

**WBP SG2 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007, Kenfig Visitor's Centre, Bridgend.**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
	Adam Rowe	LRCs
	David Jenkins	Coed Cymru
	Diana Reynolds	Welsh Assembly Government
Dr	Glenda Thomas	FWAG
	Jeff Morgan representing Brian Nelson	Dwr Cymru
Dr	John Morgan representing Prof Michael Bruford	University of Cardiff
	Michelle Bromley	Forestry Commission
Dr	Mike Dunn	Welsh Assembly Government
	Deb Spillards representing Dr P Graham Oliver	National Museum of Wales
	Richard Ellis representing David Bullock/Helen Buckingham	National Trust
	Steven Bromley	Groundwork Wales
Dr	Tim Stowe	RSPB
	Alison Smith	DE&T
	Gareth Ellis	Brecon Beacons NPA
	Russell De'ath	CCW
Dr	Jim Latham	CCW
	Sarah Mellor	Bridgend LBAP
	Helena Towers	WAG - Marine Policy Officer
	Michelle Calnan	WBP Secretariat
	Sean McHugh	WBP Secretariat
Dr	Juliet Hynes	WBP Secretariat
Cllr	Robin Woodyatt	WLGA
	Deb Hill	WLGA
	Steve Moon	ALGE
	Hazel Drewett	CCW
	Nigel Ajax Lewis	WTW
	Nick Bialynicki-Birula	EAW

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>WBP Status</b>
David Parker	CCW	SG
Ieuan Hughes Roberts	Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd	SG

Liz Howe	CCW	Providing paper
Gaynor Ainscough	CCW	Secretariat
Julia Korn	CCW	Secretariat
Aethne Cooke	CCW	providing paper
Catherine Duigan	CCW	providing paper
Ioan Jenkins	BCTV	SG
David Cowley	Anglesey LBAP	SG Providing paper

**Presentation 1 and Discussion:** Russell De'ath, CCW grants coordinator gave an overview of CCW's grant investment 2006-2007 and an insight into the review of the grants process currently being undertaken. The presentation is available on the WBP website at: <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=2>.

- **ACTION 1:** Secretariat to work with CCW to consider how a funding officer - to help partnership members find suitable funding streams including match funding - might be put in place and report back to next meeting (Nov).
- **ACTION 2:** Secretariat to work with CCW to investigate mechanisms by which WBP could assist in prioritising CCW grant areas and adding biodiversity value to all funding streams.

**Paper 4: Marine and Freshwater Principles and Actions.**

As the specialists were unavailable today due to unforeseen circumstances, Hazel Drewett (CCW) agreed to gather any points to take back to CCW. Helena Towers was present to feed back any issues to the Marine Fisheries Team and Wales Coastal Marine Partnership.

Potentially a small amount of funding (5k) is available from the WBP budget for these actions.

**Principles:**

- **DECISION:** The **Marine and Fresh Water** principles were endorsed with no further changes.

**Marine and FW Urgent Actions:**

Offers were sought from individuals or organisations to sign up to helping with the actions set out in the appendix to paper 4.

Nick Birula (EAW) very supportive of the approach but concerned about multiple leads in the final column of the table. WBP members offered their support as facilitators for meetings.

- **ACTION 3:** CCW to lead on establishing or renewing dialogue with key parties regarding the majority of these actions; requesting facilitation/support from WBP members as required.

Proposed Action 1. Maerl beds) The Welsh Federation of Fisherman's Associations (Jeremy Percy) reported that useful dialogue had already taken place with CCW and the local fishing industry, who are willing to offer voluntary agreement to reduce scallop dredging. And discuss possibilities for a fisheries management plan for maintenance of small scale, traditional fisheries. WAG DE&T (Alison Smith) agreed to look into possible economic funding to support such action.

Proposed action 2. Native oyster) Marine Policy Branch concerned about "prevent use" this will cause friction with fishermen, need to establish compromise. Similar comment came up in feedback sent by North & West Sea Fisheries Committee (Stephen Atkins). NWSFC are willing to try out different fishing patterns in places like this but need financial support. Tim Stowe commented need to keep people on board but temporary fishing suspensions may be required to allow recovery to the point of sustainable management.

- **ACTION 4:** Alison Smith (DE&T) to look at economic impacts of these two actions , with a view to establishing DE&T funding support if possible.
- **ACTION 5:** CCW to establish/continue negotiations with Welsh Federation of Fisherman's Assoc and North & West Sea Fisheries Committee

Proposed action 3. Horse mussel beds) Richard Ellis (National Trust) suggested expertise might be available from N Ireland as they had encountered similar problems. NWSFC concerned that these populations no longer existed, if still there then they suggest closed areas.

