



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Steering Group Meeting

3.00 p.m. Thursday 14 August 2003

Committee Room 2, 14 City Square, Dundee

Present:

M Smith (Chair)	Dundee City Council
P Coutts	Angus Council
C Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Co-Ordinator
J Long	SEPA
L Garson	SNH
C Littlewood	FWAG
A Anderson	Dundee City Council
S Hill	SNH
B Anderson	RSPB
K Munday	NTS
D Flint	Perth & Kinross Council
M Price	Centre for Mountain Studies

No	Item	Action
	<p>Merrill Smith opened the meeting by welcomed new members Dr Martin Price and Doug Flint. Dr Price has joined the Group as Leader of the Upland Group and he is on the Rural Land Use Working Group and is responsible for Uplands. Doug Flint is the Environmental Strategy Office for Perth & Kinross Council. Merrill also welcomed Maureen Leslie, who will take the Minutes.</p>	
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>M Simmons, F Bauer, C Hall, A Jones</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting of 24 April 2003</p> <p>Agreed apart from a change to Item 5.2 – first bullet point now to read “It has been decided to finish the Cereal Field Margins HAP”. Fourth bullet point now to read “Nitrate Vulnerable Zone”.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising not covered by the Agenda.</p>	
4	<p>Sub Group Leaders Reports</p>	
4.1	<p>Woodlands - No Report</p>	
4.2	<p>Farmlands – Christine Hall via Carol Littlewood</p> <p>C Hall said that the Barn Owl project was ongoing. They had visited a number of farms and societies. SNH had provided funding for 2 “A” frame boxes. P Cosgrove had intimated that there may be some more money available for the Barn Owl project.</p>	

Sawmill.

There are projects working in three separate areas and these really need to be under one "umbrella" to put forward to the SNH.

4.3

Uplands – Dr Martin Price

Uplands had been highlighted at the Angus Show. Still working on developing HAPS and

SAPS. Main project was Water Voles. Linking to the whole recreational use of Uplands. Bring together all people working in wider field and we should invite anyone who wants to come. Looking at access – regeneration of plants. Also dealing with Upland issues at Scottish level. Just as much in Scotland as in Tayside. Implementation plan should link both, for example Pentland Hills are shared between seven different LBAP areas. We should look outside our boundaries.

4.4

Water and Wetlands – Jo Long

Meeting 15 September. Update on HAPS and SAPS. Pilot project plan to run from January to May next year. Getting into schools once structure established – 3 in Angus.

New person starting 8 September. SEPA Group will be fed back into the LBAP. Need to find out what is going on in the area which is relevant, particularly Ranger Services. Greater recognition is needed and advertising should be more wide.

4.5

There had been a good response from volunteers. One of Rangers doing a pond project and this would be included in the LBAP Management Plan and these would be distributed when available.

Willow spraying project in October.

Estuary and Coast – Shona Hill

At the last meeting 16 people had been invited but only 5 attended.

4.6

SAPS – Concentrate on actions. Usual things going on in the background. The Tern project is on-going. The Terns are nesting on Montrose factory roofs and it was hoped to tempt them out into the Basin.

Urban – Alison Anderson

Concentrating on projects. Sheltered Housing has been a project with the provision of bird tables and enhancement of the areas. The Angus Countryside Rangers were doing most of the work. L Garson said that this project had made a big impact and that Rangers could access money from SNH for various projects. Downfield Golf Course was listed as a Best Practice site. A variety of leaflet and posters have been done. C Lloyd said that a CD-Rom was also available. A Anderson said that the projects were involving businesses, particularly Lidl in Forfar. Red Squirrels in Dundee. L Garson said that a 10 minute Video was being produced. A Management Plan will also be produced. The main thing was to keep a handle on all the different projects so a Pro Forma has been produced.

M Smith said that a pre-meeting had been held with the Sub Group Leaders to discuss problems, best practice etc. One of the big issues was the difficult in providing officer time. There was a need for some sort of central funding. M Smith thought that there was not enough commitment at a higher level and there was no real core funding from the Scottish Executive although they put so much emphasis on Biodiversity. The City Council were to be given a duty but no funding. Again she stated that officer time seemed to be the main difficulty and this was agreed.

M Smith suggested that SEPA, SNH and higher lead partners get together and discuss this at Director and Chief Executive level. The Partners views would be sought before anything was progressed. M Smith suggested that COSLA may have much stronger voice and could be the best organisation to deal with this issue.

