



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Steering Group Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Friday 6 May 2005, 10 am

Dundee City Council, 14 City Square, Dundee

Present:	Martin Price (Chair)	CMS, Perth College
	Bruce Anderson	RSPB
	Ruth Harland	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
	Bryan Harris	Dundee City Council
	Carol Littlewood	FWAG
	Jo Long	SEPA
	Catherine Lloyd	TBP
	David Mitchell	SNH
	George Potts	(representing Alison Anderson, DCC)
	Stewart Roberts	Angus Council
	Mark Simmons	Perth & Kinross Council
	Merrill Smith	Dundee City Council
	Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission
	Carolyn Warwick	SNH
Apologies:	Pam Coutts	Angus Council
	Doug Flint	Perth & Kinross Council
	Uwe Stoneman	SWT

No	Item	Action
1	Apologies As above.	
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 25 January 2005 The minutes of the previous meeting were read; to be amended to include M Smith as present.	
3	Matters Arising Local Records Centre – to be discussed under AOCB	
4	Sub Group Leaders Reports	
4.1	Woodlands – Mike Strachan Three new schemes are being piloted: inclusion of domestic livestock in woodlands to improve biodiversity; capital aid schemes for farmers for diversification; forestry on farms grant. Juniper Research Project being undertaken and sub group meeting in July will tie in with this. To consider approaching SITA funding for this project. Tree preservation problem reported regarding a rookery May see an increased interest in forestry from farmers re the Single Farm Payments. Good attendance at recent Black Grouse meeting in Kenmore; black grouse numbers now recovering well	

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4.2	<p>Farmlands – Carol Littlewood (report attached) The Habitats and Species List was circulated. Currently, there is not enough awareness amongst farmers of what the LBAP is. This list has been edited to suit Tayside. C Littlewood will pass this to SAC to print out and issue when required (draft format currently). Farmers will get a copy of this when they are considering submitting an RSS. If you would like a copy, please contact C Littlewood. Any comments on the document should also go to C Littlewood.</p> <p>Next sub group meeting will be held 22 June, north of Dundee when a large RSS project will be looked at. All Steering Group members are invited. C Littlewood will pass details to C Lloyd for distribution).</p> <p>A free training day has been organised for Saturday 30 July to Scotia Seeds near Brechin (producers of Scottish wild flower seeds). This will be a Wild Flower Day and may also include butterflies/bees. Open to all interested in creation and management of wild flower meadows, verges, etc. C Lloyd will publicise this through LBAP and C Littlewood through FWAG. RSPB also agreed to contact members to publicise the event. Bookings should be made through C Littlewood.</p> <p>RSS (Rural Steward Scheme): applications closed on 31 March, 2700 Scotland-wide applicants which is 900 up on last year. FWAG dealt with 500 of these over Scotland. C Littlewood dealt with 27 schemes which could be bringing £3/4 million into Angus farming communities. £36.5M budget went into RSS last year.</p> <p>Land Management Contracts are now just out, to be signed out by 16 May. These have a 5 year sign up.</p> <p>C Littlewood asked if there was a need for funding for small projects. SNH encouraging to apply for RSS (for which farmers have to pay a fee to do so). There could possibly be scope for smaller projects (eg hedge planting)</p> <p>The farmers leaflet to be included on our website.</p> <p>SBF Rural land Use Working Group – interest has been shown in producing heritage crops. C Littlewood to let M Price know of any.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>C LW</p> <p>CL CLW BA</p> <p>CLW</p>
4.3	<p>Uplands – Martin Price No leader for Upland Group at the moment. Hoping to get the new director of Kindrogan on board. M Price to approach.</p> <p><i>(Update since meeting – Martyn Jamieson, the new Director at Kindrogan Field Centre, has agreed to become the leader for the Upland sub-group)</i></p> <p>M Price has persuaded SE and SNH to talk about joined up thinking regarding biodiversity in uplands (and use uplands as a test case). Update will be given at next meeting.</p> <p>D Mitchell reported on an Angus Consortium of 10 private landowners who are setting up the longest deer fence in Scotland to eradicate sheep tick in order to help grouse (a sub section of the East Grampian Deer Group). The idea is to put sheep on to soak up the ticks. M Price to write to Ian Gill (Vet at Thrums, Kirriemuir) regarding this.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>MP</p>
4.4	<p>Water & Wetlands – Jo Long No further meetings have been held since last Steering Group Meeting. Small meeting held on 5 May to discuss the autumn workshop (Solutions for Roads and Fish) which will be held in the 2nd week of November at the Birnam Institute <i>(date subsequently confirmed to be 9 November)</i>. Target audience will be council/roads/planning/fishery groups. It will be run using case studies. Hope to have Angus Council, Tweed Foundation and District Salmon Fisheries Board on board. Workshop to be chaired by the Institute of Fisheries Management with financial support from SSE and Institute of Fisheries Management. Looking for funding for approx £1,000. This workshop will be free to participants.</p> <p>Spring saw the start of a 5 year ban on salmon nets.</p>	

