### National Access Forum Wales Access to Water Sub-Group meeting 9 June 2020

#### Attendance

Chair: Dave MacCallum (NRW), Sarah Smith (WG), Steve Rayner (WATO), Chris Mills (Angling Trust), Bernard Griffiths (FUW) Charles de Winton (CLBA), Stephen Marsh-Smith (Afonydd Cymru), Andy Phillips (Angling Cymru), Phil Stone (Canoe Wales)

The key process / model considerations presented in schematic form, based on the discussions of the last meeting was shared. This model provides the key areas of consideration and consensus as far as it extends in principle.

The process / model was discussed and unanimously agreed.

Some of the mechanisms in the model are conceptual at the moment and need to be clarified prior to selecting a river pilot scheme.

* River Licence.
* Reduced land / riparian owner liability.
* Access to water payment scheme.

The Group agreed that the Chair is to write to the Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government to:

* Provide an update on the progress of the group.
* Share initial thoughts on the proposed model seeking guidance and clarification with regard to these concepts.
* Seek support in gaining meaningful engagement with Dwr Cymru to consider the additional recreational resource that reservoir’s offer. This was seen as a significant opportunity to reduce environmental pressures throughout the summer period, given the impacts of climate change.

The Group briefly discussed the equitable principles that could be considered including spatial temporal user separation, seasonality of different types of fishing, dates, water levels and environmental sustainability. It was noted that there may be merit in the classification of rivers by both usage and usage potential, where the varied paddle sport potential and the variety of fishing types would impact on model considerations that we are developing.

It was suggested that the chair circulate the key points agreed that members could share, if so wished, prior to the minutes being produced and translated.

The following was agreed and circulated after the meeting.

“The Access to Water Sub-group agreed in principle, the process model to be presented to Welsh Government (WG) for consideration. WG guidance and clarification is to be sought with regard the concepts of a River User Licence, Reduction of Landowner liabilities and an access to water payment scheme, in order to proceed to a river pilot scheme.

It was further agreed that WG will be asked, in consideration of climate change, to look for ways that Dwr Cymru can be constructively engaged and brought into this process.”

*Members of the Access to Water Sub-Group are working co-operatively together to find a pragmatic solution for Wales.*