WaterSource22:

Key players recommit to collaborate on common challenges

Welsh Water’s drinking water catchment team have held their annual WaterSource conference during which key players have reaffirmed their commitment to partnership working and collaboration for the protection of drinking water quality.

Entitled Enabling Effective Collaborations, the conference was one of the first to be held following the Welsh Government’s Biodiversity Deep Dive, and was designed to support the recommendations which arose from it. Invited guests were asked to commit to a ‘Team Wales’ approach. By working together and pooling resources, expertise and determination there is a real chance of achieving multiple benefits beyond drinking water quality that will help us to address the Nature and Climate Emergencies.

Speaking at the conference Ian Christie, Welsh Water’s MD of Water Services, Asset Planning and Capital Delivery, said: “Our priority needs to be continuing to provide safe, wholesome drinking water, but we can't do that on our own. Land Management is hugely important to the catchments that provide the water for our treatment works… It's hugely important we work with other land managers to get that raw water quality to the best standard we can.”

This was echoed in the keynote speech delivered via video by Minister for Climate Change Julie James, MS. She said: “The linkages between the protection of our land and water quality present ample opportunities for collaborative partnerships and it is my hope that today’s discussions explore those in more detail…We need to take an integrated water catchment approach focusing on multi-sector co-operation and nature-based solutions to drive water quality improvements.”

You can see more what others had to say at the event in the videos below…