



Minutes of the 43rd WIRS Provider Forum
LRQA, Remote meeting via MS Teams on the 10th of July 2024

Venue: Remote meeting via MS Teams.
Time: 10.00am

Attendees:	Apologies:
Mark Whitehouse (MW) Chair LRQA	Jim Bugg (JB) – Independent Water TA
Jay Ashford (JA) – JWA Pipework Solutions	John Cooper (JCo) – Balfour Beatty Ltd
Andrew Carter (ACar) LRQA	Steve Morris (SM) - J. Murphy Ltd
Ben Brownbill (BB) – Infrastructure Gateway Ltd.	Phill Truran (PT) – Kier Utilities Ltd
Andy Bunten (AB) - Independent Water TA	Owen Watts – Nexus Utilities Ltd
Rachael Carroll (RC) - CPPUL	Peter Vaughan (PV) - – Independent Water TA
Lee Crabtree (LC) – HVSS Ltd.	
Andrew Currie (ACur) – D.T. Civils	
Jim Duddridge (JD) – Aquamain (UK) Ltd	
Paul Duke (PD) – Connect IT Ltd.	
Jed Garside (JG) – Independent Water TA	
Kylie Hackett (KH) – Fulcrum Ltd	
Mark Harrison (MH) - Independent Water TA	
Bill Jones (BJ) – BGS Utilities Ltd.	
David Kingdon (DK) – United Living Ltd.	
Denise McGlynn (DmCG) – EUSR	
Dean O’Dee (DOD) - Independent Water TA	
Steve Owen (SO) – J. Murphy Ltd	
Chad Paget (CP) – UKPS Ltd.	
Harvey Palma-Breheny (HPB) – Aptus Ltd.	
Jo Parker (JP) - Independent Water TA	
Ray Pateman (RP) – Kier Utilities Ltd	
Ken Rauer (KR) – Balfour Beatty Ltd	
Steve Ruen (SR) – Balfour Beatty Ltd	
Michael Spray (MSp) - Waterco	
Andrew Stephenson (AS) – Morrison Water Services Ltd.	
Jason Watkins (JW) – Aquamain (UK) Ltd	
Kevin Wilkinson (KW) – Independent Water TA	
Katie Yates (KY) – Fulcrum Ltd.	

Action list

Action	Date	Status	Action
23	16/03/23	Open With EUSR	City and Guild's qualifications and experience in main laying over the years, EUSR are not accepting these as minimum requirements to convert to NVQ/NCO (W) qualifications, and this may mean that many operatives will be in a similar position. DMcG to comment/present on the way forward at the next WIRS UCP meeting. Agenda item. Keep open for consecutive agenda item re update. DMcG working with BJ, maybe additional steps, feedback at next meeting or interim.
26	21/02/24	With WIRSUCP Completed.	NCO (W) EUIAS EUSR qualification update : Action for SP to take away and feedback at the next WIRS UCP meeting. Action – MW to distribute the EUIAS information at the beginning of March regarding website etc.
27	21/02/24	With WIRSUCP Completed. Agenda item	CRMC process: Action – MW and DMcG to meet and thrash out the process flow for CRMC qualifications so that it can be documented and understood by all. Report back to the next WIRS UCP meeting.
28	10/07/24	New With WIRS UCP	Action - DMcG and MW to formalise the WIRSAP action list by writing to the chairs of the NCC and WQ forum for visibility and accountability regarding feedback.
29	10/07/24	New With WIRS UCP	Action - JP to pass the summary report of the UKWIR project onto MW to distribute to the Forums members.
30	10/07/24	New With WIRS UCP	Action: Any further issues regarding the SCMC process or authorised signatory to be fed through to MW to pass onto EUSR.
31	10/07/24	New For WIRSAP/Water UK	Action: All forum members to review WIS 4-01-03 and feedback any issues to MW. LRQA to submit issues to WIRSAP with the intention of submitting the list of issue to Water UK for consideration/review. WIRS requirements will not mandate WIS4-01-03 until the issue have been communicated and acted on by Water UK.
32	10/07/24	New For WIRSAP	Action: MW to raise the issue of service connection minimum distance between top tees information being within the respective water company's DCS documents at the next WIRSAP meeting.
33	10/07/24	New For next WIRS UCP	Action: LRQA to add to the action of creating a Water TA per Self-Lay organisation, the list of independent Water TA's and their geographical locations coverage so that new self-lay organisations can make an informed decision.

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Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies including any matters to be raised by WIRS Providers.

MW welcomed everybody to the meeting and presented a PowerPoint presentation for the agenda (via TEAMS).

2. Review of minutes from the last WIRS Providers forum (21st of February 2024).

- 2.1. Action review (by MW).

Actions 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25 Closed as document and with WIRSAP for feedback. Action 24 completed, action 25 Agenda item.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st of February 2024 were accepted as true and accurate by the WIRS UCP forum attendees.

3. Review of minutes from the last WIRSAP forum held on the 13th of March 2024.

- 3.1. Actions reviewed (by MW).

MW stated that he had contacted via email, the Chair of the WIRSAP Forum on several occasions over the past few weeks for feedback from the NCC/WIRSAP forums with no response received which is disappointing.

DMcG stated that there were serious water quality concerns regarding some of the items/actions and with the longevity of the action dates.

Action: DMcG and MW to formalise the WIRSAP action list by writing to the chairs of the NCC and WQ forum for visibility and accountability regarding feedback.

