



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Steering Group Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Friday 9 June 2006

Tayside House, Dundee City Council

Present:	Martin Price (Chair) Alison Anderson Pam Coutts Doug Flint Christine Hall (left 12.50pm) Carol Littlewood (left 11.40am) Catherine Lloyd Mark Simmons Christine Stark Mike Strachan Carolyn Warwick	CMS, Perth College Dundee City Council Angus Council Perth & Kinross Council SAC Angus FWAG Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Perth Museum Forestry Commission Forestry Commission SNH
Apologies:	Ruth Harland Martyn Jamieson Richard Lockett Jo Long Merrill Smith Ross Williams	Scottish Rural Property & Business Assoc Scottish Field Studies Association Perth FWAG SEPA Dundee City Council NFU
In Attendance:	Angela Paterson	CMS, Perth College

No	Item	Action
1	Apologies As above.	
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 23 February 2006 Minutes agreed	
3	Matters Arising BARS	
3.1	UK Reporting Round 2005 completed.	
3.2	UK BAP Review Report will hopefully be published this year.	
3.3	The TLBAP 1 st tranche review (draft) has been circulated to management team and can be circulated to Steering Group if requested. If not all the team had received this report, CL will send again to management team for comments.	CL
3.4	Scottish Biodiversity Fortnight This took place between 27 May and 11 June 2006. Various press releases been made, good response. Scottish Biodiversity Forum postcards and bookmarks circulated very widely.	
3.5	Local Record Centres AA reported that no progress had been made in Dundee since last meeting.	

	CW provided an update for the meeting. More work is required on the draft SNH guidance and it is likely to be later in year before it is completed. The National Strategy Team are dealing with this issue and CW will keep the team updated.	CW
3.6	PC indicated that there had been no progress in Angus, they are waiting on the SNH review.	
3.7	Add 'Local Record Centres' on to the Agenda for next Steering Group Meeting.	AP
4	Reports from Sub Group Leaders Upland and Water & Wetlands reports circulated at meeting	
4.1	Woodlands – Mike Strachan Report previously circulated (copy attached) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007 a new grants scheme will be introduced. Consultation document now emailed to all and MS urged everyone to comment on this (by 27th June at the latest). Christine Stark, new BIFF project officer attended meeting. MP welcomed CS to the meeting and it was agreed that we would be pleased to welcome her on to the Steering Group Committee. Juniper Day on 21 June, currently only approx 6 intending to attend, MS may consider rescheduling. Tayside & Fife Red Squirrel Forum: there is still good interest in Tayside. 17 people attended the last meeting on 30 May. MS and CS to attend a farm/forestry conference which will look at agri-forestry systems. They will also attend a non-timber forest products conference in Germany. There has been a huge interest in the use of woodfuel in Tayside and there have been 5 successful applications for grant aid for woodchip. On the point of launching a grant in Breadalbane - adding value to farm woodlands. 	ALL MS
4.2	Farmlands – Christine Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH reported that a meeting of the sub-group had been held on 2 June. HAPS and SAPS had been discussed to see what was needed to bring them up-to-date and to completion. The Scottish Lowland Barn Owl Forum, of which the Tayside LBAP is a founding member, is awaiting news of a BAGS grant to cover projects across Tayside, Fife, Clacks and Central Scotland. CL advised that the Scottish Barn Owl Forum would be meeting on 16 June. * <i>Subsequent update - £25k BAGS grant achieved for 3 year project.</i> The sub group are producing a response to the Scottish Rural Development Programme. The sub group have discussed the possibility of setting up a new project and it was agreed that they would look at grazing in uplands. This will also be discussed with the Uplands sub group. It would look at farmed habitats and they would possibly try to go with the calcareous grass project. Another meeting will be held to decide what to do and they would then approach SNH with proposals. MP suggested the SITA fund, however, they felt they were unlikely to succeed as they had previously discussed the possibility of a barn owl project which proved ineligible for funding. They will need to discuss with SNH and then landowners to identify actual sites. A Barn Owl Interest Group meeting had also been held before sub group meeting. 	
4.3	Uplands – Martyn Jamieson Apologies received, CL tabled report at meeting on behalf of M Jamieson (copy attached). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'The Future of Upland Biodiversity Conference' will be held on 8 December at Battleby. The call for papers has now gone out. (AP emailed to all Steering Group members on 19/6/06). Calcareous project already discussed by CH; agreed could be a joint project with upland sub group 	