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4.5	<p>Estuaries & coasts – David Mitchell Sub group have not met since August 2003 but meeting scheduled for 18 May at Camperdown House. Steering Group members welcome. Ongoing tern project at Barry Budden where they hope to get breeding terns back there.</p>	
4.6	<p>Urban Group – George Potts Meeting has been held regarding the Golf Courses Project Invasive Species Project ongoing at Dichty Burn Main project is the Dundee Red Squirrel project which is going from strength to strength. With SNH support, leaflets and interpretation board has been produced for Templeton Woods and a CD ROM is available for schools. Angus Council need to be approached for involvement. The revived Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group is keen to liaise with adjoining groups.</p> <p>D Mitchell reported that SNH have electronic maps of where grey squirrels are in Angus.</p> <p>Invasive Weeds – S Roberts reported that Angus Council keen to get involved in long term sustainability and viability but finance would be needed (possibly consider under SITA funding?)</p>	
4.7	<p>Education – Catherine Lloyd (report attached) Awareness Raising Strategy. C Lloyd to see what is being developed nationally and then see what we can do. Local Patch Survey – information to be added on to website; Perth College might be able to give a volunteer student. 21 – 29 May is Scottish Biodiversity week 9 June Backyard Biodiversity Day M Strachan – Forestry Education Officer is now in place. 13 May Woodfair when mobile classroom will be launched. Also consider using this for biodiversity initiatives. Land Based Studies Course now available at Breadalbane Academy. Launch DVD late in May to various local schools and then roll out to Scotland. New Outreach officer (Angela Hughes) re Big Tree County Issues. Contact at Breadalbane is Alec Townes. M Strachan will get copies of DVD to circulate. Suggested getting Angela Hughes on board the Education Sub Group.</p> <p>Salmon in the Classroom project to be rolled out across Tayside.</p> <p>Living Field Centre Project at the Scottish Crop Research Institute has received BAGS (Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme) funding. CL to liaise with SCRI.</p>	<p>MStr</p> <p>CL</p>
5	<p>Finance End of year report for 04/05 to follow to follow. Proposed budget for 05/06 distributed.</p> <p>Finance situation is tight at the moment. Subgroups – can reduce to £100/group if necessary (from £200/group). The figure of £890 has been brought forward from last year.</p> <p>£10,078 is funding for all publications (£5,000 from Scottish Executive, £3,000 from Perth & Kinross Council, £1,500 from Angus Council and £1,500 from Dundee City Council).</p> <p>Planning Manual – 500 copies to be produced Householders' & Developers' Guides 10,000 to be produced Mileage allowance has been reduced £600 from Hugh Campbell Adamson – this has never been seen paid. M Price to send letter requesting this.</p> <p>Biodiversity Leaflets, consider going through the Forestry Commission as they may be able to fund this. If need money to support general awareness (eg promotional items for school groups, etc) it was suggested that we could approach Scottish & Southern Energy. C Lloyd to follow up. Could also consider using £200 for Education Sub Group for promotional items.</p> <p>Query raised on the £8350 contribution from PKC. D Flint to report on why this figure is not £9,509 as the other 2 Councils.</p>	<p>DF</p> <p>MP</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DF</p>

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	<p>Reprinting summary booklets – SNH funding approx £1,600 (not on accounts yet) and £250 received from Forestry Commission. Need to find £450 (consider taking out of the £890 b/f figure)</p> <p>Request to include Publications as a budget line. D Flint to action.</p> <p>Suggested that we contact Jennifer Moran at VisitScotland in Perth for support as biodiversity could be considered as bringing visitors into the area.</p> <p>C Lloyd to ask D Flint to invoice Angus Council for their contribution.</p> <p>D Flint to be asked to send memo to all members with revised budget with clarification of above points.</p>	<p>DF</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL/DF</p> <p>DF</p>
6	<p>SITA Environmental Trust funding</p> <p>M Price reported the good news that indications of match funding amounting to at least the £10,200 required have been received.</p> <p>M Price/C Lloyd had meeting with SITA and PQLT. Four critical issues from this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ring fenced funding for biodiversity projects (not admin) 2. While funding is through the PQLT, the funding covers project in Tayside 3. SITA requires an environmental member of the PQLT Board (M Price agreed to do this) 4. TBP would be involved in guiding PQLT on which projects should be funded. <p>There is no minimum/maximum amount set for project, it is up to us to agree SITA are happy with a one year commitment from funders, but would prefer 3 years.</p> <p>Replies on SITA funding received: SRPBA – responded but no funding available Aggregate Industries – not this year, consider approaching next year RSPB – questioned eligibility as they could be an application rather than a contributor. Consider approaching next year</p> <p>Any conflicts of interest would need to be clear in recommendation projects</p> <p>The PQLT fee will be 5% which means there is £95K available for projects.</p> <p>The following funding was proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dundee City Council – B Harris agreed up to £3,400 per annum for the next 3 years, subject to agreement that it will be shared equally over the 3 Council areas. 2. Angus Council – S Roberts agreed up to £3,400 for the next 3 years, subject to agreement that it will be shared equally over the 3 Council areas. 3. Perth & Kinross Council – email from D Flint read agreeing up to £3,400 for the next 3 years, subject to agreement that it will be shared equally over the 3 Council areas. 4. M Strachan – Forestry Commission up to £2,000 for 1st year based on outline project plan and on basis that others were major contributions. Could look at next 2 years after that. <p>A question was raised over what is 'equally' as some projects will cross areas. M Price indicated that the expenditure would be equitable over 3 years.</p> <p>Question from B Anderson if projects were limited to one year? M Price to clarify but believed for 1st year would have to be a one year project, after that could look at 2 year projects.</p>	<p>MP</p>

