

**Peatland & Upland Biodiversity Delivery Group Meeting
Thursday 8th November 2007 - Loughgall**

Attendees

Richard Weyl	(EHS)
Martin Bradley	(EHS)
Ken Bradley	(EPG)
Billy McCabe	(DARD Planning - deputising for Kevin Armstrong)
Andrew Upton	(Ulster Wildlife Trust)
Paul Lynas	(RSPB – deputising for James Robinson NIBG)
Laverne Bell	(QPA)
John Hetherington	Forestry & Timber Association
Keith Johnston	DARD
Jim McAdam	AFBI
Der mot Hughes	CNCC
Richard Schaible	Forest Service
John Duggan	Westland Horticulture
Teresa Maguire	CAFRE
Raja Harun	CAFRE
Mairead Kilpatrick	AFBI
Helen Paul	EHS (Minute Taker)

1. Introduction

Richard W w elcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Ncki Whitehouse (QUB), Sean Convery (FWAG), Gillian Stew art (hvest NI)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting w ere agreed

Action Points from meeting held 24/04/07	Progress
Richard W to contact UFU	C/F
Richard W to circulate SLNCI guidelines to the group	C/F
Richard W advised that the ASSI report review ing delivery of Biodiversity priorities on designated sites will be undertaken this year and that the sections affecting Peatlands & Upland w ould be circulated to the group	C/F
Martin to arrange a North/South Peatlands & Upland workshop	Conflicted w ith IPCC event. Jan/Feb w orkshop to be arranged

4. Matters Arising

It was reported that a Peatlands Research inventory had been drafted similar to the Wetlands Inventory and it would be circulated for comments.

Action Point 1: Martin to circulate Peatlands Inventory to the group

5. Work Programme

Martin informed the group that the work programme had been circulated. He reminded everyone that if they had any comments they should let him know as soon as possible.

Action Point 2: Everyone to send comments to Martin

Richard W reported that the BARS database is progressing and it was hoped that the work programme would be added to the BARS database.

Ken pointed out that the target date of 2012 in Objective 1 may not be realistic. Martin advised that as the Peatland Policy changed the work programme would need update. Ken asked for the work programme to be sent electronically to him.

Action Point 3: Martin to email Work Programme to Ken

Richard W asked for the TOR to be sent to him.

Action Point 4: Martin to email TOR

6. Peatlands & Uplands Workshop

Richard W reported that it had been intended to run a workshop in September focusing on Climate Change. This had coincided with a similar workshop therefore it was decided that our workshop would be run in January/February and the theme would be the condition of habitats. Laverne mentioned that this should include the TELLUS project which could be used to measure peatland depth. The workshop should include the ROI as there are cross border sites.

Action Point 5: Richard W to arrange the workshop and invite NPW.

Action Point 6: Martin to establish contact in TELLUS.

Richard W informed the group that a draft programme for the workshop would be drawn up and issued to the group in the next couple of weeks.

Action Point 7: Richard W to issue draft programme.

7. Website Proposals

Richard W informed the group that a web page covering all the delivery groups had been drafted. The page will give details of 'who we are', 'TOR', 'minutes' and 'Work programme' for each delivery group. Richard W advised that it was hoped they would be published in the next week or 2 and the link would be issued to the group.

Action Point 8: Martin to email web link to the group.

Richard S asked if the Woodland Biodiversity Delivery Group could be added to this page. This was discussed and although EHS did not take the lead on the woodland group it was thought that it could be added.

Action Point 9: Martin to discuss with Richard S.

8. NI Species Delivery Group update

Richard W informed the group that a Species Delivery Group had been established and they would be holding their 1st meeting at the end of November.

Dermott asked for clarification on the relationship the species group had to this group. Martin explained that he envisaged that the species group would deal with species that were not covered in the Peatlands Biodiversity Delivery Group.

It was pointed out that species were covered in the Terms of Reference but were not included in the Work Programme. It was felt they should be included.

Action Point 10: Martin to circulate minutes of the Species Delivery Group Meeting.

9. Boglands Project Update

Richard W gave an update on the Boglands Project. He informed the group that there was a good web page with a lot of information. He also informed the group of a DVD he had entitled 'Coillte: Bringing the Bogs back to life'.

Action Point 11: Richard W to send link to web page.

Action Point 12: Richard W to send a copy of the DVD to the group.

10. International Peat Congress

Richard W reminded the group about the International Peat Congress in Tollymore, which is being held on 8th – 13th June 2008. He advised anyone wanting to attend to book early.

Action Point 13: Richard to send link to web page.

11. Peatland Climate Change Seminar, Athlone 16th October, update

Richard W informed the group that he had attended the above meeting and gave a brief overview of the topics covered. He mentioned that there had been 2 power point presentations that may be of interest to members of the group. He advised that he would obtain copies of the presentations and sent them to the group.

Action Point 14: Richard W to send copies of the presentations to the group.

12. NI Peatland Policy Peat reduction target

Ken gave an update on the NI Peatland Policy Peat reduction target. He advised that it is a difficult target as there is no incentive for industry to try and reduce their use of peat. John informed the group that they have found there is a demand by customers for peat alternatives.

Action Point: Richard W to speak to Ken re the relationship between Peatland & Upland Biodiversity Delivery Groups & Peatland Policy Reduction target.

13. Presentations – Raja Harun (CAFRE) & Mairead Kilpatrick (AFBI)

Mairead gave a presentation on 'Mushroom Production, Composting & Peat Replacement'.

Raja gave a presentation on 'Technology Project on Peat Alternatives at CAFRE'.

Richard W thanked Mairead and Raja for their presentations and pointed out that there is a lot of good work being carried out that we weren't aware of.

He asked Mairead and Raja if they would mind sending their presentations out to the group.

Action Point 15: Mairead & Raja to send presentations to Helen who will issue them to the group.

14. AOB

Jim informed the group that the EU have started a review on the approach to Less Favourable Areas. He advised that a group from DARD were doing a scoping exercise. It was suggested that the Peatlands Delivery Group should have input to the scoping exercise. Jim agreed to recommend this to DARD.

Action Point 16: Jim to contact DARD.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been arranged for 9.30am on Thursday 8th May 2008 and will be held at Oxford Island.