

WBP Invasive Non Native Species Group Meeting

Welsh Government Office, Newtown

28th February 2012: 18th Meeting

MINUTES

Attendees

Rob Griffiths (by phone)	RG	WG
Alys Edwards	AE	WBP
Gabe Wyn	GW	CCW
Niall Moore	NM	GBNNS
Mike McCabe	MMc	CCW
Dave Thorpe	DT	EAW
Richard Poole	RP	Dwr Cymru
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	NAL	WTSWW
Matthew Ellis	ME	CCW
Judith Oakley	JO	Oakley Intertidal
JimCollins	JC	OAHTA

Apologies

Alison Smith	WG
Clare Eno	CCW
Ceri Jones	EAW
David Gilchrist	HTA
Ziggy Otto	CCW

The majority of the meeting was focussed on the prioritisation of the Wales Risk Assessment, comments on which have been fed directly into the document itself.

GB/European Update

The Non Native Species stakeholder forum will be held on 10 May 2012 in Birmingham. The focus of the event will be the development of an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien (Non-native) Species. Draft legislation is expected in the first half of 2012, although this timescale could be subject to change.

Defra are currently arranging stakeholder events in the UK, the external event will be held during April 2012, although this does not preclude the individual administrations holding their own stakeholder events if they wish to do so.

ACTION 1. NM to circulate details of May NNS Stakeholder Forum once available.

Asian hornet – The Fera National Bee Unit (beebase.org) have now taken on this issue and a draft contingency plan has now been established. In Wales this will require the approval of the Minister, although principles from this strategy can be adopted for use in Wales in the interim.

In Scotland the Wildlife and Natural Environment (WANE) Act provisions will come into force this summer and a code of practice is currently being developed.

The Training Working Group will report to the Media and Communications Group at the end of March 2012.

ACTION 2. NM to feedback on outputs of Training Working Group at the June meeting.

Be Plant Wise (BPW) campaign has developed one generic set of GB posters. Plant retailers have suggested putting QPR codes on all non-native plants, which directs consumers to the BPW website and this option is being explored.

Check Clean Dry – the Check Clean Dry campaign is on-going and ID sheets and guidance have been produced for killing and trapping of *dikerogammarus villosus*

Didemnum vexillum - GW provided an update on the d.vex eradication project which is nearing completion. The project has covered the whole of Holyhead marina and will be completed by the end of March 2012. Work is on-going with Bangor University to prevent live larvae, which may remain in the water column, from re-settling.

Chinese Mitten Crab (CMC) – North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) have secured funds from the Environment Wales Biodiversity Grant (£3.5k) to address problems with CMC in north Wales, in partnership with CCW. To date two training courses have been held in Chester and Dolgellau, CCW have put in temperature and salinity measures in a number of estuaries, and a significant amount of volunteer time has been contributed for survey work. Spend must be completed by 31st March 2012, following which a report will be produced. Chester Zoo have secured funds to continue this work next year, which will include trapping (undertaken by the EA) and additional volunteer survey effort.

GW provided an update on the CCW LIFE bid, for a demonstration project on pathway control of marine non-natives. The bid will be submitted in the next few months and an update will be provided at the summer meeting.

RG provided an update on the recent changes within Welsh Government. Following Steve Jackson's departure from the Nature Access and Marine Unit (NAMU), the two branches Access and National Parks Policy and Nature Conservation branch will merge under John Watkins management. Diana will now take on the new role of Business Change Manager for the Living Wales programme.

SH provided an update on the Japanese Knotweed Consultation into impacts on residential property, being conducted by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). This consultation has now closed however a similar consultation is being run in relation to commercial development. The INNS group will be notified when this is open and can produce a formal submission if appropriate.

NAL informed the group that the WBP Outcome 21 Group met recently, where the Special Sites action database was discussed. The Special Sites database contains actions against individual units, including actions for control of non-native species and suggested the group should engage with this work. GW is currently completing the spread sheet with action for non-native species in marine units and will circulate for comment once this is complete.

ACTION 3. GW to circulate marine Special Sites spreadsheet for comment once complete

Dates of Future Meetings

07th June 2012: north Wales (location tbc)

07th November 2012: Swansea

Summary of Actions

ACTION 1. NM to circulate details of May NNS Stakeholder Forum once available.
ACTION 2. NM to feedback on outputs of Training Working Group at the June meeting
ACTION 3. GW to circulate marine Special Sites spreadsheet for comment once complete