

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum
7th Advisory Group meeting, 25/04/2018, 10:00-11:45

Conference Call

Minutes

Present

Ellen Wilson (EW) (RSPB) [Chair]; Gill Dowse (GD) (SWT); Guy Harewood (Stirling Council); Jo Judge (JJ) (NBN Secretariat); Ed Mackey (EM) (SNH); Scot Mathieson (SEPA); Glenn Roberts (NESBReC); Christine Johnston (CJ) (NBN Secretariat) [Minutes]

Apologies received

Andy Ford (CNP); Nick Fraser (NMS); Sebastian Howell (Marine Scotland); Claire Lacey (CIEEM); Craig Macadam (Buglife); Sandra Marks (Scot Govt); Joanne Porter (Heriot-Watt University); David Roy (BRC); Jonathan Willet (BRISC)

In attendance

Liz Edwards (RSPB - Business Analyst) and Colin McLeod (SNH) – both members of the SBIF Review Working group

1. Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (15/03/2018)

Correction

- Remove reference to the month of June in section 5 (Parliamentary reception at Holyrood); the reception will be organised for a later date following the launch of the Recommendations.

The corrected minutes [*SBIF Advisory Group minutes DRAFT – V2 - 15 March 2018*] were approved for publication on the SBIF web pages of the NBN website.

Actions discharged

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 AG06-3 *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*

A briefing meeting with Susan Davies, Sandra Marks, Sebastian Howell, Joanna Drewitt, Ed Mackey has been organised for the 22nd May.

AP AG06-5 *EM to circulate papers for the SAC meeting*

EM reported the SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) meeting was a success, and broad endorsement for the Review was expressed.

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

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

A re-drafted MoA covering amendments to the current Liaison Officer post has been submitted to SNH. An MoA for a potential part-time Development Officer post (to take forward SBIF) is in the pipeline, and the time frame for appointment of this post will depend on securing funding.

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

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

All actions **carried forward** relate to the Review and are listed in section 2 in the minutes below.

2. Update on the Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure

EW presented an update on the Review and focussed in on progress with defining options (in section 6) and scenarios for the detailed business case. A detailed discussion followed and the key points, revised timeline and actions relating to the Review are listed below.

Key points to inform the business case and recommendations:

- Under Governance a definition of ‘autonomy’ needs to be included
- The elements of the infrastructure that are common across the UK need to be defined
- Scotland would like to be able to develop their part of the shared infrastructure without being held up by discussions and decisions elsewhere in the UK
- The section on National Outcomes needs to be given a higher priority
- The ‘Value of Benefits by Worth’ diagram is useful and a headline figure from it could be brought forward in the paper
- Some text on the costs associated with an inadequate infrastructure should be included
- Concern was expressed that the descriptions in the draft scenarios are not ambitious enough

Revised timeline for Recommendations paper

- In the next two weeks: a basic draft will be available
- During May: comments will be sought (including at the next Advisory Group meeting)
- June: re-group to check-in on latest version
- July: release of the paper

Actions carried forward:

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

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*

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]*

AP AG06-7 *CJ to initiate the application for the Nature of Scotland Awards 2018 [to be submitted by the 11th June]*

Story map creation

EM offered help with the creation with the story map if we could outline the content. It was agreed to establish a small sub-group (EM, GD, EW and CJ) to take forward.

AP AG07-1 *CJ to organise a date for the story map sub-group meeting*

AP AG07-2 *EW to draft a note about the content of the story map*

Proposed Parliamentary reception at Holyrood

It is proposed the reception will launch the publication the recommendations. The Advocacy Group will lead the planning and organisation of the event and advise of the best timing.

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*

The attendees agreed to the conclusion of the discussion about the Review and to move on to AOB.

3. AOB

NBN Atlas User Group / Community for Scotland

There was some general discussion about the need to increase support for the NBN Atlas in Scotland. It was agreed that a user group for Scotland could be helpful but that expectations for the group would need to be managed. It is envisioned the group could be a community group that would share knowledge and experience of using the Atlas. It would be additional to the Scottish Atlas steering group (which determines development and policies) although it would be helpful to have some users attending the steering group.

A new NBN Stakeholder group is currently being formed and it was explained that this group is a strategic group to support the NBN as a whole, not just the Atlases.

NBN Atlas Scotland Stakeholder Engagement Day - update

The engagement day will take place at Battleby Conference Centre on the 21st June. Help is required to support the day, including: speakers for talks on using the Atlas; facilitators to run the group discussions; and a chair for the event. If you can offer to help or have suggestions for who to approach, please let Christine know.

The Data Lab MSc Innovation Week

The Data Lab's Joshua Ryan-Saha is running an event in the first week of June for MSc students across Scotland to work on solving problems using data. JJ and EW have discussed with him a possible project around tracking data use and returning feedback to the data contributors. Joshua also has contacts within the Edinburgh City Deal organisation, which may be useful.

AP AG07-3 *EW to circulate a note of the meeting with Joshua Ryan-Saha (Data Lab)*

4. Date of next Advisory Group meeting

Monday 14th May 2018, 1400-1600, Board Room, RSPB, Edinburgh Park

Joining by teleconference will be possible - 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.