

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum  
**11th Advisory Group meeting, 28 January 2019, 14:00-16:00**

Teleconference

**Minutes**

**Present**

Ellen Wilson (EW) (RSPB) [Chair]; Gill Dowse (GD) (SWT); Andy Ford (CNPA) (first part); Nick Fraser (NMS); Jo Judge (NBN Secretariat); Ed Mackey (EM) (SNH); Glenn Roberts (NESBReC); David Roy (DR) (BRC); Rachel Tierney (RT) (SWT / SBIF); Christine Johnston (CJ) (NBN Secretariat) [Minutes]

**Apologies received**

Guy Harewood (Stirling Council); Claire Lacey (CL) (CIEEM); Scot Mathieson (SEPA);

**1. Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (11 Dec 2018) – Christine Johnston**

**Approval of the minutes**

The minutes [SBIF Advisory Group minutes DRAFT 11 Dec 2018] were passed without correction and approved for publication on the Scotland pages of the NBN website.

**Actions and matters arising**

**Actions discharged:**

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

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

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

*AP AG10-6 All to share SBIF social media mentions with RT*

**Action carried forward:**

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

The Advisory Group is still missing representatives from Marine Scotland, the Scottish Government and the University sector. People who may be interested (or could provide contacts) include: Rob Brooker (JHI); a representative from one of the NERC data centres (freshwater); Roderick Paige (University of Edinburgh and GBIF Science Committee); a British Ecological Society representative with connections to the NBN.

*AP AG11-1 EM to discuss Scottish Government position re the Advisory Grp at their next meeting*

*AP AG11-2 DR to supply details of a contact for the NERC data centre (freshwater)*

*AP AG11-3 CJ to approach contacts about joining the Advisory Group*

All other 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**

**Recent meetings – Rachel Tierney**

In summary, meetings have been held with or contact made with: Colin Campbell (JHI and SEFARI); the LINK food and farming sub group; SWT and RSPB Scotland CEOs; Gillian Baxendine (Head of Committee Engagement Unit at Scottish Government). Have also applied for CIEEM's stakeholder engagement award.

### **Future meetings – Rachel Tierney**

Planning is underway for:

- Arranging a meeting with Rosanna Cunningham’s biodiversity colleagues
- Talking with Finlay Carson MSP about tabling a motion in Parliament to secure a debate on the Review
- Supporting LINK’s ‘Fight for Scotland’s Wildlife’ campaign
- Attending several events for recorders; currently booked are: NESBReC; SWSEIC; Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
- Meeting and briefing: LINK; the ECCLR committee; the NBN Trustees
- Meeting with BRC to discuss and brainstorm sector plans

### **Sector Benefit Road maps – Ellen Wilson**

Rachel has commenced work on sector benefit maps. The aim is to aid planning for the future for each sector in terms of unlocking data flows; funding etc. The discussion highlighted the need for a two-way dialogue with and input from each sector, and to use language applicable to each sector.

It was suggested the impact may be greater if the benefit road maps were classified by Application, ie purpose and use of the data, rather than by sector. Broad themes were suggested: agri-environment; nature (to include INNS and Natural Capital); health and well-being; planning; digital innovation; education (perhaps later). Input to the benefit maps will be sought, possibly by interview.

***AP AG11-4 RT** to circulate a briefing doc on requirements for the preparation of the road maps*

***AP AG11-5 RT** to set up 1:1 meetings with Advisory Group members to start work on the benefit road maps*

### **Further funding for the SBIF Development Officer – Ellen Wilson**

There is a potential funding gap after current funding finishes at the end of March 2019. SNH is working on the proposal for future funding but ideas for other sources of funding are sought, eg trusts to approach or sources of small amounts of money.

***AP AG11-6 All** to advise EW of any potential sources of future funding*

### **SBIF post-Review – what happens next? – Ellen Wilson**

We are waiting to see what arises out of our bid to the Scottish Government and this will frame decisions about future activity. Current thoughts were sought and in summary:

- SBIF is looking to broaden the funding base for the community – this is seen as essential as the sector is under-resourced and lacking the capacity required.
- The way we present the Review to the Scottish Government is key. It may need re-casting to overcome the current impression that it is expensive to implement. Ongoing stakeholder discussion and the benefit mapping are also important.
- SNH is supportive of the Review but needs to be sure of Scottish Government’s support before committing to future funding.
- We should not lose sight of the wider benefits of the Review beyond Scotland. It is on the agenda for JNCC’s Chief Scientists’ meeting and the NBN’s Strategic Stakeholder Group meeting.
- We should focus on developing discrete, sustainable projects and ensure these and other activities (including fundraising) are aligned with the NBN’s strategic plan

- Uncertainty was expressed about an Application focussed on agri-environment as monitoring is often done differently and little recording happens in farmland
- Our message to politicians needs to be simply expressed and to highlight the main benefits to their area of interest.

**Planning for an event at Holyrood** – Rachel Tierney

Planning continues for this alongside the current discussions with Finlay Carson MSP. Catering costs have been collated for 50 and 100 attendees and will be circulated to Advisory Group members – it is possible that costs could be shared between organisations. The earliest we will be ready for an event is June 2019 (providing accommodation is available).

*AP AG11-7 RT and CJ to collaborate on the planning of the Holyrood event*

**Actions carried forward:**

*AP AG10-2 CL to investigate potential sponsors for alcohol at the [Holyrood] event*

**General**

It was agreed it would be useful if Advisory Group members received an update on activity and material relevant to proposed discussions in advance of the meeting.

*AP AG11-8 RT to provide relevant updates and advanced information to Advisory Group members*

**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 in the middle of March 2019]*

**3. Any other business**

None

**4. Date of next Advisory Group meeting**

**Monday 18 March 2019, 14:00-16:00**

Location: Barnacle meeting room, RSPB Scotland, 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.*