares soil database is operational in 22 countries (including 7 in Africa), the leaf database is currently available for several crops and is being further developed and the feed solutions use the database developed by Trouw Nutrition (a strategic partner).
49. The presentation demonstrated the steps involved when a farmer uses the tool to test the soil. Viktoriia said that the overall process from calibrating the tool to receiving the results of the soil analysis takes around 10 minutes.
50. Viktoriia mentioned that before a scanner can be used in a location, a certain amount of data is required to calibrate the area, for example in the Netherlands AgroCares had to collect around 1300 samples from the area to make sure that they could deliver accurate results. The Research & Development department carries out the calibration process by:
 - Defining the target region and calibration points
 - Obtaining samples and shipment to Netherlands
 - Laboratory analysis

- Building prediction models/database

51. Viktoriia summarised the capabilities of the scanner:

- Can be used in the field or on farm
- User friendly (10-minute procedure)
- Monitoring during growing season/on the spot
- Multiple AgroCares Apps for different purposes/countries
- Easily integratable data
- Customised applications

52. Finally, Viktoriia gave an overview of what parameters the soil testing application can be used to collect:

- Nitrogen (N)
- Phosphorus (P)
- Potassium (K)
- pH
- Organic matter level
- Clay content

53. The Chair thanked Viktoriia for introducing the group to the innovative Nutrient Scanner tool and technology AgroCares have developed. Questions were welcomed.

54. Zoe asked how Wales would become calibrated. Viktoriia said that it should be commercially viable and there needs to be a demand for the technology. AgroCares normally work with a landing partner who would introduce their interest in the area and have a local person who would have a clear understanding of the agricultural practices and would promote the technology.

55. Bernard Griffiths, FUW said the crops AgroCares analyse the leaves of tend to be monoculture crops like soya and wheat but in Wales the main crop is grass and is often a mixed sward of many different species. Bernard mentioned that going forward, farmers are going to be encouraged to produce more biodiversity in the swards and asked how the scanner works in those circumstances. Viktoriia said this has not been fully tested yet.

56. Rachel Lewis-Davies, NFU Cymru said that it looks like a versatile tool and asked about the affordability of it at a farm level and how it compares to the traditional lab testing costs. Viktoriia said that based on her experience, farmers will generally not invest as it is expensive. This technology is more commonly used by advisors because they will purchase it and provide a service to farmers. Consideration should be given to the size of the field, for example for a European farmer it would be on average 10

hectares and they would maybe do 10-20 samples per year, compared to a farmer in Eastern Europe with 50,000 hectare fields then the scanner could be something they could invest in. Rachel explained that Welsh family farms are fairly small in size with the average about 48 hectares and the field parcels tend to be quite small as a result with predominantly grass-based systems, producing red meat and dairy with some arable. Viktoriia said it is more viable for an advisor to invest, a community of farmers to share the cost or perhaps a local laboratory could invest. The hardware itself costs €3,000 with an annual fee which starts from €1,700 but there is no limit on the number of soil sample analysed. With regards to fresh grass analysis, it is currently €300 on an annual basis.

57. Bob Vaughan, NRW explained that Wales has left the EU and are replacing the CAP system with something which still provides support for land managers. We are looking at climate change and whether there are payments made on carbon capture and carbon mitigation. Bob mentioned that the Welsh Government are looking at how satellite and remote sensing can help and asked whether AgroCares have looked at linking the sensor to remote sensing so that there is a calibration between the two. Viktoriia said that there was a recent introduction of hyperspectral imaging which could be interesting to look into in the future. AgroCares have a few experiences with remote sensing but it was not a positive result.

58. Zoe asked whether AgroCares currently have much interest within the UK. Viktoriia said there are a few companies who use the scanner for feed analysis and some who are at the early stage of using it for carbon programs. AgroCares have not discussed calibration with anyone in the UK yet.

Item 7 Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Discussion

59. Marc Williams, NRW shared his screen outlining the concerns and challenges which were highlighted in the past. Marc asked the group to discuss whether the priorities have changed since they were last reviewed or if there were any new ideas which could be taken forward. The group should think of the challenges and not go into 'solution mode'.

