



**TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Wednesday 20 February 2008

Perth College

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Present:

Alison Anderson	Dundee City Council
Douglas Calderwood	Perth Quality of Life Trust (Item 1-2 only)
Pam Coutts	Angus Council
Carolyn Deasley	Scottish Natural Heritage
Evelyn Kerr	Perth Quality of Life Trust (Item 1-2 only)
Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Angela Paterson (Secretary)	CMS, Perth College
Martin Price (Chair)	CMS, Perth College
Esther Rogers-Nicoll	Perth & Kinross Council

Apologies:

Bryan Harris	Dundee City Council (AA attended on behalf of DCC)
Mike Strachan	Forestry Commission

1	<p>APOLOGIES As above</p>	Action
2	<p>SITA TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND – PROJECT ASSESSMENT PANEL</p> <p>8016 – RSPB Scotland – Floodplain Grazing Marsh Enhancement, Vane Farm This is the second application from RSPB and SITA have previously helped RSPB directly. DC indicated that £13k was paid 2 years ago for the Tay Reedbeds project and no feedback has been given. They are requesting £36k over 3 years and the project would assist the overall management of Vane Farm. From a visitor viewpoint, this is a good project, we would like to be involved and the PR from it could be beneficial. Something should be put in the visitor centre to acknowledge funding. Vane Farm forms part of Loch Leven NNR. SNH feels the idea is good in principle and would enhance important area for biodiversity.</p> <p>Recommendation: Accept, with conditions. HIGH priority, £36k over 3 years. Conditions: need to know exactly what funds requested are being asked for – where, what activity and wage rates. Acknowledgement of funding has to be made at Vane Farm. As per TBP policy, report on existing project is required before new grant awarded. On the existing project, second year not claimed and DC to contact them about this.</p> <p>8017 – Scottish Wildlife Trust, Keltneyburn, Calcareous Grassland Improvement Project Calcareous grassland is priority in Tayside. Previously applied and asked for more information and this has now been provided. This project cannot wait for the SDRP; the work needs to be carried out from June onwards. CD agreed that the work is a high priority. They have volunteers but need help to clear the bracken/blackthorn and keep on top of it; they do not have the resources to deal with the management effectively. SWT will do the monitoring themselves.</p> <p>Recommendation: Accept, HIGH priority. No constraints. £14,100 over 3 years.</p>	

8018 – Scottish Wildlife Trust, Brerachan, Northern Hay Meadow Enhancement

Previously applied for and have now come back with more information. Exceedingly rare habitat and very important. SNH would support, SSSI, high priority. Need this support in interim and see what happens with SDRP in future. Concern ongoing-maintenance after 2nd year. Request that we would like to see plan for funding for future years; but this cannot be an open ended commitment.

Recommendation: Accept. HIGH priority, £5,640 over 2 years.

8019, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Balnaguard Glen – Juniper Regeneration

This project cannot wait on the SDRP. This is for the management of the site; have other juniper sites in Tayside; 3 year project. Will lose the juniper unless the bracken is got rid of.

Recommendation: Accept, HIGH priority, £13,200 over 3 years.

Condition: DC will ask how the bracken will be managed (i.e. will it be cut) and state that this is not an open ended commitment.

8020, Tay Foundation, Invasive plants control programme

DC suggested appropriate to do on the River Earn area, highest occurrence downstream (St Fillans to Abernethy). However, they would have to report on the whole project. The whole project is high priority but Entrust requires a location. Funding over 2 years – commit one lump sum this year.

Recommendation: Accept. HIGH priority, £3k

8021 Murton Wildlife Trust for Environmental Education, Little Ring Plover Habitat Enhancement

Unique place for plovers in Scotland. The Murton Trust has been proactive to get plover back to where they were previously breeding (had moved to a quarry which not suitable). The project will make habitat suitable for breeding. High profile bird, public can walk round the area. Two SSSIs close to this site. Great project in principle. If not approved now, will miss breeding season. The Trust own this land.

Recommendation: Accept with conditions. HIGH priority, £6,077 over 3 years.

Conditions: Need confirmation that there will be no hydrological impact and request map to clarify.

