

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum
10th Advisory Group meeting, 11 December 2018, 14:00-16:00

Boardroom, RSPB Scotland, Edinburgh Park

Minutes

Present

Ellen Wilson (EW) (RSPB) [Chair]; Gill Dowse (GD) (SWT); Nick Fraser (NMS); Guy Harewood (Stirling Council); Jo Judge (NBN Secretariat); Claire Lacey (CL) (CIEEM); Glenn Roberts (NESBReC); Rachel Tierney (RT) (SWT / SBIF); Christine Johnston (CJ) (NBN Secretariat) [Minutes]

Apologies received

Andy Ford (CNPA); Ed Mackey (SNH); Scot Mathieson (SEPA); Sandra Marks (Scot Govt); Joanne Porter (Heriot-Watt University); David Roy (BRC); Jonathan Willet (BRISC)

1. Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (12 Nov 2018) – Christine Johnston

The minutes [*SBIF Advisory Group minutes DRAFT 12 Nov 2018 – v2*] were passed without correction and approved for publication on the Scotland pages of the NBN website.

Actions discharged:

AP AG09-1 RT to liaise with Advisory Group members and nominate months for blogs

AP AG09-3 All to email comments on the comms plan and organogram to RT by 16 Nov

AP AG05-5 EW to draft a short summary pitch(s) of the Review and its recommendations and circulate for input [update post-meeting: a summary is now available on our web pages]

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

AP AG09-5 EW to supply future funding requirements [for Development Officer post] to SNH

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

Feedback on how the Review has been received – Rachel Tierney

The Final Report on the Review's recommendations was published on 14 November 2018. Group members shared their views on how the report has landed with their contacts. It was generally agreed that the response has been positive with organisations making space for discussion about what the recommendation may mean for them. There is also interest in what happens next.

It was commented that over the years the same issues have tended to come up time and again in conversation. These issues are now all addressed in the recommendations and we now need the resources to realise change.

One outcome of the current advocacy work has been an opportunity to convene a meeting with policy leads at the Scottish Government. We are aiming for inclusion in the 2019 'Programme for Government'. Resources are required to take this work forward.

Organogram - discussion – Rachel Tierney

The organogram in its latest format was discussed, with attendees contributing useful information about their connections to the different groups, as well as connections between the groups, and names of additional groups not already included. The diagram is a living document that will be continually revised and updated and will be very useful for informing future actions and priorities.

Prioritisation of quick wins and next steps – Ellen Wilson

A briefing note containing suggestions for short term and long term actions for the next SBIF Action Plan had been circulated. It is recognised the plan needs to be focussed and that funding will be required to support any projects.

RT is currently distilling the recommendation's benefits by sector into a series of focussed web pages and it was agreed this will be very useful. Other priorities include:

- To secure the continuation of the Development Officer role. Further discussion will be required with SNH. The role has been included in SWT's forward plan.
- To plan for a Holyrood event after March (see below)
- To arrange meetings with key parties to review the recommendations and develop a shared roadmap. The LERCs would welcome updates and a meeting in the new year.
- To seek funding to establish the NBN Scotland sooner rather than later to improve the sustainability of the infrastructure.
- To seek funding to establish and / or contribute to discreet projects, such as the new UK-wide group that has been established to support the development of Recorder 6.
- To consider if there are any quick wins achievable within 3-6 months.

Planning for an event at Holyrood – Rachel Tierney

The protocol for running an event at Holyrood requires it to be sponsored by an MSP. The plan is to work with one of the species champions to act as our sponsor, and who will also table a motion that will trigger a debate on the Review recommendations. The venue is free to use but the catering would need to be paid for. All MSPs would be invited. The best timing for the event would be after March 2019.

***AP AG10-1 CJ** to ask the BRISC committee if they could sponsor the event's catering*

***AP AG10-2 CL** to investigate potential sponsors to provide alcohol at the event*

***AP AG10-3 RT** to identify which species champions to contact, focussing on SNP MSPs*

Actions carried forward:

***AP AG09-2 All** to advise RT of Press Officer names for inclusion in the Communications Plan*

***AP AG09-4 All** to advise EW of their SBIF-related activities (for inclusion in quarterly Highlight Reports) [next report will be published at the beginning of Jan 2019]*

3. Any other business

Group membership – Ellen Wilson

Commitment from Advisory Group members to the Review recommendations is key to success. All sectors need to be represented. It was noted there is potentially a gap in representation from the University sector, and we currently do not have a representative from Marine Scotland.

***AP AG10-4 CL** to advise the name of a possible contact at Marine Scotland*

SBIF Blog – Rachel Tierney

RT is still looking for offers to write a blog for the SBIF Blog pages (accessible at <https://nbn.org.uk/blogs/sbif-blog/>). The blog provides a space for anyone to share their views on the Review and its recommendations, and why they are important to you. The blog is one route through which the momentum of the Review can be maintained.

***AP AG10-5 All** to consider writing a blog and to advise RT*

Social media presence – Rachel Tierney

RT is keen to monitor SBIF's impact on social media platforms. Please share any mentions of SBIF that you come across.

AP AG010-6 All to share SBIF social media mentions with RT

4. Date of next Advisory Group meeting

Monday 28 January 2019, 14:00-16:00

Location TBC

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.