



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 30 October 2003 at 10.00 a.m.

St James' House, Forfar

Present:

M Smith (Chair)	D C C
M Price	Centre for Mountain Studies
S Hill	SNH
Alistair Jones	
Gordon Jubb	SLF
L Garson	SNH
J Long	SEPA
Mark Simmons	P & KC
C Littlewood	FWAG
B Anderson	RSPB
C Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Co-Ordinator
D Flint	P & K C

Apologies:

P Coutts	A C
A Anderson	D C C
Richard Lockett	FWAG

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies As above.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting of 14 August 2003 4.2 Should read SNH has provided funding for lots of "A" frame boxes. 4.4. Last line should read, "Willow Planting Project and not "Willow Spraying". 4.6 Still waiting to hear from SHH about Corporate view on this.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>	
4	<p>Sub Group Leaders Reports</p>	
4.1	<p>Woodlands – Earlier this year was the development and start of new Scottish Bursary Grant Scheme. Alistair Jones indicated that he would forward web site addresses. It was acknowledged that the new grant scheme has been designed to help Biodiversity. Two page information sheets will be provided with references and contact names to be circulated.</p> <p>The fact sheet, coming out in the Spring, will mention that former personnel involved in working with voluntary strategy will be linked in with Biodiversity and Perth & Kinross Council.</p> <p>The new Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme is now tailored to deliver Biodiversity habitat. Alistair Jones is to complete the outstanding HAP for National Woods & Lowland. There is implementation going ahead on existing plans but as soon as new HAPS are produced, the make up of the sub group will be reviewed. Statistical data to monitor implementation will be collected as they go along.</p>	<p>AJ</p>

4.2 **Farmlands – Christine Hall via Carol Littlewood**

Barn Owl project is moving slowly. An application has been put in to get more money for the project. There are three different projects in Angus and two in Perthshire.

Carol Littlewood will talk to Christine Hall and Richard Littlewood about future direction of the group. They should have a plan so that the partnership can help with its implementation.

4.3 **Uplands – Dr Martin Price**

Plan to have another meeting to bring people on the ground together to discuss issues possibly at Glen Prosen as part of the new Cairngorms Moorland Project co-ordinated through the new Cairngorms National Park. £2.8m is available via grants and there is a search for good projects, which have a social inclusion component but equally Biodiversity issues and communities participation.

There is also the Upland Tayside Leader Plus programme with funding available. The qualifying interests for the Tayside Leader Plus are agriculture, tourism, skills development and forestry.

A meeting is to be arranged with Clare Gallacher in Perth who is interested in Biodiversity. They have £2m for Rural Tayside funding and SNH will match.

Water Voles were the main activity in Uplands. Peter Cosgrove intimated that there will be a National Water Vole strategy and Angus is to take over this aim.

Implementation of the first Monitoring Sheet - Of these, three have not been done, one is unlikely to be done and there is difficulty with two.

A meeting was held on 23 October to implement Scottish Forestry Strategy and Rural Areas to provide draft implementation plans for the next three years to the people who had not been involved in developing the plans. Part of the aim was to circulate different interests through working groups and refine actions. The group is looking at the draft Nature Conservation Scotland Bill.

4.4 **Water and Wetlands – Jo Long**

A meeting was held a week ago which was very constructive. No list of priorities yet. A few queries were outstanding but one or two HAPS still to write. All is in hand and should be on schedule to get draft out in January.

There was some discussion on River Engineering. It was agreed that there should be a work shop for Planning Road Departments. With regard to planning, a series of talks is proposed which covers co-ordination. These will be open to all but particularly keen to try and get the planners involved. These talks are to be held at neutral locations.

There was a new SNH member present in the group, Nina Turner, who has provided an update on Evasive Species. This is much more wide spread now compared to 1996. The proposal is to get communities involved in discussion re what to do to eradicate.

CIPRA are developing a new national policy which will come out later. Jack Wood is keen to be involved in this area. This is on the Agenda for January meeting to come up with a small project. There should be more of an awareness than picking way at plant species.

Salmon in the Class Room

National packs will be available via the SNH web site. Three schools in Angus have started a pilot and a lot of schools want to be involved in this. Hoping to employ project officer but do not know where they will be based. The post will be for Tayside only. Once an officer is in place, other people and locations can be involved.

Water & Woodland Membership

We have lost John Wyman as he does not have time for the group any more. Various people will be invited to the next meeting. This is a positive move as membership is now

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required from people who will implement changes with a clear picture for the future.

4.5 **Estuary and Coast – Shona Hill**

There has been no meeting since the last Steering Group meeting. The monitoring and evaluation has been filled in for coastal actions. There are a lot of projects ongoing.