4. UKWIR Leakage Project (JP update)

JP gave an update to the forum regarding the UKWIR leakage project. JP stated the final draft report has been with summary/recommendations but had been published to the UKWIR membership only, i.e. not public.

JP explained that the WRc had completed the exercise along with JP as a subcontractor and representatives from Ant Hire Solutions (Pressure Testing Services).

38 DMA's have been analysed around the UK where fully PE networks are in place and good leakage data is available. 'Negative' leakage has been seen at many DMA's after analysis, pointing to issue with water company data and record keeping (and/or water meter inaccuracies).

New PE networks are leaky (up to 35% having negative leakage).

Issues with water company storage and retrieval of pressure test information.

JA stated that his business used Ant Hire Solutions hired equipment, and water companies are also using Ant Hire Solutions to supply pressure data on newly installed networks.

JP speculated that water company's WQ departments were the receivers of pressure test information and were not storing/recording this information.

MW asked if the Water Company's had recognised the issue with record keeping?

JP stated that she was on other asset management water forums and will be adding the issues discussed to future agenda.

KR of behalf of John Cooper, stated that his business used Ant Hire Solutions equipment as part of Balfour Beatty contracts with water companies. JP stated that she has reviewed all literature/DCS/Standards pertaining to the project for England, Scotland and Rep. of Ireland (which was pointed out as being very good).

JP stated that the full report would not be made public, but a summary is available to be published.

Action: JP to pass the summary report of the UKWIR project onto MW to distribute to the Forum members.

JP stated that it was her understanding that all self-lay organisations had to submit pressure test information as part of the self-lay process to receive payment (post vesting)

JP stated that there was firm evidence that self-lay was not the problem and that leakage is present on all new PE new networks.

DMcG asked if there is a potential failure in the process with the statement 'cause analysis is very difficult'. JP responded that water companies cannot check the network pressure test records and couldn't even confirm if self-lay or framework provider has completed the construction work.

5. SCMC – Authorised signatory process update.

DMcG gave an update on behalf of Angela Fry of EUSR who is managing this project.

DMcG stated that EUSR are completing a root and branch review including documentation/process flows and guidance following on from a meeting with LRQA and Bill Jones. Lots of bureaucracy to streamline. Looking at the authorised signatory and SCP/CP qualification durations (3yr/5yr). Basically, making the process 'fit for purpose' with requirements upfront.

Action: DMcG(Angela Fry) to share with the WIRS UCP forum, the end result of the review.

JP asked if the new process would take into account management of more than one organisation, i.e. JP was the authorised signatory for many businesses and the process was painful.

MW stated that there were issues with the Water TA vs. SCP sign-off and this needed resolution.

JG asked about the scale of the issue. Should there be a competency assessment by LRQA or peer review within the process. DMcG stated that no set criteria had yet been defined so chicken and egg at the moment.

Action: Any further issues regarding the SCMC process or authorised signatory to be fed through to MW to pass onto EUSR.

6. WIS 4-01-03 review and discussion

MW reviewed the recent WIS 4-01-03 (March 2024) document after receiving feedback from JG/MH and AC.

P.6 Section 3.3.3

Issues regarding service pipe or coms pipe pressure test.

Issues with different water companies having different meter installation requirements, i.e. install on private, push fit Atplas boundary boxes, boundary boxes and tails already buried underground.

P.9 Section 4.2.2 Note 1

'Isolation and testing against blanking plates but not valves or hydrants'. This has major implications to how pressure tests are actually completed.

P.11 Section 4.2.3.2

Last sentence – Standard Test Pressure (STP) for service connections is 18 Bar. Shouldn't it conform to the requirement in WIS 4-32-08 (1.5 x nominal pressure rating of the pipe or fitting whichever is least)?

P.24. Section 7

Issues regarding the recording of information. How are GPS coordinates obtained?

Where does the pressure test info go to?

Some SLP's complete static pressure testing of the service tail into the dwelling. Should this be included?

LC stated that it was normal standard practice to evacuate the air from networks from end hydrants.

Action: All forum members to review WIS 4-01-03 and feedback any issues to MW. LRQA to submit issues to WIRSAP with the intention of submitting the list of issue to Water UK for consideration/review. WIRS requirements will not mandate WIS4-01-03 until the issue have been communicated and acted on by Water UK.

7. AOB

MW raised the issue of recent illegal connections that have been discovered by Thames Water and raised as a WIRS issue/complaint.

One of the issues surrounding these illegal connections was the separation distance between top tee connections and what distance this should be. In the old self lay CoP it was stated within a table. No specification had been published within the Thames Water DCS document, but it was in their old self lay addendum. This had been raised as an issue when the DCS documentation was being drafted at the time however, but not progressed by the water companies. JG stated that in the past it was due to a number of pipe diameters. BB stated that the issue of adequate backfill was also a consideration and spacing of services and fitting of BB's. Research had been completed that the issue of secondary heating from a top tee being too close to another connection, was not an issue.

Action: MW to raise the issue of service connection minimum distance between top tees information being within the respective water company's DCS documents at the next WIRSAP meeting.

JP raised this issue of succession planning and capacity issues for independent Water Technical Advisor's. Also raised with the geographical implications of providing the service to Self-lay organisations.

Action: LRQA to add to the action of creating a Water TA per Self-Lay organisation, the list of independent Water TA's and their geographical locations coverage so that new self-lay organisations can make an informed decision.

8. Dates of next meetings.

WIRSAP meeting 17th of July 2024, **WIRS UCP** meeting 6th of November 2024.

Meeting concluded at 1130hrs.