



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE OF WATER AND WETLANDS SUB-GROUP MEETING

9:30am, Monday 12th January 2004
SEPA, Perth

Attending: Catherine Lloyd (TBP), Nina Turner (SNH), Richard Averiss (AC Rangers Service), Jenni Browne, (SEPA), Jo Long (SEPA).

Apologies: Ross Gardiner (FRS), Alastair Stephen (SSE), David Summers (TDSFB), Christine Hall (SAC), Karl Munday (NTS).

1. **Tranche 2** drafts – Ponds and Pools, Slender Naiad and Salmon

Comments still required for the ponds and pools action table that wasn't available earlier. Copy to be emailed with these minutes, with all to comment by end of January. **ACTION: ALL**

Final drafts of Slender Naiad and Salmon SAPs to be passed to JL by end of January.

JL will then pass out action lists to all relevant partners for ratifying before passing completed drafts to Catherine ready for publication. **ACTION: JL**

2. **New writing** – reedbeds, eutrophic lochs, urban watercourses

In hand, but unlikely to be ready for circulation at end of January. New deadline date to be set at steering group meeting on 27th Jan – authors will be informed as soon as possible.

3. **Workshop** on River engineering guidance for councils.

Discussed the increase in interest in this issue from the Tayside councils (plus Aberdeen and Fife) so important to take it forward, however since the idea of a workshop was mooted by the group it has emerged that a joint SNH/SEPA training day is already planned for March that may cover the issues; if not then the group should continue with plans.

JL to find out content and intended audience for SNH/SEPA workshop. **ACTION: JL**

4. **Salmon in the Classroom** project

An order for the tanks has now been made to Galloway Fisheries Trust, and AS is planning to take delivery on 20th January.

5. **Invasive Species** project ideas for 2004-2005

NT needs any comments on her report (emailed 9/1/04) by the end of January. **ACTION: ALL**

The group discussed NT's results: Aberfeldy/Pitlochry is the upstream limit of Himalayan Balsam so has potential for a small-scale pilot project this year. Landowner agreement for access would be required (SNH have details). Since the meeting, feedback from SNH has asked that any project be approached with a proper plan and timetable to ensure that public expectations aren't raised and then no actual work done as failure to do this has resulted in withdrawal of volunteer help for other projects relying heavily on input from the public – this will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Suggestions for undertaking clearing work were local conservation volunteers (if PKC rangers interested – JL to contact) or BTCV, who are keen to get involved with Tayside projects, possibly for a weeklong event (CL to contact). **ACTION: JL & CL**

Discussed the health & safety implications of working with Giant Hogweed and the difficulties Angus Council have had in finding contractors willing to do backpack spraying and clearing. Also discussed alternatives for further survey work for Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam with a view to securing funding for further coordinated clearing work – local communities, conservation volunteers and SWT all suggested. Would require identification guides; JL to pursue Environment Agency and Lanark LBAP guides. **ACTION: JL**

CL also mentioned Ragwort, of particular interest in Angus Glens. Carol Littlewood of FWAG is proposing to take this forward in partnership with other agencies if funding is made available.

6. AOCB

Nothing was brought up, but Nina mentioned that she is moving posts and so may leave the group before the next meeting – many thanks to Nina for her considerable input, particularly to slender naiad and invasive species, over the past year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Not set, but likely to be in April to coincide with the next steering group meeting. JL to email possible dates nearer the time.