5

Education Sub Group – Catherine Lloyd

5.1

A meeting would be held next week. The main activity was the Backyard

JL

SEPA/SNH/Partners

Biodiversity Day by the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service and this was hosted by SNH. 289 children took part in one event. It was hoped that this would take place annually, hosted by SNH. Angus Rangers did a small event. There was a need to build on this.

5.2

C Lloyd tabled the booklet "A Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services". This was the first airing for the booklet and she drew the meetings attention to the leaflets in the back cover, in particular the leaflet "Building Better Biodiversity" which listed a series of lunch-time seminars. Two local authorities have said they would be willing to host lunch-time seminars. M Smith said she had written to the Partners and had quite a good response. The "Building Better Biodiversity" leaflet would be circulated to local authorities.

C Lloyd asked for comments.

6 Financial Position – P Coutts/M Smith

P Coutts told the meeting that there was enough funding for the Biodiversity Co-ordinator until November. P Coutts also undertook to provide an analysis of the Cash Flow position (see attached).

7 3 Year Priority Plan

7.1 M Smith posed the question whether we needed a Priority Plan and if so should this start at Sub Group level ?

7.2 L Garson said that SNH would require a 3 Year Business Plan in order to get any funding for a Biodiversity Co-ordinator

7.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Procedure - This would be introduced on a 6 monthly basis. It will start with the lead Partners reporting and this will be passed on to the Sub Groups through C Lloyd. Liz Garson has produced a guide but it was also suggested that Lead Partners attend the Training Half Day at Battleby.

A copy of the guide to Monitoring and Evaluation is attached to the minutes.

Lead Partners will have the Monitoring and Evaluation forms by end September 2003. Sub Group will need to meet at the end of September 2003.

M Smith suggested that the Councils collaborate on this rather than doing it separately. A meeting will be set.

It was decided that the main point of work at the next Steering Group meeting will be looking at the 3 Year Priority Plan.

8 Biodiversity Co-ordinator – Continuation of Post – M Smith

8.1 The Financial Sub Group have looked at the funding for the Biodiversity Co-ordinator

P Coutts said that there is an extra few weeks funding available to enable us to extend the present contract with Catherine Lloyd. Funding for the next 3 year contract is not in place and the timescales now mean that it would be impossible to set up a new post and appoint by the end of November 2003. Therefore the Partnership need to agree to either a break in the employment of the Biodiversity Co-ordinator or the establishment of a short time working post with the funding that is available. Another option would be for the three Councils to provide funding which would then be matched by SNH and this would then give enough funding to extend Catherine Lloyd's contract with Angus Council until 1 April 2004. The Partners agreed that extending the contract was the best way forward. The Biodiversity Co-ordinator from 1 April 2004 will be employed and housed by Perth & Kinross Council. The post will have to go out for interview due to the change of employing agents. Only one offer of £250 from the Forestry Commission has been received from the Partnership apart from the Councils and SNH.

8.2

M Smith asked B Anderson to confirm that the RSPB had been approached for

8.3	<p>funding. B Anderson said he thought yes but they had not received an invoice.</p> <p>Perth & Kinross Council need a 3 Year Financial Plan and justification for the £32K budget. L Garson stated that SNH have to have an application in by end December and M Smith said the target should be end November. If anyone present at the meeting know or find out possibilities for core funding would they please let Merrill Smith know. L Garson again reiterated that before SNH could consider funding they would need a 3 Year Business Plan.</p>	
9	AOCB	
9.1	<p>Webpage Update – C Lloyd</p> <p>C Lloyd proposed that it be postponed until November. 1st year - £1,500 + vat 2nd & 3rd years - £170 per year.</p> <p>SNH could fund this if the Steering Group thought it a priority. C Lloyd would circulate a Project Brief and this would be put on the agenda for the next Steering Group Agenda.</p>	
9.2	<p>L Garson asked about the Display Boards and C Lloyd confirmed that these were in hand. Timescale – by end of month.</p> <p>M Smith appraised the meeting of a joint venture by St Andrews University and Conoco Phillips who were offering a 1st prize of \$30,000 with runner up prize of \$5,000 and she suggested that perhaps the Tern project could be considered. Dr Price suggested that the Booklet “A Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services could also be considered for next year.</p>	
9.3		
9.4	A copy of the Information is attached to the Minutes.	
9.5	<p>Scottish Biodiversity Plan will be discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>There would be no Sub Group meeting immediately before the next Steering Group meeting</p>	
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>30 October at 10.00 am, St James House, Forfar.</p>	