8022 Perth & Kinross Council, Project Bumble Bee

Part of huge local authority project focussing on improving Largham Park in Coupar Angus, concentrating on bees. Willing to work with Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. Must be monitored properly and report to Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. SNH – there must be an interpretation board for this at the location indicating what is being done. Ranger workshops are being organised in conjunction with this. Money requested is for scraping and cultivating area and making wetland area. Ask them to retain topsoil for reuse. Advise them to put down (nutrient deficient) subsoil where the wild flowers will be planted. To work closely with Scotia Seeds. 2 year project, need to confirm there will be maintenance for biodiversity purpose afterwards.

Recommendation: Accept. MEDIUM priority, £8,006 for 1 year.

Condition: Interpretation provided at site, confirmation of subsequent maintenance for biodiversity.

SITA TBAF

DC indicated that SITA Trust would like the third party contributions of 10.2% taken out of the equation and this money used for grant aid purposes. DC has suggested that the monies lodged by the three local authorities and Forestry Commission Scotland is paid to the PQLT as before, for them to distribute. This money could be used for advancement of biodiversity, publicity awareness raising (eg biodiversity week, street theatre, etc). Only TBP can bid for this money and it should be used for projects that cannot go through Entrust. This would

	<p>mean that £10K would be available per annum for 3 years. We need to check with the Forestry Commission that they are in agreement with this. If the money is not spent within the financial year, then it can be carried forward.</p> <p>Action: Put on Steering Group Agenda. DC/CL/MP need to set up procedures for the allocation of money and check that Forestry Commission are in agreement with this arrangement.</p> <p>TBAF Application Guidelines The revision of guidelines has not yet started. We still need better maps for some projects. Action: DC/CL to action and get ready for April/May projects. To be circulated before next meeting.</p>	<p>DC CL MP</p> <p>DC CL</p>
3	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>Agreed</p>	
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of laptop to PKC in hand; will have software removed • CD raised concern about problems being able to contact CL by phone. Most days are covered by CL or R Higgins. Action: CL to check if she can phone in to pick up messages when out of the office. CL also agreed she would use her own mobile phone and claim back expenses. CL to find out the procedure for reimbursement. The TBP answering machine message to be updated to include mobile number. • Voice activated software: still no action, organisation-wide issue. CL said the need for this was becoming urgent. CL & RH have decided not to get a digital voice recorder at the moment but to be reviewed at next meeting. • Confirmed that RH now has a working phone • Answer phone is now available • Colour printer not yet connected but should be able to have access to a printer on another floor. • Digital diary to be followed up. Action: CL 	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>
5	<p>WORK PROGRAMME/CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT</p> <p>As per work programme 2007-08 tabled at meeting:</p> <p>2.1 Figures low at moment for talks/presentations but will not be by end of year. Five presentations to do this quarter.</p> <p>2.3 Press/media coverage, keeping up, if not exceeding. Interviewed by Radio Scotland and The Scotsman. Reception and press release due 4/3/08. The 8-page Tayside "From Summit to Sand" Newsletter (reporting mostly on past TBAF projects) will be ready for the SITA TBAF Reception on 4/3. Action: CL to follow up with DC to check re publicity in national press. If press release goes out in advance may get journalists there on the day.</p> <p>2.4 Update of website ongoing; a lot of information has now gone on and is being reorganised to make information easier to find. CD asked if 2nd tranche HAPS and SAPS on. CL to check as CD could not locate. Action: All members to run through the website by 12/5/08 and pass on any comments at the next meeting. Action: For next meeting, have live website available in meeting room (AP to book and organise)</p> <p>3.6 Perth Lade Enhancement: support PKC with biodiversity aspects of proposed project. This has taken up time but now looks like it will take off. CD suggested Ranger involvement; CL already been in contact and invited the Ranger to the next Water & Wetlands sub group meeting.</p>	<p>DC CL</p> <p>ALL AP</p>

