



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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Water & Wetlands Sub-Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 Strathearn House, Perth

Present:

Catherine Lloyd (**CL**)
 Ian Lorimer (Chair) (**IL**)
 Ross Gardiner (**RG**)
 Susan Veitch (**SV**)
 Nicki McIntyre (**NM**)
 David Summers (**DS**)

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
 SEPA
 Marine Scotland
 (PKC)
 SNH
 TDSFB

Not present: Alastair Stephen (**AS**), SSE

1.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>IL welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting (May 2009)</p> <p>Minutes from the last meeting were accepted without change.</p>
3.	<p>Priority Projects Progress Report / Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tayside Ponds project – SV informed the group that the councils are required to map all SUDS schemes in Scotland along with all waterbodies under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act by 2015. CL noted that the student taken on to assist with reporting on the project had been frustrated by the lack of available data on small waterbodies. It was suggested that perhaps information coverage could be improved by using the Tayside Recorders Forum through the TBP website. Local contacts could be included and links to approved survey methodologies. RG noted that Marine Scotland hoped to be able to dissuade landowners from stocking small fishless waterbodies of known high conservation value by providing information or putting controls in place. 2. Perth Lade Enhancement – Almondbank Weir, SV informed the group that funds have been made available for repair work and work could begin as early as next spring. Tulloch Net Project are very keen to get involved but there needs to be co-ordination of works towards a common goal. It was hoped that a project officer could be funded through a bid to the SITA fund, but there may be scope to fund this through the 'common good' fund. It is hoped that the new PKC biodiversity officer may be able to have a watching brief over the enhancement of the lade. SV to investigate getting the council to ask groups to register any plans to carry out works on the lade or banks. This would allow works to be monitored and advice to be given out. Action – SV to investigate who in the council is leading on non flood issues with the lade. 3. Mammal Road Death Survey – No progress to date. New TBP website could incorporate this in future. Need to follow up enquiry to Network Rail regarding issues at Kinfauns – Action - CL 4. River Earn Japanese Knotweed Eradication – Project will continue beyond 2010. TDSFB Bailiffs have been trained in herbicide application, along with a number of volunteers. These individuals are now able to lead teams. Training was funded through RAFTS. SEPA have now granted the necessary approval for application on the banks of the Tay and Earn. Spraying will

	<p>commence in April 2010 and areas of infestation will be mapped during spraying.</p> <p>5. River Tay Tributary Improvement Initiative – Second good practice conference held and project on Inchewan Burn was completed. No new physical improvement projects in the pipeline at present.</p> <p>6. Salmon in the Classroom – The project has covered six primary and one secondary school this year. A bid for grant money to carry on the project next year is under way. ‘Salmon game’ CD’s were distributed to the schools as part of the project and were well received. (Thanks to Alastair and Ross.)</p> <p>7. Water Voles and Mink Project – Helen Gray (Cairngorms Project) is widening the area covered by the project to cover Tayside. Water voles have been found in many upland areas of the Tay Western Catchment during survey work by Scottish Native Woods (SNW). SNW would like to see wardens introduced into these areas and the TDSFB have indicated that they may be prepared to act as employers for these posts if funding can be found. Action – NM to update the group on situation around Loch Leven.</p> <p>8. Freshwater Pearl Mussel Awareness-raising – SNH are to produce a new awareness raising leaflet which will be targeted at white water rafting companies etc.</p> <p>9. Tayside Lochs Project (Loch Monzievaird) – FWAG (Scotland) no longer exists so SEPA to replace as lead partner on the Tayside Lochs Projects. It is hoped that SNH will be able to incorporate snorkel surveys of these lochs as part of the Lunan project to identify if Slender Naiad is still present.</p> <p>9.(b) Tayside Lochs Project (Fingask and White Lochs) – see above.</p> <p>9.(d) Tayside Lochs Project (Monk Myre) - see above.</p> <p>9.(e) Tayside Lochs Project (Lintrathan) – A bid is to be placed for funding from TBAF next year for carrying out farm audits in the catchment.</p> <p>10. Friarton Ponds – An update is required as to who is taking this project forward now and where things are, specifically with regards to targets.</p>
4.	<p>Proposed new project</p> <p>Amphibians in drains – Put forward by Danille Muir of the Ranger service. General support for this project but concerns about the Health and Safety implications of the survey work. This will need to be fully addressed in consultation with the council. Time of year may be important in this regard and as regards movement of animals. It is assumed that the work would be intended for throughout the summer months of next year, this will need clarification. Action – CL.</p>
5.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>DS informed the group that the BBC’s Autumnwatch was to feature the movement and stripping of Salmon within the Tay catchment.</p>
6.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Next meeting to be held on 13th April 2010, venue TBC.</p>