- Concern 1: 'To make monitoring technology and data derived understandable and easily delivered to farmers in a cost-effective way including soil mapping data to be easily accessible'.
- Challenge 1: 'Providing farmers with the data and information to enable them to manage their land sustainably and provide open access and easily interpreted soil conditioning information'.
- Concern 2: 'How to deliver an education package for the next generation of farmers on pollution issues and nutrient application to land'.
- Challenge 2: 'Helping land managers make the correct choices'.

60. Marc mentioned that he had a meeting with Kate Williams, Welsh Government to discuss the SBRI application process. Kate is going to share some examples of the projects which have been completed but, in the meantime, she has provided the

Expression of Interest Form to that the group can see the type of information required for the application.

61. Marc asked the group whether the top challenge identified is still a priority. Bob mentioned that he thought this is still the top priority and it should look to make data available to farmers to help them make informed decisions.
62. Marc mentioned that Dennis Matheson, TFA sent through some suggestions of innovative ideas but the SBRI project is to explore things which are not currently on the market.

AP July 11: Marc Williams, NRW to share the information which Dennis Matheson, TFA provided with the rest of the group.

AP July 12: Marc Williams, NRW to send the SBRI suggestions spreadsheet to the members to review and provide comments or suggestions by the next meeting.

63. Chris Mills, WEL asked for more detail regarding the challenge for the second concern 'Helping land managers make the correct choices' and suggested that more information should be provided. Marc said that the concern was 'How to deliver an education package for the next generation of farmers on pollution issues and nutrient application to land'; so the challenge was trying to pick out the correct choices regarding nutrient application to the land and how they spread to land to make sure they do not cause a pollution risk. As part of the Expression of Interest Form the group will be making things clearer but not too specific, because a broader challenge may help pick out solutions and innovations.
64. Sarah Hetherington, NRW asked whether members can add any additional concerns. Marc said yes to add any new concerns or challenges to the spreadsheet because they may be more of a priority now than the ones chosen in 2019.
65. Zoe asked whether there was a deadline. Marc explained that there is not a deadline but would be looking to submit the Expression of Interest Form shortly. There are two phases to the application; Expression of Interest Form and the full application.

Item 8 Any Other Business

66. Zoe thanked Andrew Chambers, Spencer Conlon and Matthew Walters, Welsh Government for sending the draft Frequently Asked Questions for Tenanted Land document to the group ahead of the meeting but noted that many members may not have had chance to review it in any detail yet.

Spencer and Andrew mentioned that it is a very important document and apologised for not getting it out to members sooner, but explaining that an external resource became available to review it. Spencer said that the document is not going to answer everyone's question for all scenarios, but it will answer the main core items. Spencer welcomed feedback from members for what is in the document and what is not in the document and suggested that any comments could be sent to him as soon as possible by the end of next week (30th July 2021).

AP July 13: Members to review the draft Frequently Asked Questions for Tenanted Land document and provide comments by 30th July 2021.

Dennis Matheson, TFA said that he has read the document and mentioned that the biggest worry is that there are no exemptions for tenants if they cannot comply due to their tenancy agreements; either they break the tenancy agreement or the regulations. Dennis discussed details within the document regarding arbitration, reedbeds and verbal agreements. Dennis reminded the group that this is not just about slurry stores as there are about 8 out of 20 clauses which directly conflict with the new regulations. Spencer said that SSAFO Regulations have been in place for over 30 years and did include storage requirements within them, so the issue of the landlord and tenant agreement has been in place in relation to meeting the regulations and complying.

67. Bob Vaughan, NRW mentioned that DCWW have launched a new round of their free Pesticide Disposal Scheme and suggested details can be circulated to the group so that they can share the information with their members. Sarah Jones, DCWW agreed and said she would send the information to Bronwen to share with the group.

[DCWW Free Pesticide Disposal Scheme](#)

AP July 14: Sarah Jones, DCWW to send details of the free Pesticide Disposal Scheme to Bronwen Martin, NRW.

AP July 15: Bronwen Martin, NRW to share details of the DCWW free Pesticide Disposal Scheme with the group.

68. The next Sub Group meeting is scheduled for 23rd August 2021.

Close meeting