- **ACTION 6:** CCW to make contact with N Ireland and feed this experience into negotiations
- **ACTION 7:** CCW to confirm whether population still exists

Proposed action 4. Seagrass beds) Richard Ellis commented that this location is suffering greatly and has to be solved.

- **ACTION 8:** Hazel to find out exact situation from CCW

Proposed action 5-6. Mudflats) Nick Birula commented CCW needs to use appropriate assessment mechanism as EAW has done on the Dee.

- **ACTION 9:** Hazel to find out if CCW has spoken to police about vehicle use on mudflats
- **ACTION 10:** Nick to discuss Dee experience with CCW

Proposed action 7. Allis and Twaite Shad) Coed Cymru been working with EAW to install wooden fish passes, cheaper than concrete and lower carbon footprint also very effective. Also a comment (Robin Woodyatt (WLGA)) that fishermen and anglers associations should be included with lead partners in these actions.

- **ACTION 11:** CCW to make contact with relevant anglers associations

Proposed action 8. Mesotrophic and Eutrophic lakes)

- **ACTION 12:** CCW assess how much the surveys would cost and complete these or report funding shortfall

Proposed action 9. non native fish) obtaining the fishing rights is a problem as the current holders have to be willing to sell them therefore need another solution. One suggestion was to work with carp fishermen to create new carp fishing lakes within the same area and relocate the non native fish stocks. EAW have some comments to add about lakes.

- **ACTION 13:** EAW to forward comments on lakes to the secretariat.
- **ACTION 14:** WAG DE&T to consider whether DE&T funding might be provided for action of this type.

Time ran out on this paper therefore:

- **ACTION 15:** any comments or volunteers for proposed actions 10-19 to be emailed to the secretariat, pending re-tabling of this section at next meeting

### **Paper 5: Species and Habitats Targets and Lists**

\***NB:** the figures used for the area of native woodlands was not the final version and were inserted in error, Liz Howe will provide final figures once she has received any other comments as there are also amendments to make to salt marsh.

**DECISION:** The UK priority list was endorsed.

The list is now available, undergoing 6 month consultation period. UK BRIG have identified the first 3 steps for action for each species and are grouping species within habitats.

Welsh habitat targets have been disaggregated to LBAPs. In order to move on quickly with the LBAP review process, a Task and Finish Group has been set up to shape the UK list into a Welsh list.

- **ACTION 16:** Task and Finish Group to prepare Welsh priority list for the next steering group meeting (November)
- **ACTION 17:** CCW and JNCC to implement the “Next Steps”, including lead partner arrangements, as set out in Paper 5: Appendix 1

## **Paper 6: Habitat Connectivity**

The table presented in Paper 6: Appendix 1, sets out the different levels of importance for connectivity action. It is envisaged that the table could be used to develop an integrated framework/strategy for biodiversity action. Mike Dunn suggested that since this project will frequently need to be explained to new stakeholders, CCW should develop an explanatory document which is exciting and succinct with headline messages that can easily be understood by non-specialists (a good example is the Monarch project). David Jenkins commented that as many people are now aware of climate change, this should be used as a focus, which may also open up additional funding streams. However, the alternative view was that the science needed to be correct before it was interpreted for the public.

- **ACTION 18:** CCW to work with academic community to identify gaps and priorities for policy and action; what species groups would benefit from this type of work and at what level and to use this to expand the table e.g. adding research needs and present a more comprehensive paper at the next steering group meeting (November),
- **ACTION FOR ALL 19:** comment on whether the table structure makes sense, add any additional mechanisms or funding sources – comments returned to Jim Latham [j.latham@ccw.gov.uk] by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

## **Presentation 2: Alison Smith DE&T – Drawing down alternative sources of funding for biodiversity.**

Alison outlined the sorts of areas that DE&T fund such as access, regeneration, land reclamation and contaminated land treatment, research (Japanese knotweed) and Local Record Centres amongst others. A number of example projects were described and Alison asked the WBP to think about approaching funding in a different way by thinking about what other funding sectors might want to hear, for example, many of the projects funded through DE&T are about enhancement and regeneration of areas of Wales to ultimately achieve a better economy and social infrastructure but this also includes activities which support biodiversity as part of enhancing our environment.

The presentation will be available on the WBP website at:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=2>

- **ACTION 20:** Michelle Bromley will speak with Alison regarding the ‘Treeregeneration’ urban forestry project which can deliver biodiversity gains in a social and economic context.

