



## TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

THURSDAY 16 May 2006, 10AM  
PERTH COLLEGE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### Present:

M Price (Chair)	CMS, Perth College
J Milne (Secretary)	CMS, Perth College
P Coutts	Angus Council
D Flint	Perth & Kinross Council
B Harris	Dundee City Council
C Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
M Strachan	Forestry Commission (Item 2 only)
C Warwick	Scottish Natural Heritage
S Merone	Perth Quality of Life Trust (Item 2 only)
D Calderwood	Perth Quality of Life Trust (Item 2 only)

#### Apologies:

M Smith	Dundee City Council
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1	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Action
	As above	

#### 2 SITA TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND – PROJECT ASSESSMENT PANEL

DC - £32,000 left in current year's fund

##### 6239 Angus Council, Angus Woodland Enrichment Planting

Number of sites has been thinned. Now includes 7 sites which are linked as 'broadleaf woodland'. Information on soils and existing plant communities has been provided. Proposal is much better but there are still some issues around maintenance and monitoring.

- Monitoring currently has success criterion based on 10% increase in flora and fauna. This is ambitious and it was felt that monitoring should be based on survival rates of the plantings as a more realistic measure of success. The current proposal has entered monitoring under Administration which is capped at 10% of total project cost by ENTRUST. Monitoring is not Administration and this should be moved to another costing sub-head.
- Maintenance operations need to be clearly defined with the participation of the Contractors who will carry it out to ensure that it works and that it is clear what should and should not be done.

Committee unwilling to fund entire amount due to uncertainty of success. Suggested funding fewer sites this round but send signal that if it works, further funding for the other sites would be forthcoming in future rounds. Entire sites with all sub-sites to be selected in order to maintain connectivity requirements.

Recommendation: Accepted. Up to £10,000 for planting at three sites. HIGH priority.

Conditions:

CL

- Proposer to supply clear monitoring plan. This is to include survival rate of planting.
- Proposer to supply clear maintenance plan.

Deadline for final submission is 26<sup>th</sup> May

##### 6117 Tay Ringing Group – Marsh Harrier Management

Experienced group.

Recommendation: Accepted. £3400. HIGH priority.

Conditions:

CL

- Link outputs to TBAP website.

- b) Results to be made public.
- c) Bird security to be ensured by disguising detailed specific locations.

**6220 Dundee City Council – Creation of Demonstration Eco-House and Biodiversity Garden.**

It was questioned whether using the Ranger Service to carry out the work was a good use of Ranger time although it was acknowledged that children would be participating. Ranger time already paid for. Committee willing to fund for materials and plants but unwilling to fund labour costs. Interpretation costs seem high for a display and leaflet.

Recommendation: Accepted. Up to £4500. HIGH priority.

Conditions:

CL

- a) Resubmit budget to give full breakdown of material and labour costs.
- b) Supply details of long-term maintenance (i.e., beyond the three years of the project).
- c) TBAF money to go towards materials and plants only, not labour.

**6221 Sustain Dundee – Dundee Red Squirrel Project**

Funding has been asked for grey squirrel control, red squirrel feeding and promotion/education. FC are already funding grey squirrel control in woodland areas through their Woodland Initiative. Possible double funding. Other funding is coming from Scottish Executive (SE) but FC is under SE so has this been accounted for? What is the relationship between Dundee Council and Sustain Dundee? Committee supports project in principle but requires more information on control element and proposing organisation.

Recommendation: Accepted. £4000 over 3 years for red squirrel food, promotion and volunteer support. HIGH priority.

Conditions:

CL

- a) Clarification on grey squirrel control funding.
- b) Supply information on Sustain Dundee
- c) Promotion element to be kept at or below 10% of total cost.

**6222 Forest Research – Small Cow-Wheat Species Recovery Project**

Good research credentials

Recommendation: Accepted. £11,900 over two years

**6223 Angus Council Housing Department – Swift/Bat Housing Project**

Ranger Services providing the labour. Project represents joined up Council policy with biodiversity linked to social issues. Committee suggested that installing a live camera feed and display to some boxes would be good but Angus Council should fund that.

Recommendation: Accepted. £1671. HIGH priority.

Conditions:

CL

- a) Results of survey to be supplied to TBP

**6224 Lunan Park Resources Centre – Garden for Peaceful Relaxation**

This is not primarily a biodiversity garden. More of an amenity project. Funding the installation of things like greenhouses not appropriate for TBAF. Suggest applying to Angus Environmental Trust under Category D.

Recommendation: Accepted (partial). £500 for wildlife-friendly plants and boxes. MEDIUM priority

Conditions:

CL

- a) TBAF funding must form part of fully funded project.
- b) Ensure open public access for minimum of 104 days per year

**6231 Angus & Dundee Bird Club – Little Tern Breeding Site Protection**

Committee does not want to be seen encouraging a biodiversity policing ethos. ENTRUST is willing to fund wardens but committee needs to be assured that this will not be an on-going, recurring proposal. The proposers need to identify the landowner and work out a sustainable

long-term plan for managing wardens and the habitat. It was questioned whether a Bird Club would have the resources to manage employment of wardens. It was also suggested that the breeding season is well underway and so full funding would be inappropriate.

