



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
MINUTE of Water and Wetlands Sub-group Meeting
10:00am, Wednesday 23rd April 2008
Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory, Faskally, Pitlochry

Present:

Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
 Bruce Campbell (BC) Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 Alastair Stephen (AS) Scottish and Southern Energy
 Nicki McIntyre (NM) Scottish Natural Heritage
 David Summers (DS) Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board

Apologies:

Richard Averiss (RA) Angus County Council Rangers Service
 Ross Gardiner (RG) Fisheries Research Services
 Susan Veitch (SV) Perth and Kinross Council

Items discussed	Action
<p>Tayside Ponds CL gave the group an update on projects in the area. A logo is being developed for ponds under this project umbrella. Scone Pond has now been revamped and is complete. PKC are carrying out monthly monitoring.</p> <p>Water Voles and Mink Project AS informed the group that recent survey work associated with the development of new windfarms in the area has indicated that water voles are in fact quite common.</p> <p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Awareness-Raising and Translocation No major news to report on this</p> <p>Salmon in the Classroom NM confirmed to the group that SNH is committed to funding Salmon in the Classroom for the next few years. DS confirmed that TDSFB is also still keen to support.</p> <p>River Tay Tributary Improvement Initiative DS informed the group that he is now on the Steering Group for Scottish Native Woods. DS also highlighted some other catchments where future projects could go ahead these were the Carrie and Dall Burns which flow into Loch Rannoch.</p> <p>Mammal Road Death Survey CL informed the group that a Mammal Atlas will be published soon, this will be a web based application. CL agreed to set up a survey form for mammals soon to record any mortalities.</p> <p>Perth Lade Project The group discussed the proposed Almond Valley Village and the implications this could have for the Perth Lade and the River Almond. This development if it did go ahead is seen as an opportunity to connect the Lade with Perth and would clearly create opportunities for biodiversity improvements.</p> <p>CL informed the group that David Bell was keen to give the group a tour of the Perth Lade the provisional date was the 30th May. The group agreed that this date was okay and CL was to confirm that this day still suited David. BC and CL to keep the group updated with times and locations for meeting up. The group also considered meeting up briefly after the lade to discuss anything associated with the seminar maybe over lunch of coffee.</p> <p>River Earn Invasive Plants DS confirmed to the group that TDSFB had funding for the eradication project. TDSFB hopes to eradicate Japanese Knotweed from the Tay over a three year period. The project has been delayed because of recruitment issues but it is hoped that the project will get started soon. TDSFB also hope to trial the eradication of Himalayan Balsam in Tay tributaries. The upper limit is well known on the River</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>BC/CL</p>

<p>Isla and the first challenge will be to maintain this limit. The techniques involved could be hand pulling or strimming (but not for Japanese knotweed).</p>	
<p>Tayside Lochs CL updated the group on progress with the Fingask and White Loch tea towels. After some initial copyright issues these are now with the designers. Richard Locket is expected to undertake some of the on the ground work over the summer.</p>	
<p>With regard to any future macrophyte sampling on Fingask Loch DS raised the issue of Argulus fish louse and the need to be vigilant and not spread it around the country.</p>	
<p>Engineering Seminar AS updated the group regarding the use of the Birnam Institute for the seminar. A range of dates were available for the end January 2008, AS agreed to speak again with Birnam to confirm a date. The date has since been confirmed as the 29th.</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>CL confirmed that the partnership would administer the event subject to staff resource remaining as it currently is.</p>	<p>CL</p>
<p>BC agreed to do flyers for the event incorporating the agenda. BC to liaise with SEPA PR to book their time in advance.</p>	<p>BC</p>
<p>BC to contact RG with a view to approaching Trevor Hastings to chair the event</p>	<p>BC</p>
<p>A number of potential topics were raised for the seminar:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of Controlled Activities Regulations (SEPA staff), BC to confirm availability. 	<p>BC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Experiences from Council Engineers, SV asked to think of anyone who would fit this criteria and approach if agrees. 	<p>SV</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRC Case Studies Using Green Engineering Techniques, BC to approach and confirm availability. 	<p>BC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment Management Techniques, David Gilvear. BC to approach and confirm availability. 	<p>BC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery Management Planning and Audit, Callum Sinclair, RAFTS, DS to approach regarding willingness to attend. 	<p>DS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding Bill Update, Roland Bean was suggested as a possible speaker SV to ask, if agrees. 	<p>SV</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Flood Management, Mike Donaghy. David Summers to approach 	<p>DS</p>
<p>NEXT MEETING ARRANGEMENTS The next meeting is planned for the: 22nd September at SEPA Whitefriars Building 10am (Tay 2 meeting room)</p>	