



BAWAG Newsletter

January 25 2022

Foreword

By Steve Moncaster, Membership and Technical Advisor

A belated Happy New Year! Hopefully, you've all had a safe and enjoyable break & are raring to go. It's been a busy start to 2022, with the Committee deliberating on the results of the pre-Christmas membership survey, progress with the Ant valley work and publication of the emerging WRE regional plan for consultation. It's also a time of change, as our long-time friend & NFU abstraction expert Paul Hammett retires. Contents of the Newsletter this month include:

- Details of an **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**, to be held at Fakenham Racecourse on Friday 18 February. This meeting follows the membership survey and is to debate a Committee recommendation for the future direction of BAWAG
- Committee & Membership meetings for early 2022
- Ant Broads and Marshes update
- Links to the consultation on the draft RBMP and the emerging WRE regional plan, and
- Retirement of Paul Hammett, NFU

If you have any queries or wish to share any news, feel free to email (bawag@burefarm.co.uk) or ring me on 07710 60710. The next newsletter will be out in late March, following the AGM.

Regards
Steve

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Following the membership survey, the Committee met to discuss the future direction of BAWAG. It was unanimously agreed that we should become more proactive in our work to safeguard licences and in the meeting the challenges from implementation of the Environment Bill. This includes dealing with changes in support payments as well as the transition to new abstraction permitting & charging regimes. Options for change have been considered and will be presented for debate at an EGM to be held:

- Friday 18 February 2022
- Gallows Sports Centre, Fakenham Racecourse

Doors will be open at 10am with tea and coffee available. The meeting will start at 10.30am and will conclude at 12.00 midday, when sandwiches will be served. For those who are interested, the Racecourse has kindly offered **free racing badges** for the afternoons racing, which starts at 1.15pm. To receive your free-badge you will need to register by sending an email to smoncaster@catorandco.com. The deadline for registration is Thursday 10 February 2022. The correct entrance for the racecourse is signposted with yellow AA signs & you should use the NR21 7NY postcode for your satnavs. You will need to park in the centre of the racecourse & then make your way to the Sports Centre.

Committee & Membership meetings 2021/22

The Committee will next meet in March 2022, immediately before the AGM. The time & date are:

- Committee meeting: Wednesday 2 March 2022, starting at 12.30pm
- Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 2 March 2022, starting at 2pm

Both meetings will be held at the AF Group Offices, Honingham Thorpe, Colton, Norwich, NR9 5BZ. Attendance can either be in person or via Teams and an agenda will be circulated following the EGM.

Ants Broads and Marshes update

Work with the Ant valley Strategy Group & Delivery Group continues, with the Rebuttal Report being reviewed by the Environment Agency and Natural England and progress being made with the draft Ant valley Masterplan. Norfolk County Council are supporting work on the Masterplan, which is based on Treasury guidance for business cases and the Defra/Environment Agency water resource planning guidelines. Following the announcement that Dr Robin Price is returning to Anglian Water, we welcome Daniel Johns as Chair of the Strategy Group. Daniel is the former Head of Public Affairs at Anglian Water and is the new WRE Managing Director.

Consultations

Consultations which are out at the moment include:

- Draft River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). The deadline for submissions is Friday 22 April 2022. The consultation website can be found here:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/draft-river-basin-management-plans/>

- Emerging WRE regional water resource management plan. The deadline for submissions is Monday 28 February 2022. A non-technical summary can be found here:

<https://wre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRE-Emerging-Regional-Plan-Non-technical-summary.pdf>

We are working with the other abstractor groups and the NFU to understand what's in the emerging WRE plan and how best to respond to it. If you have any feedback or comments on either

consultation, please email them to tosmoncaster@catorandco.com & I will collate and submit a BAWAG response.

NFU changes

Paul Hammett will shortly retire as national water resource specialist at the NFU. Paul is a long-time friend of BAWAG, who has worked closely with us since joining the NFU in 2012. His valuable experience and insight will be sorely missed & we would like to thank him his support and commitment. We wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement. We also extend our warmest welcome to his successor, Kelly Hewson-Fisher who we look forward to working with in the months and years ahead.