

The Hyporheic Network: Record of workshop discussions, 11-12 July 2007

Workshop number: Day 2, workshop 3

Workshop leader: Dr David Hannah, Birmingham University

Workshop goal:

“The future of the Hyporheic Network: What do you want from the Network? Consider the following aspects:

- **Dissemination of research to end-user groups**
- **End-user needs to academia**
- **Development of interdisciplinary research proposals**
- **What do you want from the website?**

Outcomes:

- **List of recommendations for where we take the Network over the next 2.5 years.”**

Record of workshop:

The Network needs to deliver the following to be successful:

- A Resource centre
 - Website linked to
 - Library of methods (with pros and cons)
 - Experts in the area
 - Research sites and data
 - Key literature, including grey literature
 - Dictionary and glossary
 - Wiki-structure?
- A longer term strategy (3 years + needs to be considered now)
- Facilitate new teams to develop work packages – Work packages are seen as critical
- Conferences
 - Raise profile of Hyporheic Network at external events
 - Members encouraged to present showing H-Net logo
 - Organise meetings within Hyporheic Network

1. Dissemination of research to end-users.
 - The HZ incorporates a range of environmental conditions and interested researchers / end-users. Need to ID all different types and develop a strategy that address each important group / aspect.
 - Needs more than just academic journal publications;
 - H-Net could help by generating a list of the key contacts and Network registrants - produce a mail-base?;
 - To raise awareness we need a glossy pamphlet(s) that we can distribute – topic specific and a general Network overview?
 - Press release. When we have something to say we should issue press releases and/or target trade magazines and 'popular science' journals as well as peer reviewed literature;
 - Write summary of workshop and goals for 'Using NERC Science' newsletter?
 - If the workgroups are to be effective they need to get 'buy-in' from the end users at an early stage
 - The H-Network Position Statement will help raise awareness with policy makers

2. Communicating end-user needs to academia
 - Conferences and workshops, but it was noted that only a small number of end-users attended this event
 - Work-packages must involve the end-users and stakeholders;
 - Further guidance from the WFD-implementing authorities on their priority needs seen as critical to steering academic direction
 - Since few end-users present, alternative strategy might be to send small delegations to visit the critical groups at DEFRA, Natural England, EA, SEPA, Wildlife Trusts

3. Developing interdisciplinary research
 - H-Net could help by:
 - Identifying future research calls and flagging up-coming opportunities to Network members
 - Identifying new funding opportunities
 - Influencing DEFRA, EPSRC, NERC, EU (etc) to influence the content of directed calls
 - Identify key research topics and produce list of critical research that bidders can reference to support proposals
 - Place-based research
 - Collate info on existing field research infrastructure and data, that might be of use in future research
 - Inter-comparison
 - Facilitate research that uses UK and international data and research facilities to test critical hypotheses

4. Resource centre – website
 - Maintaining an up-to-date website is key. Must give a reason to (re)visit;
 - Needs visual impact combined with a simple first page
 - Needs to be easily navigable
 - Make it easily found (get on google list etc)

- Place presentations from this conference as PDFs on the website
5. Planning for Year 3 and beyond
- Identify options for extending the network early on (not half way through year 3)
 - The conference in Yr 3 could be a spring-board for launching the next phase
 - If we create a strong community it will become self-sustaining
 - Newsletter to keep network 'live'
 - Think about developing an EU COST Action?
 - We need to demonstrate end-user relevance to get their initial and continued involvement
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6. Conferences to target
- EGU, Vienna, 2008 – mainly academic audience, but could convene a session
 - IAHS, Perugia, 2007 – JS presenting an H Net poster
 - IAH, Lisbon 2007 – presenters to 'sell' H-Net in talks?
 - BHS, Geol Soc, BES – national learned societies may be best way to reach end-user communities. Organise jointly badged meetings??
 - Titles and timing of conferences. Link them to WFD / big issues to get wider audience appeal