4.4	<p>Water & Wetlands – Jo Long Apologies received from JL; report tabled at the meeting (copy attached) and CL discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference on fish stocks and predators: it was suggested that the Partnership could provide a non-confrontational host to a discussion of this contentious issue between fisheries interests, RSPB, SNH etc. National or Tayside issue, or both, any comments would be welcomed? Predators being considered could be seals, cormorants, etc. CW will mention to Denise Reid at SNH. • The Partnership are already committed to holding a second River Engineering conference in June 2007. It was considered a good idea to highlight the fish stocks and predators subject, but concern as to where the resources would come from. It was suggested that funding may be available through Alistair Stephens from Scottish & Southern, as this had been his idea. His suggestion was to hold it in winter 2006. Agreed that if he can find resources and time, then can go ahead. If thinking nationally, the next meeting of RLUWG will be held on 3 August 2006 and it may be worth looking at the Implementation Plan to see if this could fit in. CL agreed to look at the Plan and give comments to MP by 16 June; he can then put the item on the RLUWG agenda. * <i>Subsequent update – Alistair Stephens does not have time to organise this meeting, so it will not be reported to the RLUWG at this time.</i> 	<p>CW</p> <p>CL</p>
4.5	<p>Coast & Estuary Report previously circulated (copy attached). CL provided short update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No group leader as yet, waiting news of appointment of Tay Estuary Forum Project Officer (post advertised on 2 June) • Two estuarine projects have been successful in recent TBAF applications – the RSPB’s Tay Reedbed Enhancement Project (£26,000) and the Tay Ringing Group’s Tay Reedbed Management Project (£1,890) • Little Tern Breeding Site Protection Project (Montrose): £6,000 funding agreed from TBAF 3rd Round, subject to Entrust approval. • CW indicated that Rhona Thomson is taking over from David Mitchell; she will be based in Airlie and will be joining as a member of the sub group. 	
4.6	<p>Urban – Alison Anderson Reported previously circulated (copy attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CL added that a Swift Day in Perth will be held on 20 June comprising a Swift Interest Group meeting in the morning and workshop for planners, developers, etc and then a practical training session round Perth, and culminating in an evening walk for the public. • AA asked about an SNH representative for the Urban group. CW will discuss, previously David Mitchell was a member of the sub group. • MP, few items mentioned on report about funding needed; Green graveyard leaflet would require funding. CW indicated that SNH have some money available for small projects (£200/£300) that could help with leaflets, etc, and that can be accessed quickly. MP will approach re uplands conference. • Open day for St Magdalene’s Hill, Perth will be held in 2 weeks’ time. 	<p>CW</p> <p>MP</p>
4.7	<p>Education – Catherine Lloyd Report previously circulated (copy attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be held in July • Website continues to be popular, with excellent feedback. It has recently achieved 100,000 hits, within a year of launching. • The Clackmannanshire school calendar passed round by CW at meeting; this was distributed to every schoolchild in Clackmannanshire. As there are many more children in Tayside, would maybe have to consider targeting particular years or link to eco schools. • M Simmons mentioned that the Tayside RIGS Group have now been renamed Tayside Geodiversity • Corsiehill Quarry at Kinnoull is currently Tayside Geodiversity’s main project. Follow up projects are possibly sea cliffs, Angus and Dundee Law leaflet. These are initial 	