Differences between CCW and EA match funding provision were raised by WLGA (Deb Hill).

- **ACTION 21:** Diana Reynolds to investigate match funding regulations and report back.

## **Paper 9: WBP planning and budgeting**

It was announced that the program and booking form for the 2007 WBP Conference (12-13<sup>th</sup> Sept) are now available on the website.

- **DECISION:** The budget outlined in Paper 9: Annex 1 was agreed
- **DECISION:** Provisional dates of 9-12th Sept were agreed for the 2008 conference, suggested location Aberystwyth.

The value of the conference was questioned (Tim Stowe) since it might be better to invest the £9k conference budget on direct biodiversity action. Diana Reynolds suggested that this could be looked at for future years. The conference is an opportunity to inspire biodiversity action in Wales and perhaps the public could be included by including a high profile speaker for an evening or weekend lecture. Alternatively it might be useful to hold a series of workshops to answer questions brought up at the WBP meetings instead.

- **ACTION FOR ALL 22:** please book for the conference as soon as possible, deadline for bookings 31<sup>st</sup> Aug.
- **DECISION:** all workshop streams will be offered £500 to £1000 to fund post-workshop direct biodiversity action coming out of their workshop. Secretariat to put administration in place to support this.
- **ACTION 23:** Secretariat will circulate the type of facilities needed for the conference and seek offers of venues.
- **ACTION 24:** Coed Cymru suggested merchandise for Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW) could come from local producers, they will talk to local producers about this and provide secretariat with suggestions.
- **ACTION FOR ALL 25:** If anyone has any merchandise they can contribute to WBW 2008 please let Sean know ([S.McHugh@welshwildlife.org](mailto:S.McHugh@welshwildlife.org)).
- **ACTION 26:** secretariat to investigate value of WBP investing in the conference and possible alternative formats.
- **ACTION 27:** secretariat to establish dates of WBW as 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2008 with BBC asap and circulate.

**Jane Davidson, the Minister for Sustainability and Rural Development, was welcomed to the meeting.**

**Paper 10: Local Biodiversity Action Plan Coordinator induction pack.**

Juliet Hynes explained the scope and purpose of the induction pack. Tim Stowe commented that it was 'heavy on legislation' and needed to stress the economic benefits of wildlife protection and the principles of sustainable development. Tim also mentioned that the voluntary sector was not mentioned under the roles heading. Coed Cymru commented that reference to the 'bigger picture' should be included e.g. climate change. Planning issues and reference to the Wales Environment strategy and the NBN Gateway should be included (Hazel Drewitt). WLGA (Deb Hill) suggested reference to the Wales Biodiversity Framework were required and Robin Woodyatt commented that references to the fluvial environment should not be missed off, especially with the tourism element. Nick Bialynicki-Birula (EAW) welcomed the idea of an induction pack and suggested a context setting was required in the document with web enabled links.

- **DECISION:** The LBAP Induction Pack aimed at LBAP Co-ordinators was endorsed for publication on the web, with printable version, to be launched at the conference in September.
- **ACTION 28:** Juliet will incorporate these comments into the induction pack. The format of the induction pack will be a document with web enabled links suitable for hard copy reproduction or screen-based use. Where possible Biodiversity Framework text will be re-used/linked to.

Juliet then updated the Steering group on BARS development. UK BARS trainer Loraiza Davies's post (hosted by Natural England) has been renewed until March 08 and a Memorandum of Agreement signed for the BARS contract renewal in 2008, a draft version of which will be available soon. BARS guidance for LBAPs and lead partners will be addressed and a virtual task and finish group was suggested to achieve this.

- **ACTION 29:** Secretariat to release LBAP review next steps guidance by end of July and produce detailed guidance in time for the September conference. Virtual task and finish group will be used to produce the detailed guidance.

#### **Paper 11: Stakeholder analysis and communications plan.**

Diana Reynolds invited comments on the nine-point list contained in the paper and requested volunteers for the Wildlife Economy Wales task and finish group. Tim Stowe volunteered for the Task and Finish Group.

Deb Hill (WLGA) commented that delivery mechanisms need to be put in place to build capacity at the lower level. Diana said this would be incorporated into the list..

- **DECISION:** it was agreed to continue the actions on Breathing Places, Wildlife Economy Wales and NERC Biodiversity Duty and to broaden the appeal to the partnership to improve public understanding and involvement in the WBP.

Final 21-11-07

- **ACTION 30:** Secretariat will update the mechanisms list, transfer relevant actions to the work plan and take this work forward.