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	<p>It was agreed that the following contributions would be accepted: £2,900 from Dundee City Council £2,900 from Angus Council £2,900 from Perth & Kinross Council £1,500 from Forestry Commission Giving a total of £10,200</p> <p>C Lloyd/M Price to complete the form for SITA</p> <p>SNH may be prepared to underwrite if any deficit (consider approaching SNH in Year 2) SEPA – not at this time because of the way they are funded. However, being actively looked into and consider approaching next year.</p> <p>C Littlewood and J Long did not receive letter requesting funding (<i>subsequently and a letter was sent out on 23/3/05</i>)</p> <p>Question from C Littlewood if Richard Lockett, FWAG was on distribution list (<i>subsequently checked and not on Steering Group distribution list</i>).</p> <p>Approach Forestry Commission Scotland (Charlie Taylor at Inver office) next year.</p> <p>M Price read the Proposal for setting up the fund.</p> <p>One condition is that all projects must be within a 10 mile radius from a landfill site. A Anderson should have a map showing this for Dundee – to get copy to all partners. B Harris will see if he can get an electronic copy.</p> <p>Need to seek clarification from SITA if has to be active sites or are closed landfill also included. SITA sent copy of criteria for English projects. These will be used to set criteria, to be confirmed by the management team. CL to prepare draft.</p> <p>Has £100K to be spent by end of March 06 or can it be rolled over to the next year? Must satisfy criteria of landfill tax credits scheme and LBAP objects</p> <p>Is matching funding required? – no but would encourage projects to secure match funding/in kind contributions</p> <p>Subgroup: Project Assessment Panel, reporting quarterly to PQLT: 3 councils, Forestry Commission, SNH, M Price (ie Management Group and Forestry Commission to form sub group and report to Steering Group)</p> <p>M Price to contact A Saunders to see how much information they need before the next SITA meeting on 17 May.</p>	<p>CL/MP</p> <p>AA/BH</p> <p>CL</p> <p>MP</p>
7	<p>Forward Plans and Priorities To be put on agenda for next meeting – put to management group and then report back to the Steering Group. M price/C Lloyd to do first cut. Need a draft action plan.</p>	
8	<p>Website/Publications Publications Draft annual report circulated – finance report to be added. Any comments to C Lloyd ASAP. Report approved as a draft.</p> <p>Planning Manual – C Lloyd reported that she is not getting enough case studies in to include. Need one for DCC* (large housing development, include Ardler), one from PKC. Manual being delayed because of case studies. C Lloyd will make summary of what she needs again and chase up, also include a suggestion of number of words.</p> <p><i>*Contact Les Banks, DCC Planning & Transport and copy to George Potts</i></p>	<p>CL/MP</p>

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	<p>Website Consider holding launch during Biodiversity Week (21-29 May). C Lloyd to see what is on and where PC access can be done. Suggested all 3 Provosts invited to launch and get press involved. Other possibility is 23 May, Veteran Tree Day at Hilton, Dunkeld. C Lloyd/M Price to see if all 3 Provosts available and discuss.</p>	CL/MP
9	<p>2nd Tranche Progress Report (report attached) In total, 28 drafts completed, 9 in hand. Delayed/planned 17 (35 HAPS/SAPS)</p>	
10	<p>BARS - Biodiversity Action Recording Scheme C Lloyd has to start putting on information between June and September. To approach PKC admin staff for assistance, also consider approach Countryside Rangers for assistance. C Warwick suggested speaking to the Clackmannanshire Co-ordinator as she has already done this work)</p>	CL
11	<p>Local Action Grant Scheme (SNH) C Lloyd to copy information to C Warwick (may now be overtaken by SITA funding). To be followed up.</p>	CL
12	<p>AOCB Local Record Centres SNH to review effectiveness of LRC this summer, this will be reported back to the Group It was mentioned that the McManus Galleries in Dundee are being refurbished and will have a natural history section on the first floor which could possibly be used for a LRC. M Simmons/Angus Council to discuss with M Smith.</p> <p>Item to be added to Agenda for next meeting. Include at the end of the Agenda and members can then choose whether to stay for this part of the meeting or not.</p>	
13	<p>Dates of Future Meetings Date of next meeting agreed for Wednesday 31 August 2005 at 10am. It was agreed that Perth & Kinross Council would host the meeting and lunch (Meeting Room 10/11 Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth).</p>	