	projects to get the group going	
5.	<p>Finance DF tabled finance report (copy attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DF discussed this spreadsheet which will go into annual report. Agreed that this format provided was easier to read both for steering group and management team. • Printing – leaflets almost ready for delivery and this cost will then be spent (funding from Scottish Executive and the three local authorities has been ring-fenced for this purpose) • Healthy balance for this year • CL/DF to agree with financial team and set budget for this year • Final year for the partnership, in terms of funding. • Working groups (7) only £476 was spent during 2005-06. Money basically for facilitating sub group meetings, etc. Some funds have been held back from 2005-06 to pay towards the Barn Owl Newsletter and Green Graveyard leaflet. 	CL/DF
6.	<p>SITA Funding (TBAF – Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP provided an update. There are plenty of proposals being received and the majority are being funded. CL circulated summary at meeting of what has been funded (copy attached). Etrust's rules/criteria confine what the money can be spent on. • SITA/PQLT have changed the funding year from September to August rather than the financial year • 7 in Perth, 6 in Angus and 3 in Dundee already approved; i.e. Perth – 7 projects = £61,904; Angus – 6 projects = £25,265; Dundee – 3 projects = £13,600. More applications from Dundee should be encouraged. • As the TBAF is very specific on types of projects that can be funded, may need to link in to SNH. • Many Dundee projects are education linked and therefore not suitable for TBAF funding. • Approved projects are 50% bird related, 40% forestry related. • Farming sub group: their problem is that none of the proposed projects them fit the criteria, they would need to go and out and do all the survey work first, and there are also problems with funding in agricultural areas. A lot of the work is awareness raising. • Needs to be discussed at sub groups how we can diversify our portfolio. Questioned whether TBAF could go back to SITA re Entrust – MP indicated that this had already been done. • In the meantime, we need to work with the criteria and try and come up with packages that meet the criteria. There is a biodiversity grant available through SNH for grants under £10,000 (up to 50% match funding). • It was questioned whether the name of the fund is causing problems? Felt that the Guidelines make it clear what is available through it. • Few applications have been received from sub groups (however, this could due to the fact that applications have to be from legally constituted organisations) 	
7.	<p>Website/Publications CL already reported via earlier sub group reports.</p> <p>Developers' and householders' guides – draft leaflets passed round the table, 3,000 of each leaflet will go to local planning authority areas. They will go to planning departments and will be issued with planning application forms; they will need to be available online also.</p> <p>Agreed that the leaflets should appear on the TBP website and the local authorities can add a link to this from their own website. In this way, updates can be done quicker.</p> <p>DF mentioned recent information received from the Scottish Executive. CW confirmed that this states that the use of suspensive conditions for applications involving European Protected Species is not acceptable and development should not commence until a survey</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>

	has been undertaken if EPS may be present on the site, prior to the determination of a planning application. See the SE guidance “European Protected Species, Development Plans and the Planning System; Interim guidance for Local Authorities on Licensing Arrangement”.	
8.	<p>Local Sites Designation CL circulated the document “Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland” published by SNH (available form pubs@snh.gov.uk; tel 01738 444177)</p> <p>MP questioned how this linked to the LBAP? The expectation is that the partnership is involved in this. Should we be proactive or wait for councils to come and tell the partnership what they want?</p> <p>M Simmons, would like to see the group being proactive. Issue of local sites important for various organisations, eg Tayside Geodiversity Group</p> <p>MP suggested that it might be useful if we could have for next meeting whichever councils have list/maps and which sub groups they link to.</p> <p>Action: agreed to leave on agenda for next time.</p> <p>Helpful to know when local authorities reviewing local development plan. Document was sent to CL and a copy should have been sent to everyone on Steering Group. If you don't have a copy, please let CL know.</p>	AP
9.	Future Plans for Partnership	
9.1	<p>First Tranche Review CL has a copy of the 1st tranche review and will circulate to steering group members. All comments from sub groups have been included, together with the findings from the two day local authority workshops. The core/statutory duties are retained within the LBAP as a generic list in an information box .</p> <p>Sub-groups should check each of the 1st tranche actions and rank them 1 to 4: (1) statutory (as mentioned above), (2) short term (actions will go on BARS), (3) long term, (4) proposed deletions.</p> <p>Sub-group chairs should then approach Lead Partners to ensure agreement.</p> <p>Future priorities For action over the next 3 years, the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each sub group would be asked to come up with around 10 actions to be done over the next 3 years (these may relate to 1st or 2nd tranche habitats and species, or others) • this should be a ranked list • if it is an existing action, it should be cross-referenced • each one should have a SMART target • a lead partner needs to be identified for each target • Add column to identify whether relevant to an action in the Tayside biodiversity action plan or for the Scottish list • Habitat actions should be included as well as species ones <p>In preparation for each sub group meeting, inform every sub-group leader of the approach we are going to take. CL to draft a form, together with an explanation of why we are doing this, and circulate this to everyone. Sub groups may want to consider bringing forward the date of their next meeting for this process. The proposed actions need to be discussed with nominated lead partners.</p>	<p>Sub Groups</p> <p>Sub Groups</p> <p>CL</p>

