WBP Species Expert Group Meeting 9CCW Offices Newtown
8th February 2013

**Attendees:** Stephen Bladwell, Chair (RSPB Cymru); Sean McHugh, Secretariat (WBP); Claire Install (British Dragonfly Society); Rachel Taylor (BTO); Lizzie Wilberforce (WTW); Andy Jones (CCW); Mark Barber (ARC); Rob Strachan (EAW); Adrian Fowles (CCW); Reg Thorpe (RSPB Cymru);Trevor Dines (Plantlife Cymru); Liz Howe (CCW)- via teleconference

**Apologies:** Steve Lucas (BCT); Russel Hobson (BC); Sam Bosanquet (CCW); Craig MacAdam (Buglife); Sian Whitehad (CCW); Liz Halliwell (CCW); Geoff Hobbs (Bridgend CBC); Chris Tucker (FCW); Sinead Lynch (BBCT); Jean Matthews (CCW)

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as accurate.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Update/Action** | **Who by/when** | **Additional comments** |
| 1 | Biodiversity Framework update will be provided by WG at WBP SG19- send update to SEG | Sean/Feb 28th | WBP SG 19 link: <http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Steering-Group-Meetings> |
| 2 | Waxcap grassland communities to be proposed as a S42 species assemblage at WBP SG20- Trevor to circulate draft paper to SEG | Trevor/ when available | Ffridd paper was tabled at WBP SG18 recommending habitat for inclusion on S42 based on biological characteristics. Paper to clarify the legal process and confirm CCW advice on listing ffridd to be tabled at WBPSG19WBP SG 19 link: <http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Steering-Group-Meetings> |
| 3 | Welsh Wildlife Crime Enforcement Group has a new chair- ChiefInspector Mark Bleasdale ofDyfed Powys Police. Details of the paper on the WBP website | Sean/include with the SEG actions | WBP SG 19 link: <http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Steering-Group-Meetings> |
| 4 | All partners to send Sean a brief update of projects they are involved in. A rolling update can be included on the WBP website under the SEG section which is under development | All(Stephen to circulate Russel’s update with SEG actions) | WBP website SEG link: <http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Species> |
| 5 | Russel Hobson provided an update via Stephen around taxonomic training provision in Wales. Graham Oliver is formulating a questionnaire to send to relevant organisations | Stephen/ include update with the SEG actionsSean to circulate survey link to SEG when available | Need to build up taxonomic expertise in Wales & provide a sustainable solution for future needs |
| 6 | SEG work programme needs revisiting by the group.  | Sean/ include with the SEG actions | Key actions are progress on the species –habitat integration work & area specific project e.g. 3 rivers project west Wales |
| 7 | Ecosystem chairs have been working with LBAPs subject to capacity in offering advice and project ideas. One comment is that it would be useful to have an SEG member to compliment habitat advice. LBAP meetings & LBAP seminar is an area where SEG could contribute. Sean to circulate details | Sean/end of March | LBAP seminar takes place in June (Shrewsbury) which SEG members could contribute |
| 8a | Ecosystem Resilience & Diversity Fund. SEG have contributed significantly to screening projects, providing species advice etc. Capacity is an issue & a SEG sub-group will address this going forward. | All to consider subgroup membership if they want to be involved.Stephen to circulate ERD panel dates when available | Members of the sub group need to be available Jun/Jul. Liz Howe, Rachel Taylor, Lizzie Wilberforce have expressed interest.Stephen to coordinate. |
| 8b | Ecosystem Resilience & Diversity Fund- Trevor raised concerns about the ERD grant structure-it would be useful to match with CCW funds, currently this is not possible | Trevor to draft letter & circulate to SEG |  |
| 9 | Pollinator plan. Russel/Sinead were unable to attend the meeting to give an update. SEG members who had seen the Pollinator supporting information were concerned that the plan does not address wider ecosystem and species needs & is rather narrow in focus (honey bees). WG will launch the pollinator consultation in March | Trevor/Russel to circulate draft letter to SEG for comment expressing concerns /asapSean to circulate pollinator consultation link when available |  |
| 10 | National Museum Wales capacity- concern this could be reduced during the proposed restructure. All agreed a letter from SEG expressing concerns would be forwarded. | Liz to draft letter & circulate to SEG/asap |  |
| 11a | Woodland habitat-species integration workshop. Stephen has some recent documents on which the workshop was based & will circulate together with the workshop context & outputs. FCW woodland species guidance checklist 2012 was used for the management element of the workshop. | Stephen to circulate workshop outputs to SEG /asapStephen to feedback workshop outputs to Chris Tucker/asap | The group took part in an interactive session based on woodland management and woodland creation. SEG can influence scoring system for proposed woodland planting & input to generic and specific species measures in addition to spatial targeting. This advice will be used by contract managers to deliver the GT planting scheme |
| 11b | Woodland habitat-species integration workshop. SEG raised concerns of the objectives & end use of the guidance. An SEG subgroup could take this forward to influence FCW.  | Stephen/asap | Stephen to contact Clare Burrows (CCW) & Chris Tucker initially (FCW) to clarify objectives & update group on next steps |
| 12 | Date of next meeting- June 2013. A field based meeting was suggested. Need to canvas for dates & themes & species-habitat integration focus | Sean/mid-March |  |