

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum
6th Advisory Group meeting, 15/03/2018, 10:30-13:00
RSPB Scotland, Barnacle Room, Edinburgh Park, EH12 9DH

Minutes

Present

Ellen Wilson (EW) (RSPB) [Chair]; Gill Dowse (GD) (SWT); Nick Fraser (NMS); Jo Judge (JJ) (NBN Secretariat) (by teleconference); Ed Mackey (EM) (SNH); Sandra Marks (Scot Govt); Scot Mathieson (SEPA); Glenn Roberts (NESBReC); David Roy (BRC) (by teleconference); Jonathan Willet (BRISC) (by teleconference); Christine Johnston (CJ) (NBN Secretariat) [Minutes]

Apologies received

Andy Ford (CNP); Guy Harewood (Stirling Council); Sebastian Howell (Marine Scotland); Claire Lacey (CIEEM); Craig Macadam (Buglife); Joanne Porter (Heriot-Watt University)

In attendance

Liz Edwards (RSPB Business Analyst) member of the SBIF Review Working group)

1. Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (18/01/2018)

Corrections

- Incorrect date in Section 4 – the date of the NBN Atlas steering group to be corrected to 13/12/17 (was given as 13/12/18)

The corrected minutes [*SBIF Advisory Group minutes DRAFT 18 January 2018*] were approved for publication on the SBIF web pages of the NBN website.

Actions discharged

AP AG05-2 *EM to provide more background to CivTech and types of projects that could be / are being developed*

AP AG05-3 *Sandra Marks to provide guidance on who to approach in Scot Govt and how*

AP AG05-4 *EW and GD to seek a meeting with Susan Davies (SWT)*

AP AG05-10 *EW to share details of the HabMoS stakeholder meeting planned for 28th March 2018*

Actions that were **carried forward** are listed under the relevant headings in the minutes below.

2. Update on the Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure

EW presented a progress update, reported on recent meetings and on plans for advocacy, and facilitated a discussion around defining objectives and options for the business case, and next steps. A detailed discussion followed. Key points and actions resulting from that discussion are given below.

Key points to inform the business case and recommendations:

- A summarised form of the BDN, such as a story map, would be useful
- Explain that the governance model is describing roles and functions, not the organisational profile
- Recognise that the National governing body needs to have a strong Scottish identity that enhances Scotland

- Recognise also that we would like to build on the current Central structure as many data providers are UK-wide
- Explain in the discussion why SNH is not best placed to take on a lead governance role
- The investment appraisal needs to show the value gained from existing funding as against the new funding regime
- Aim high for funding: include full overhead costs
- Reference key legislation, such as the Community Empowerment Act 2015, and key measures such as the National Performance Indicators
- Express the governance options in generic terms without naming organisations

Overall there was agreement that proper funding is required to enable us to achieve our goal of Open Data.

EM and EW are drafting a paper for presentation to the SNH Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) on the 22nd March, which will be circulated along with the accompanying briefing note following the SAC meeting.

Actions from this discussion:

***AP AG06-1** EW to rethink the options for Governance so that they express options in terms of the extent of independence of any lead governance organisation in Scotland*

***AP AG06-2** EW and GD to collaborate on the creation of a story map to bring the Benefit Dependency Network diagram to life*

***AP AG06-3** JJ to help with editing the business case*

***AP AG06-4** EW and Sandra Marks to liaise over a briefing for Linda Pooley in advance of meeting with the Advocacy Group*

***AP AG06-5** EM to circulate papers for the SAC meeting [action discharged]*

Actions carried forward:

***AP AG05-1** EW to circulate evolving drafts of the business plan and recommendations for review*

***AP AG05-5** EW to draft a short summary pitch(s) of the Review and its recommendations and circulate for input*

***AP AG05-6** EW to scope out requirements for project support and funding beyond March 2018*

***AP AG05-7** CJ and EW to write a communications and advocacy plan for 2018 onwards [the advocacy plan will be drafted in collaboration with the Advocacy Group]*

***AP AG05-8** CJ to continue to notify Advisory Group when papers and reports are released*

3. Links between this group and the NBN Atlas Scotland steering group

It was agreed to carry forward this action and to defer further discussion until after the Review is complete and the recommendations are published. The general sense is that the SBIF Advisory Group should form the main support group for the NBN in Scotland, and the Atlas group should be a sub-group, but these ideas require further development.

***AP AG05-9** CJ to explore and develop plans for the re-alignment of this group and the NBN Atlas Scotland steering group [in collaboration with JJ and EW]*

4. Spring event: NBN Atlas Scotland stakeholder meeting and Review update

Outline plans for the Spring Event had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to focus the meeting on the audience(s) for the NBN Atlas Scotland stakeholder meeting, and that the

meeting will incorporate an SBIF Review update rather than a formal launch of the recommendations.

***AP AG05-11** CJ to co-ordinate the planning of our Spring event*

5. Parliamentary reception at Holyrood

It was proposed that we investigate if we can bring forward plans for a Holyrood reception which will launch the opening of the consultation period for the recommendations.

We will need to secure sponsorship from an MSP and ensure that all key people are invited. Timing is important as the minister will need to have made an initial response to the recommendations before the reception.

***AP AG05-12** CJ to start planning for a Holyrood reception [in 2018]*

***AP AG06-6** CJ and EW to liaise with Sandra Marks over details for the Holyrood reception*

6. AOB

Nature of Scotland Awards 2018

It was agreed to submit an application nominating the SBIF Review for the Innovation Award. Closing date is June 2018. We need to find out how to apply, and then draft and circulate for comment an outline application.

***AP AG06-7** CJ to initiate the application for the Nature of Scotland Awards 2018*

7. Date of next Advisory Group meeting

Wednesday 25th April 2018, 10:00 - noon (**by teleconference**)

Teleconference details will be circulated in just before the meeting starts. Please send a deputy if you are unable to attend. Future meeting dates will be discussed at this meeting.