	<p>The Urban Group are holding their meeting next week therefore they can pilot this and report on how the process has gone.</p> <p>CW has already done some preliminary work in looking at species which individual sub groups could target/focus. Came up list of 7 species - red squirrel, water vole, corn bunting, grey partridge, tree/house sparrow, alien species, swifts/swallows – things that can link in with local people. It was agreed that it would be useful to consider this. CW to provide a summary of this work and circulate for sub group leaders who are drawing up their priority 10 actions.</p> <p>The Business Plan should include that we will focus on a number of species and habitat actions over next 3 years and define the process which we will use.</p>	<p>AA</p> <p>CW</p> <p>BH</p>
9.2	<p>Second Tranche Plans</p> <p>There was a discussion on the importance of 2nd tranche plans. Many are completely, or almost ready. Those who have been working on these plans should have their work recognised; also, once 2nd tranche HAPs and SAPs are published, activities relating to the respective habitats and species will be eligible for TBAF funding. Some new actions may come out of this process and some of these habitats and species may end up with actions on the lists of 10. We need to complete this list, not put together any more HAPs and SAPs unless these are the priority actions identified by the sub groups.</p> <p>At the next meeting, we say which ones have HAPS and SAPS finalised, and are to be adopted by the partnership.</p> <p>Action: CL to give sub group leaders to mid-July 2006 to finalise. CL to send completed ones to sub group leaders (and to liaise with lead partners) and let Steering Group have list of final plans for adoption at the next meeting on 25 August 2006. (Steering group members will require these a few days before the meeting to comment on them) (Copy CW into this)</p> <p>Add to Agenda for next meeting 'Further action plans (2nd tranche plans – adoption)</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>AP</p>
9.3	<p>Business Plan 2007 – 10</p> <p>B Harris has redrafted the business plan and each of 3 local authorities will go to their committees to seek funding for partnership for next 3 years.</p> <p>Funding approved by Angus on 8 June 2006</p> <p>Once all local authorities have agreed, we can then apply to SNH for the 35% grant.</p>	
10	<p>AOCB</p> <p>M Strachan asked if there was any update on flood prevention work? DF suggested he contact Graham Esson.</p> <p>The deadline for the SNH Public Consultation on "Scotland's Species – a Framework for Action" is 30 June 2006. A number of LBAP Partnerships are responding individually, in addition to Partner's own responses via their organisation. It is also proposed that a generic response will be prepared by the LBAP Officers' Network.</p>	
11	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Steering Group Fri 25 August 2006, 10am at Perth & Kinross Council. DF has booked Rooms 12 & 13 in Pullar House, but unfortunately he will be unable to attend.</p> <p>Friday 1 December 2006, 10am, Angus Council, Forfar, PC to arrange meeting room.</p> <p>Management Team Thursday 17 August 2006, Room 810, Webster Building, Perth College – CL will be on leave</p>	<p>PC</p>

	so has given her apologies. Friday 10 November 2006, Room 810, Webster Building, Perth College	
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