



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
MINUTE of Water and Wetlands Sub-group Meeting
9:30am, Friday 2 February 2007
SEPA Perth Office

Present:

Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Alastair Stephen	Scottish and Southern Energy
Susan Veitch	Perth and Kinross Council
Nicki McIntyre	Scottish Natural Heritage
Jo Long	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Bruce Campbell	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Richard Averiss	Angus County Council Rangers Service

Apologies:

Ross Gardiner	Fisheries Research Service
David Summers	Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board
Christine Hall	Scottish Agricultural College

Corresponding members:

Doreen Bell	Scottish Water
Carol Littlewood	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
John Whyman	Dundee City Council Rangers Service
Uwe Stoneman	Scottish Wildlife Trust (now RSPB)

Items discussed	Action
<p>NEWS Jo Long confirmed that this would be the last time she would be chairing the W&W Sub group meeting. Bruce Campbell was introduced as the new SEPA representative who will chair future meetings of the group.</p>	
<p>Following the change over to the recently produced "Action Proformas" discussions were concentrated on each of the project ideas. BC agreed to recirculate the most up-to-date versions, there are 8 project areas for action.</p>	B.C
<p>Otter Road Death Survey The future plans to upgrade the A9 from Perth to Dalwhinnie to dual carriageway was seen by the group as an excellent opportunity for this project to be effective. Firstly, there will be a requirement by the contractors to carryout survey work and secondly we would hope to be able to influence the future design.</p> <p>Nikki agreed to approach the contractor Scott Wilson to gain access to any survey data which would be of use to the group.</p> <p>It was agreed that the group needed to raise the awareness of the unsuitability of culverts and importance of otter habitats to the Scottish Executive.</p> <p>The group thought that it would be very useful to create maps which show where otter mortality hotspots occur. Nikki agreed to investigate what records were held by SHN. In addition it was decided that Catherine would make contact with Perth and Dundee Museums to see what records they hold on otter mortalities.</p> <p>The group also agreed that this project could be extended to other mammals in the future. e.g red squirrel, deer and pine martin. CL mentioned that the Mammal Society has a Mammal Road Kill Survey underway; she will contact them to ask how best the TBP could contribute.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N Mc</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NMc</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CL</p>
<p>River Tay Tributary Improvement Initiative Various different projects were discussed of these 2 were seen as being the highest priority:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Native Woodlands have a project proposed for the rivers Lochy, Dochart and Lyon. Nikki agreed to contact one of her Stirling colleagues for an update on this project. • Alastair also highlighted a project which could go ahead on the Dalchonzie Burn on the River Earn. A section of the bed here is damaged and consequently water is lost from the channel. This is a major problem during the summer months when low flows are exacerbated. A site visit before August to assess the problem and extent of works required was suggested, with possible involvement from the River Restoration Centre. 	<p>NMc</p>
<p>The intention is to make good progress with the above projects in 2007.</p> <p>In conjunction with the above projects two other good candidates were proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat enhancement opportunities for the Kinnaird Burn were highlighted as a future project following the installation of gabion mattress and baskets and a couple of years ago. • Black Spout Burn removal/enhancement of gabion baskets. 	<p>AS/BC</p>
<p>Depending on progress with the first two projects work on these is likely to start by late 2007 or early 2008.</p>	
<p>The group agreed to assist with the Willie the Ghillie project on the Inchewan Burn if any further input was required.</p>	
<p>Perth Lade Enhancement Project The decision was made that W&W group members would go along to the next meeting to see if any assistance could be provided to help overcome any stumbling blocks. Susan is to provide Bruce and Catherine with the date for the next meeting.</p>	<p>SV</p>
<p>BC and CL to attend the next Perth lade meeting with Susan</p>	<p>BC/CL</p>
<p>The group thought this project could be achieved quite quickly.</p>	
<p>Tayside Ponds Richard agreed to investigate what progress had been made with the Keptie Pond enhancement project and report back to the group.</p>	<p>RA</p>
<p>Richard was also going to discuss with Fred Conacher, Angus Council's Tree Officer, about the possibility of some further pond creations near Rosemount.</p>	<p>RA</p>
<p>Freshwater Pear Mussel Awareness-Raising and Translocation No specific actions for this project with survey work underway.</p>	
<p>Richard described seeing Pearl mussels with damage to their hinge and the presence of a white leech or worm. RA agreed to alert SNH/SEPA staff if he came across this again in the future.</p>	<p>RA</p>
<p>Water Voles and Mink Project Catherine agreed to speak with Fife and Kinross FWAG to see if the existing programme in Fife on management of mink could be extended to Kinross area.</p>	<p>CL</p>
<p>Alastair had a contact who might be able to provide some mink traps which are surplus to requirements. Alastair agreed to find out more.</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>There was a water vole project carried out on Loch Leven, Nikki agreed to find out more about the status of this project.</p>	<p>NMc</p>
<p>Salmon in the Classroom The group was content with the progress with this action plan, no actions for anyone in the group.</p>	
<p>River Earn Invasive Plants David Summers was unable to attend the meeting to give the group an update on any progress. BC agreed to give David a call to discuss and then report back to the group.</p>	<p>BC/DS</p>

<p>AOCB</p> <p>The group wanted to express their thanks to Jo Long who has chaired the Water and Wetlands group for 5 years and done an excellent job of maintaining everyone's involvement.</p> <p>Early discussions took place regarding another seminar on River Engineering. A date around Jan/Feb 2008 was proposed and a desire to hold the meeting in Dundee was expressed.</p> <p>BC to phone or meet with AS to discuss the way forward for this event.</p> <p>It was agreed to contact the Dundee Ranger Service and ask for a representative to re-join the sub-group so that all local authority areas are covered. In the past John Whyman was on the group (he prepared the Ponds & Pools HAP). CL offered to contact George Potts, the Senior Ranger. New members from all over Tayside would be welcome so the sub-group was asked to consider who else to approach.</p>	<p>BC/AS</p> <p>CL ALL</p>
<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting is booked for the 7th September in Tay 2 Meeting Room, Perth. The intention is to then head down to the Perth Lade for a tour of the proposed project areas. Bruce and Susan to organise participation of relevant project coordinator for tour. CL suggested we contact David Bell of Ecos, the author of the Management Plan and invite him to join the walk – David took part in the Summer 2006 walk for councillors and was very well received.</p>	<p>BC/SV</p>