### **Paper 12: Issues from LBAP Partnerships**

- **ACTION 31:** Seminars for Biodiversity Champions (BC) to be carried out in South and West Wales (LRC and Secretariat to arrange) - WLGA, ALGE and WAG to input into BC support.

Deb Hill suggested that some follow up on the role of BCs was needed, e.g. reporting on progress from BCs. Diana Reynolds explained that there is a plan to arrange annual meetings with BCs to get feedback from them and a paper on this will be put to the next steering group meeting.

- **DECISION:** In response to the challenging LBAP review process, it was agreed that review guidance would be generated by the WBP secretariat. (see action 29 above)
- **DECISION:** In response to LBAP co-ordinators views on how important it is to them that the WBP centrally organise the Wales Biodiversity Week merchandise, it was agreed that WBP should co-ordinate sharing of suitable merchandise (see action 25 above)

Michelle Bromley (FC) stated that the FC had been discussing working with LBAPs with Julia Korn, however further progress was now tied up with the LBAP review process. CCW and EAW are encountering similar problems although CCW is beginning to get information onto BARS.

- **ACTION 32:** Diana Reynolds, Gareth Ellis, Julia Korn and Michelle Bromley to arrange a meeting to discuss the situation and provide a guidance paper for agreement with CCW and EA.
- **DECISION:** It was agreed to extend the concept of Biodiversity Champions to other public sector bodies (see action 38 below).

### **Jane Davison, the Minister for Sustainability and Rural Development made the following comments to the meeting before departing:**

Jane Davidson announced that she was very happy to join us and sees the WBP as important to her function in taking forward her portfolio, viewing climate change as a very important issue and indicating her desire to bring biodiversity back to the centre of the Environment agenda.

She was keen to attend the meetings with local Biodiversity Champions, in early autumn, to help them understand their role through high-quality training workshops supported by her leadership.

The putting together of environment and energy within the same portfolio was a deliberate attempt to tackle the conflicts prior to policy development and the Minister suggested writing to Local Authorities re-affirming her commitment to Biodiversity Champions.

She also suggested that the Welsh Assembly Government might be able to intervene and assist on issues such as reporting.

- **ACTION 33:** Secretariat to invite the Minister to speak at WBP Conference and to encourage attendance from Local Authority Chief Executives and Biodiversity Champions. [which she has now done]
- **ACTION 34:** Secretariat and LRCs to invite the Minister to lead the Biodiversity Champions Events already planned and arrange a second event in the North to enable the Minister to meet all champions.
- **ACTION 35:** Secretariat to provide Minister with copy of LBAP Induction Pack once completed.

### **Paper 13: NERC duty**

Diana Reynolds and Joanna Robertson have received an invitation to attend the WLGA council in September.

- **DECISION:** The short checklist guidance papers (annexes1-7 of Paper 13) were approved and no others were thought to be needed for the moment. It was agreed that they should be branded both WBP and WAG as the minister's approval should help them carry more weight.
- **ACTION 36:** Michelle Calnan to approach minister for approval for WAG branding also to approach WLGA to use their branding too.
- **ACTION 37:** It was agreed that it would be useful to approach the WLGA to establish formal links between WBP and WLGA committees and to help develop and roll out Wales wide NERC training guidance. Diana Reynolds to meet with Hazel, Kevin and David to take this forward.
- **ACTION FOR ALL 38:** Secretariat to circulate the NERC Duty analysis so that members can suggest additional public sector bodies for which they would like to see Biodiversity Champions. Secretariat to put these in place, once Local Authority Champions working well.

**Item 14:** No report on the UK Standing Committee was available as David Parker was not present and Mike Dunn had been unable to stay for the afternoon part of the meeting. It was believed that all items had been covered.

- **ACTION 39:** Secretariat to check with Mike Dunn whether there was anything additional to report and if so, circulate this.

**Item 15: Confirm minutes and dates for next meetings**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted without change.

Date of WBPSG3 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at Chirk Castle.

Date of WBPSG4 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008 Mid Wales, probably Bronerion if available.

**Item 16: AOB**

Adam Rowe – Invitations will be sent out shortly for the launch of the Wales-wide LRC network at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

Steve Moon – Local Authority Performance Indicator (England) relates to management of local sites and is to be measured by LBAP Partnerships.

- **ACTION 40:** Steve to send link to Diana Reynolds

UK BRAG Sub-group request for volunteer. It was agreed that Mike Bruford, who already sits on BRAG Committee should represent WBP on this Sub-group.

- **ACTION 41:** Secretariat to forward Mike Bruford as WBP representative for BRAG Sub-group.