Actions – Volunteers were back at East Haven.

SNH are producing management plans for Barry Links which are due by the end of this financial year.

No further forward with Montrose Golf Course.

Arbroath Beach Watch in September – no feedback.

SBD workshop undertaken

Group Leaders are to think about it and report back to next meeting.

4.6 **Urban – Alison Anderson**

The Group met at the end of November where the main item on the agenda was planting whips in Forfar Loch Country Park to participate in Tree Week. See enclosed evidence. My light pink coat was not the best colour for such an activity !! We decided at the previous meeting that discussing monitoring etc was becoming a bit tedious and we needed some light relief. However we're looking at our projects for 2004/2005 next meeting and will be discussing some new ideas put forward by David Mitchell/Catherine Lloyd, including tern nesting sites in the middle of Dundee and an osprey platform at Forfar Loch Country Park. Next meeting will be on 21st Jan in Forfar. I am also trying to follow up a lead with SET (Steve Carter) for funding for a business and biodiversity leaflet.

5 **Financial Update**

With regard to the Co-Ordinator's post, the funding is now between the three councils and SNH. Funding has been found to extend the present post to 1 April, 2004. The new post will begin on 1 April 2004 for three years. The post has to be advertised because it has changed from one council to another. Funding should be confirmed by mid December.

6 **Education Sub Group – Catherine Lloyd**

The last meeting held was at the end of August and the next meeting will be held in November.

Biodiversity Day by the Perth & Kinross Ranger Service was very successful and will continue into next year.

The Mosaic at Broughty Ferry received an award.

There will be a meeting on 11 November to discuss projects with a tour of the Botanic Gardens in Dundee from 11.00 a.m. A lot of projects are coming out of Education Sub Group. Going ahead with Biodiversity Calendar for schools. Looking at this in November.

A lot of interest has been shown in the Seminar Work Shop and it will be easy to come up with another programme for next year.

7 **Framework document on Project Planning – M Smith**

Not completed yet. Presentation document should be ready for next Steering Group Meeting.

8 **Structure of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership – M Smith**

Merrill Smith is keen to hear people's views of whether the structure we have at the moment is the best structure to go forward as we struggle to get attendances at Partnership meetings. It was agreed that there are many sleeping partners and if there are no subjects which interest them in the Agenda they do not come to the meetings. However attendance at meetings is not as important as what is happening on the ground. It is difficult to get people to attend meetings but in the end it is up to the attendees whether they come or not. It was agreed that sub groups are important and it was up to the leaders at sub group level to get people to come along. It might be worth while asking organisation their reasons for not turning up.

Merrill Smith will write out to organisations. A list of partners and contact details will be attached to the back of the minutes. They will be asked for any information which they can put into the minutes. A newsletter is to be considered.

It was thought in general that partners should come to meetings at least once a year therefore it was suggested that we should have an AGM. This was agreed

9 Forward Plans and Priorities – D Flint

Doug Flint and Catherine Lloyd are preparing a Business Plan, Forward Plan and Review of the last three years.

The Business Plan is not yet completed. As soon as it is completed it will be circulated in draft to the partners to comment. This item will be raised on the next agenda.

10 AOCB

10.1 Webpage/Newsletter Update – C Lloyd

The web page is to be updated next year.

A newsletter will be considered next year if it can be incorporated into the Co-Ordinator's work programme.

FWAG ran two Hedge Courses on 21 November which was based on biodiversity practises for hedge trimming.

A Tayside Biodiversity Exhibition is to be held between 15 May 2004 and 17 December 2004 in Perth Museum which will include many of the projects that existing on the ground. There will be an opening day on 14 May and hopefully a celebrity will be invited. All TBAP partners will be invited to come along on that day.

It was agreed that 14 May should be the Annual General Meeting.

10.2 UK BAP

Should have an action point for sub groups to check against UK BAP and have a look at recommendations. Check out lead partners for national action plan. This group should relate to the national picture.

Merrill Smith agreed there is a need to connect with the national picture but do not see us being led by it. This plan is for Tayside only not national. We must have our own plan that works for Tayside. We must get it right on a local basis Each sub group has to relate its activities with those people who can provide progress in Tayside.

10.3 The terminology of reports has to be looked at. If there is a two way report being produced there is a risk of it not co-ordinating. Groups are to liaise with BAPS and various other sub groups.

11 Date of Next Meeting

27 January 2004 at 10.00 a.m. at Seerad, Boxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RZ

Dates of Future Meetings: 2004 – 27 April, 27 July, 26 October

All 10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon

All Tuesday 2005 - 25 January, 26 April, 26 July, 25 October