Recommendation: Accepted. Up to £6000 (incl. NI & VAT if appropriate). HIGH priority  
Conditions:

- a) Proposers to supply information on who will be employing the wardens, how long is left in the breeding season and if in fact the birds have returned this year.

CL

**3 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY FUNDING**

SNH Project Fund

CW stated that £10,000 was earmarked for TBP as match funding for biodiversity projects and was available as of now. Projects that fail to meet ENTRUST criteria should be encouraged to apply to SNH. This is most easily managed on a project by project basis.

**4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006**

Agreed

ACTION: Ask Merril Smith if she still wishes to be on the Management Team.

JM

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

None

**6 WORK PROGRAMME/CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Co-ordinators report

CL gave a summary of the work that she has carried out over the previous month. This has included the writing of the Annual Report covering April 2005 to Mar 2006. CW stated that SNH do not require a long and detailed report. MP stated that the Annual Report should only cover the Co-ordinators work progress over the previous year, not all Partnership activity. CL reported other work over the last 30 days including liaison with Local Authorities, commenting on the Highways Code of Practice, the launch of the Eco-house, 2 newsletter updates, 'Take a Pride in Perth' meeting, TBAP Assessment, answering queries.

The last lunch time seminar (on the subject of Wildlife Legislation) was extremely successful. Delegates included:

Dundee City Council Ranger Service (x 2);  
Perth & Kinross Council Planning, Roads, Flood Defence;  
Fife Council Ranger Service  
Scottish Wildlife Trust Ranger  
Field Studies Council (Kindrogan)  
Bat Conservation Trust Scottish Officer  
Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group (x2)  
2 x private ecological consultants  
Private Chartered Architect

Apologies were received from the AC Woodland Officer, PKC Ranger Service and the P&K Bird Recorder. Information Packs were sent to these, plus all the missing Planning and Roads Departments across the three local authorities.

Work Programme

DF tabled comments and proposed amendments to the work programme along with subsequent comments by CL.

DF reported some concerns over achieving best value for money for Local Authorities who provide 65% of the operating budget for the Co-ordinator but get only 21 out of 260 days of her time under the current programme. He suggested that the TBP document "Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services" should be used much more to develop best practice in delivering biodiversity duty locally. DF stated that there was no guarantee that Perth & Kinross Council would continue their involvement with the Partnership if they do not believe that it offers them good value for money. There was general agreement with this

position from the other Council members (PC, BH) which was acknowledged by the Chair. MP suggested that Building Better Biodiversity (4.1) and Training (10.1) could be flagged up as aimed also at Local Authorities and bundled into 6.1. This should increase their value for money.

CW suggested that more time needs to be given to BARS. This needs to be done by the Co-ordinator. The main work input is at the beginning when tasks have to be inputted to the database. After that, responsibility for recording task progress can be allocated to the responsible partners. Completion of BARS is a condition of the SNH Grant Aid.

DF suggested that the Partnership needs to become more focused. He stated that the Partnership is at a crucial stage as it is coming up for re-funding. In order to be successful it needs to have a clear focus. This probably means reducing the number of species that are focussed on and tasks should be oriented to seven or eight key species. CW agreed that less time should be spent on HAPS and SAPS overall but expressed concern that Partnership priorities should not be decided without full Partnership consultation. The decision about which species to focus on should be agreed with the Steering Group. CL remarked that it was uncomfortable starting projects without appropriate Action Plans in place and that SAPS were needed first in order to be able to focus on a species.

CW suggested that a list of HAPS/SAPS that require relatively little work to complete them be compiled. MP suggested adding a 'realism' column to include an assessment of the likelihood of practical implementation. The list should then be circulated among the Management Team for comment. BH suggested that the list then needs to go to the Steering Group for discussion and approval. MP suggested that at the next Steering Group meeting, a maximum of 3 species per sub-group should be prioritised. DF suggested that the list should be circulated to sub-groups for discussion prior to the Steering Group meeting.

ACTION: Compile list of HAPS/SAPS with estimates of amount of work to completion and likelihood of practical implementation. Circulate to Management Team for comment. Circulate to sub-groups. Place on agenda for next Steering Group meeting.

CL

Amendments to work programme time allocation and task prioritisation were negotiated.  
ACTION: Amend work programme.

CW

## 7 FINANCES

Income and Expenditure report appended to Co-ordinators Annual Report. Committee agreed to simplify format.

## 8 LONG TERM PLANNING

### (NEXT FUNDING APPLICATION FOR CO-ORDINATOR'S POST TO SNH)

BH reported updates to the Business Plan. CL has updated Annex 1. The Local Authorities are now to take the plan to their own committees for approval. BH and CW stated that there was no extra funding potential. MP stated that the agreement was to preserve the status quo. DF suggested that the Partnership requires an exit strategy from SNH Grant Aid as this has an uncertain future.

## 9 AOCB

CW suggested that the Steering Group needs to be briefed on Management Team discussions.

## 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETING TIMEFRAMES

DONM – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2006, 10am – 2pm, Perth College, Room 810, Webster Building