	<p>3.10 Coasts & Estuaries sub group: Laura Booth not able to be new Chair of this group. Suggested contacting David Lampard from the MacManus Gallery first and if not, then approach Dundee or Abertay University. Other suggestions were to approach Rob Duck from TEF to suggest someone or John Palfreyman (Abertay University).</p> <p>3.11 Tayside Golf Course Initiative; liaising with FWAG and Scottish Golf Environment Group regarding ponds. Future project looks very promising.</p> <p>3.12 Farmland: C Littlewood and C Hall working on barn owl project and Christine involved in orchard project. BOOLS now finished, newsletter to be issued.</p> <p>3.18 Upland: quiet. April/May suggest upland discussion day. Urgent need to get sub group up and running again.</p> <p>3.25 Urban: Community Garden, Orchards and Allotments booklet ready for print, CL liaising with AA. Suggest bookmark. Hopefully booklet will be ready for 4/3/08</p> <p>3.26 Tayside Swift Interest Group: would be good to get someone else to take over as leader instead of CL. CL to follow up. Set up Swift volunteers group.</p> <p>3.27 Tayside Swift Nestbox Trials: asked everyone to report back as need to report back to SNH within annual report. Newsletter still being handed out.</p> <p>3.35 Woodland: MS finding it difficult to allocate time for Sub Group leader. Hazel Maclean hopes to join as joint leader. Sub group meeting on 11/3, January one cancelled.</p> <p>3.39 Tayside Red Squirrel Forum: going well</p> <p>3.45 Education, Tayside Biodiversity Week. Street theatre, lots of work has been done on this (Sandra Penman organising). Need to confirm funding to them. RH preparing list of Tayside events for the website. Action: CL to let S Penman know we have match funding but still need their commitment. Action: CD asked that for next steering group meeting, CL to supply list for Tayside Biodiversity week events and circulate before the meeting. If not, not have available on the day.</p> <p>3.48 Tayside Local Recorders' forum to be held in Perth on 15/3/08.</p> <p>4.0 Promote community involvement in biodiversity projects: TBAF takes up a lot of time but reaps dividends as there are a lot of good projects arising.</p> <p>5.0 Promote joint working with organisations within and outwith TBP: still surgery meetings in Angus and getting a lot more general enquiries.</p> <p>5.2 Attend LBAP network meetings: meeting at end of March which CL will attend.</p> <p>Planning manual: CL meeting with ERN next month.</p> <p>7.1 BARS monitoring: R Higgins to go on training; no date as yet but being followed up.</p> <p>Action: CL has an update on the Work Coordinators report and will email to AP Action: For the annual report, CD asked CL to use the Co-ordinator's Work Programme report format to end March to report on year key outputs and tasks. Action: For next meeting, CL to provide work programme for next year.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>
6	<p>SUPPORT TO TBAP AT DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL Not discussed</p>	

7	<p>FINANCES No report available at meeting. Action – B Harris to send update and issue with minutes</p>	BH
8	<p>AOCB</p> <p>SNH not paid funding to DCC yet this year, waiting on supporting budget information. CD spoken to Peter Sandwell. Action: AA will ask BH to chase up.</p> <p>SNH Grant funding CD indicated that from 2009/10 all funding for local authorities will be transferred directly to them from the Scottish Government and not via SNH as at present. This will affect support for ranger services, LBAPs, central support for grants, trusts, etc. We need to keep a watching brief on this issue and possibly think about another structure for TBP for the future.</p> <p>CD has raised this issue at a national LBAP meeting, We need to know the full situation by September, before councils set their budgets in November 2008.</p> <p>Action – put on Agenda for next management team meeting.</p> <p>SDRP CD indicated that P Gaskell, SNH, felt it would be a good idea for the Tayside LBAP to review the regional priorities for biodiversity. Also speak to national people involved; species priorities list been produced as part SDRP guidance. CL to check firstly and hope this could be starting point for this process.</p> <p>SDRP statement of intent to be launched in April, proposals online 19 May. For this year best fit but needs review for next year.</p> <p>Action: CD to provide briefing for Steering Group Action: CL to allocate time in work programme for dealing with this.</p> <p>Impacts mainly on farmland and woodland groups,. Need to be focussed on what we need to do as a partnership.</p> <p>Action: by Steering Group meeting on 17/6/08 summary of state of play to be provided and details of what we need to do. CD to ask Phil Gaskell if he can come to meeting on 17/6</p> <p>Action: CL to ask Syd House to come to meeting on 17/6 at Dundee</p>	<p>AA BH</p> <p>AP</p> <p>CD CL</p> <p>CD</p> <p>CL</p>
9	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>12/5/08 Management Group 22/8/08 Management Group</p> <p>4/3/08 Steering Group, Perth, including SITA TBAF Reception 17/6/08 Steering Group, Dundee</p>	