

**Peatlands & Upland Biodiversity Delivery Group (PUBDG) Meeting  
Peatlands Country Park 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**Attendees**

Richard Weyl	(EHS – Chair)
Martin Bradley	(EHS)
Bob Davidson	(EHS)
John Gamble	(DARD)
Demot Hughes	(CNCC)
Paul Lynas	(RSPB – deputising for James Robinson NIBG)
Ken Bradley	(Environmental Policy Group)
Laverne Bell	(QPA)
Florence Renou	(Boglands Project Manager)
Colin Somerville	(EHS-Minute Taker)

**1. Introduction**

Richard thanked everyone for attending and expressed his disappointment at the low turnout.

**2. Apologies**

Gillian Stewart (Invest NI), Jim McAdam (AFBI) Ronnie Tosh (EPG) Keith Johnston (DARD) Sean Convery (FWAG who cannot devote the time to attend this and future meetings)

**3. Minutes of Previous meeting**

Agreed

**4. Matters Arising**

**Representation**

Demot could not provide another name from Peat Consortium.

Richard agreed to contact the various NGOs to ask for a new representative.

**Action: Richard**

Martin reported that talks were ongoing with Karen McGambley from NILGA to arrange for a Local Council CEO to join NIBG and subsequently for a Local Councillor to join this and other Biodiversity Delivery Groups.

**Action: Martin will continue to move this forward**

Laverne offered to ask Gordon Best for a contact at Bulrush.

**Action: Laverne to send details to Richard.**

Richard confirmed that it had proved difficult to get UFU and NIAPA to be involved in the PUBDG, as they are already heavily committed to a number of EHS committees.

Paul advised that Wesley Aston and Aileen Lawson were useful contacts in UFU, and that the NIBG UFU rep could be approached.

Action: Richard to contact UFU

**Work Programme**

Richard confirmed that SLNCI guidelines will be circulated to the group.

**Action: Richard to circulate**

Richard advised that the Habitats Directive Report would be published in the next few months.

**Action: Richard to circulate a link to the web page**

Richard advised that the ASSI report reviewing delivery of biodiversity priorities on designated sites will be undertaken this year and that the sections affecting Peatlands and Upland would be collated and circulated to the group.

**Action: Richard**

Richard outlined the importance of condition monitoring in the delivery of Habitat Action Plans and agreed that EHS should meet with Jim McAdam and other appropriate DARD staff to produce a paper on condition monitoring.

**Action: Richard to arrange meeting**

Florence reported that the next meeting of the Irish Peatlands Group will address the issue of Climate Change, and she would be keen to meet with representatives from Northern Ireland to discuss this before the International Peat Congress in June 2008.

It was agreed that the PUBDG minutes should be circulated to Donal Clarke and Catherine Farrell.

**Action: Colin to circulate minutes**

**5. Terms of Reference (TOR)**

No further changes were made to the TOR.

**6. Work Programme**

It was agreed that the updated Work programme should be sent to the group so that the Comment/Update field can be completed and returned to

[colin.somerville@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:colin.somerville@doeni.gov.uk) before the end of June.

**Action: Colin to circulate**

Demot outlined a “Traffic Light System” that had been adopted by The Coastal Forum, and it was agreed to trial this system after comments are received from the group.

**Action: Martin to update the Work Programme**

### **Objective 3**

Martin agreed to reconsider Objective 3 in light of the UK Targets Review for UK Peatland & Upland habitats.

### **Objective 4**

It was agreed to add “Government Estate” to the Key Targets.

Laverne advised that Waste & Resources Action Plan (WRAP) maybe able to provide information on Peat mixing, and Martin was advised to discuss this with the EHS WRAP Officer.

**Action: Richard**

Ken agreed to write to Government Departments to establish what steps they were taking to comply with the current Peatland Policy.

**Action: Ken**

Richard, Bob and Ken agreed to meet with Bulrush and Westland to discuss peat alternatives, options for the future and how they could be represented on PUBDG.

**Action: Richard to arrange a meeting**

It was agreed that the Work Programme should be sent to DENI with a request for comments on 5.1.1 and any other sections.

It was also agreed that Built Heritage and Nicki Whitehouse should be asked for comments on 5.4.1 and 5.4.2

**Action: Martin**

Bob circulated a paper on Wetlands research and it was agreed that a similar exercise should be carried out for Peatlands and Upland.

**Action: Martin**

#### **5.2.1.**

Change wording to “Further promote Peatlands Park as the flagship for achieving Peatlands education through a wide variety of media, and as a restoration site.

EHS is to be added to Partners

**Action: Martin**

#### **5.2.2**

EHS is to be added to Partners

**Action: Martin**

### 5.3.1

Change wording to "Provide opportunities where appropriate, for public access to and enjoyment of Peatlands and Upland.

**Action: Martin**

### 5.5.1

All is to be added to Partners

**Action: Martin**

### 6.1.1

Timeframe of 2007 to be reconsidered.

**Action: Martin**

## 7. Peatlands & Upland Priority Species

Richard gave a brief presentation on Peatlands & Upland Priority Species (attached).

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## 8. Boglands Project

Florence Renou gave a presentation on the Boglands Project and stressed that one of the main aims was to inform the public and the Irish Government of the need for a Peatlands Policy.

Further information on the project can be found at [www.ucd.ie/bogland](http://www.ucd.ie/bogland)

It was agreed that a North/South Peatlands & Upland Workshop should be arranged ahead of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Peat Congress at Tullamore 8-14 June 2008.

**Action: Martin**

Peatlands Country Park, Dungannon in September was proposed as a suitable location and time to hold this workshop.

It was agreed that Roy Tomlinson, Alan Cooper and Keith Stanfield should be invited to the workshop.

It was also agreed that Florence's main point of contact should be Martin..

**Action: Colin to check availability of Peatlands Country Park**

**Action: Bob to send a copy of the Review of the Peatland Policy to Florence**

## 9. AOB

Florence advised that she was putting a library/database on Peatlands in Ireland. Martin offered to direct Florence to the Northern Ireland information.

**Action: Martin**

**10. Date of next meeting**

Early November to be arranged (possibly at AFBI Loughgall).