

Wetlands Biodiversity Delivery Group Meeting Oxford Island Discovery Centre 15th May 2007

Attendees

Bob Davidson (EHS – Chair)
Richard Weyl (EHS)
Joanne Livingstone (EHS)
Judith Bankhead (Rivers Agency)
Phil Davidson (Freshwater Taskforce)
Mary Gallagher (WMU)
Rachel Bain (Freshwater Taskforce)
Paul Lynas (NIBG)
Paddy Boylan (Loughs Agency)
Robbie Marshall (Ulster Angling Federation)
Garry O'Neill (DCAL Inland Fisheries representing Marcus McAuley)
David Griffiths (University Ulster)
Helen Paul (EHS – Minute Taker)

1. Introduction

Bob welcomed everyone and asked for introductions from new members to the group.

2. Apologies

Richard Crowe (DARD Service Delivery Group), Michael Meharg (EHS), Alan Keys, Alex McGarel (Freshwater Task Force).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 26th October 2007

Robbie Marshall advised that he had sent an apology for the previous meeting which had not been recorded.

The rest of the minutes were agreed.

4. Matters arising

Bob informed the group that he had contacted Forest Service to request a representative but to date had not received a response.

Raising the profile of the group

Bob informed everyone that a group had been set up within EHS to look at the website and to set up a section detailing the aims, work and outputs of all the Biodiversity Delivery Groups. Bob proposed that this group would get the page started and would involve the group at a later stage.

Paul informed the group that the Pop-Up stands produced to raise the profile of the NIBG were well received and they were a good visual way to get the basic message across. Paul also suggested that it may be possible to incorporate something on the BDG in the 'its in our nature' website although nothing has been done on this yet.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to produce pop-up stands to promote the Biodiversity Delivery groups. This could be either one pop-up to cover all the Biodiversity Delivery Groups or a separate one for each group. Bob advised that EHS would consider which option to take.

Action: Bob

Presentation on Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Bob informed the group that Paddy, Paul, Lisa Condron, Joanne and himself had a meeting to discuss a workshop that will run with Biodiversity Officers to explore how Local Biodiversity Action Plans can integrate with River Basin Management Plans and contribute to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. The workshop will be held at the end of September. Joanne reported that after discussions on the various formats the workshop could take it was proposed that the key organisations would submit a 2 page outline on what they do/don't do and these would be discussed in the morning and in the afternoon it would be an open discussion. The group approved of this format and it was also suggested that at the beginning there should be a short overall presentation to set the scene. It was also suggested that EHS do their 2 page outline and this could be used as the template for the other organisations to follow.

**Action: Joanne to arrange a date for the workshop at Oxford Island ASAP.
Bob to prepare EHS 2 page outline as a proforma.**

Work Programme

1.1.1, 1.1.2 & 2.1 Bob advised the group that there would be up to date information available at the workshop on the condition and designation of sites. He also advised that a full formal report is due at the end of the year.

2.2.2 Richard Crowe had asked for clarification on the current status of MOSS timeframe to be changed to Ongoing. Bob reported that Richard had met with the staff involved in MOSS.

2.2.3 The new task was added to the work programme but the wording still needs to be clarified: Inshore Fisheries to report on monitoring and restoration partnership process.

Action: Garry O'Neill to check wording

All members of the group to be advised when PPS2 is published for consultation.

Action: Bob to notify the group

3.1.2 In an email to Bob, Alex had queried the action 'to remove DARD from Partners'. It was agreed to put this back in.

Action: Bob

3.1.5 Alex queried the rewording 'take account of' instead of 'do not damage'. It was agreed to leave it as 'take account of'.

Update on Water Framework Directive

Bob gave a brief overview of the Significant Water Management Issue Report (SWIM) that is due for publication on 22nd June 2007.

Wetlands Resource Inventory

Useful Organisations

Bob asked for comments/suggestions on the list that had been prepared. It was agreed to change the heading 'Useful Organisations' to 'Relevant Organisations'.

'Ballinderry Hatchery' to be changed to 'Ballinderry River Enhancement Association (BREA)'

Fisheries Conservancy Board' to be deleted

National Trust' to be added

Action: Bob

Restoration/Creation Projects

It was agreed to set up links to active organisations rather than a long list of projects. There should also be more links to Southern projects, Central Fisheries Board, Office Public Works & Environmental Policy Agency. It was also suggested to invite suggestions to the existing lists as a lead in on the page.

Action: Bob

Currently/Recently completed research

It was agreed there should be links to various sites eg. RSPB & Rivers Agency. It will be up to individuals to create a link on their site to the research pages. There should be a few headline examples.

A section on the Education Programme should be added to the Inventory.

It was suggested that this approach be used for each of the Biodiversity Delivery Groups.

Action: Bob

5. TOR

Bob went through the Terms of Reference to ensure everyone was still content with them. There were concerns raised about Planning Service and the fact that they had not attended any of the meetings. Bob suggested that the best way would be to invite someone from Planning to attend the workshop in September. It was also suggested that Planning could be a corresponding member.

Action: Bob

Anyone with any issues on PPS2 should send them to Rachel Bain who sits on the PPS2 stakeholder group who will bring the concerns to the next stakeholder group meeting.

Action: All

Under Representation it was agreed to invite/add Local Biodiversity Officers Forum & NI Water. It was also agreed to write to NILGA and invite an elected representative from the local councils.

Action: Bob

6. Freshwater/Wetland Priority Species

Richard gave a presentation on Priority Species.

The group felt that it was important they were kept well informed with regard to Priority Species. It was agreed it would be added as a standing item on the agenda.

Action: Bob

It was pointed out that awareness of the Priority Species needed to be raised. It was suggested that links were set up on the website for all the species and highlighted who was responsible and what action could be taken.

Action: Bob

Richard agreed to circulate an update on where we are with Pollan and a list of the Priority Species that are of concern.

Action: Richard

7. UK Review of Priority Habitats & Species

Richard gave a presentation on the UK Review of Priority Habitats & Species. It was agreed to amend the TOR to take on board the revised Priority Habitats and Species.

Action: Richard

8. Invasive Alien Species

Joanne gave a brief update on the contract. She advised that there was a database available of the established species. Gary, Robbie & Paul requested a copy.

Action: Joanne

On the education/awareness side Joanne asked if anyone was out on fieldwork and spotted an invasive species to record it and send the info to CEDAR.

Action: Joanne to send the CEDAR proforma along with the particular species of interest & photo to Robbie, Judith & Gary.

Joanne pointed out that the Wildlife Order would be going out to consultation later in the year and invasive species were included in it.

Action: Joanne to inform group when the Wildlife Order has gone out to consultation

It was also agreed that Invasive Alien species should be a standing item on the agenda.

Action: Bob

9. AOB

Mary gave a brief outline of a project that WMU are carrying out to record useful information on lakes that will be easily accessible. She requested anyone with information on lakes in Northern Ireland to send it to her.

Robbie asked if she would send him a proforma of the information required and he would forward it to all his members.

Action: All & Mary

Condition Monitoring to be covered at another time.

Action: Richard

Inter Reg Funding

Bob gave a brief outline of the Inter Reg Funding and explained the type of projects that could be considered. He advised that if any organisation had clear large projects that they thought could be considered for funding to send an expression of interest, giving an outline of the project, to Joanne.

Action: All

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th November 2007, 9.30am, Island View Room, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island.