



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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Water & Wetlands Sub-Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2009 Strathearn House, Perth

Present:

Catherine Lloyd (**CL**)
 Ian Lorimer (Chair) (**IL**)
 Ross Gardiner (**RG**)
 Alastair Stephen (**AS**)
 Nicki McIntyre (**NM**)
 David Summers (**DS**)
 Victor Clements (**VC**)

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
 SEPA
 Marine Scotland
 SSE
 SNH
 TDSFB
 Scottish Native Woods

Not present: Susan Veitch **SV** (PKC)

1.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>IL welcomed everyone to the meeting including a guest speaker, Victor Clements of Scottish Native Woods.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting (February 2009)</p> <p>Minutes from the last meeting were accepted without material change. IL to note and correct misspelt names and update organisational name change from FRS to Marine Scotland for RG.</p>
3.	<p>Introduction by Victor Clements to Scottish Native Woods Tay Western Catchments Project.</p> <p>VC gave an introduction to the work which has been done by Scottish Native Woods on their Tay Western Catchments Project. Lyon, Lochay and Dochart river corridors have been surveyed to map extent of remaining pockets of native woodlands in upper catchments. It is hoped to be able to manage the upper catchments to favour native species. Water Vole recordings are taking place and there is evidence of small populations in the upper Dochart although they are absent from the lower catchment. It is hoped that funding can be found to employ officers to carry out Mink and non native invasive plant control. A full report is to be released in the summer and a copy will be made available to the group.</p>
4.	<p>Salmon game CD copies.</p> <p>RG has managed to get a number of copies (50) made of the Salmon game CD, which was previously rolled out with great success and will now be available again for use in projects such as Salmon in the classroom. Our thanks to Keith Mutch (Marine Scotland) for his efforts in making these reproductions.</p>
5.	<p>Priority Projects Progress Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon in the Classroom project has been funded to continue in 2009. It is hoped that copies of the Salmon game CD can be distributed to participating schools this year. • Mammal road deaths – Nothing to report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Earn Japanese Knotweed Eradication Project – TDSFB baillifs have received training in herbicide application. Once approval for spraying has been given by SEPA, the treatment will begin. • Freshwater Pearl Mussel Awareness raising – New leaflet has been launched by SNH. • R. Tay Tributary Improvement Initiative – Recovery appears to be progressing on the Kinnaird Burn. • Tayside Ponds Initiative – Nothing happening at present but TBP is to take on a student to investigate the ownership of SUDS Ponds in the area and screen to create a shortlist which could have potential for projects with community involvement. SV to provide a list of PKC / Scottish Water managed SUDS in the area. • Friarton Ponds – A Sand Martin wall is to be erected and wildflower banks and bulb planting is underway. • Perth Lade Enhancement – Still stalled by lack of progress on repairs to Almondbank weir to rewater the upper Lade. A partnership led by PKC and Sustrans is looking at improving the amenity of the Lade, primarily as a transport corridor. NM attended a recent meeting, representing the W & W Sub group, to ensure that any biodiversity enhancement opportunities are not overlooked. • Tayside Lochs Project - Tea towels promoting the project were delivered in the White and Fingask loch catchments, which were funded by the Tayside Biodiversity Action fund. These were well received and there has been much interest in the project and the protection of the lochs. A draft annual report has also been written. An initial meeting has taken place between interested parties to discuss a project for this year for Loch of Lintrathan.
6.	<p>Tayside Biodiversity Festival Feedback Only one event out of sixty planned had to be cancelled. The events were well publicised through television coverage, leafleting and links on various websites. Feedback from the events has been very positive and there is potential for the event to be repeated next year, perhaps becoming an annual event. A report will be written up in the near future.</p>
7.	<p>AOCB Ross to pass on the groups thanks to Keith Mutch for copying the Salmon game CD. Coupar Burn weir at little Keithick is now to be fully removed. This will take place in the next few weeks and will open up a considerable stretch of habitat to potential fish migration – this is a project being undertaken by the TDSFB.</p>
8.	<p>Date of next meeting Next meeting to be held on 24th September 2009, CL to arrange venue. (The Bothy, Friarton, Perth)</p>