



Draft Minutes
of the
Moorland Forum Meeting
held at
Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn DG7 3TQ
on
Friday 1st June 2018
from
10:00 – 15:30

1 Welcome

1.1 The Chairman welcomed guest Francesca Osowska, Chief Executive SNH, Susan Davies, Director of Conservation and current representative for SWT, Mark Wilson, BTO, standing in for Chris Wernham and Jonathan Young, SG, standing in for Hugh Dignon.

1.2 A full list of attendance and apologies is listed in Appendix 1.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting 23rd March, Perth and Matters Arising

2.1 The actions summaries from the last Forum meeting on 23rd March and the Chairman's Working Group meeting on 11th May were reviewed. See the summaries in Appendix 2.

2.2 The brief outline of the Scottish Government's view of Biospheres was provided in printed form during the meeting and has been added to the website.

2.3 The minutes were approved.

3 Moorland Forum Business

3.1 Succession Planning

3.1.1 A briefing, produced by Will Boyd-Wallis, had been circulated to members.

3.1.2 There are 4 declared candidates:

- Doug McAdam
- Hugh Raven
- Drew McFarlane-Slack
- Simon Thorp

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Chairman: Lord Lindsay

Director: Simon Thorp

Administrator: Anne Stoddart

- 3.1.3 The Chairman alluded to a suggestion put forward by the current Director that Forum members may wish to consider the appointment of a temporary Vice Chairman to lead a review of the Forum’s activity and revise the Forum’s governance before the handover to a new Chairman.
- 3.1.4 It was agreed that the candidates’ curriculum vitae and covering letters would be forwarded, in confidence, to Forum representatives with a voting form. **Action: Administrator**
- 3.1.5 Each Forum organisation would have one vote and the Succession Task Group would be convened again to review the results and agree the next steps. The Succession Task Group may wish to invite the top two candidates to interview. **Action: Administrator**
- 3.1.6 It was suggested that the scheduling of the next meeting of the Succession Task Group should ensure the availability of those members of the Group who had not been able to take part in the conference call.

3.2 Principles of Moorland Management

- 3.2.1 Guidance documents on Heather Cutting, Mountain Hare and Worm Control in Grouse have been published on the forum website.
- 3.2.2 The following guidance is under development:

Topic	Lead
Trapping code of practice	SNH
Sheep tick guidance	GWCT
Mountain Hare monitoring	GWCT
Wader Management	WfW
Muirburn Code – SuppInfo	MF
Fire Danger Warning	Firebreak Services
Open Land	TBC

- 3.2.3 The Trapping Code of practice rests with SNH to initiate.
- 3.2.4 When the Guidance Group brief has been drafted for each of these topics it will be forwarded to the PoMM Steering Group for approval.
- 3.2.5 The Wader Management guidance is linked to the Working for Waders Initiative and will be lead by Chris Bailey and Bruce Cooper, co-chairs of the Raising Awareness & Best Practice Action Group.
- 3.2.6 Concern was raised over recent wildfires (many of which had occurred since the end of the muirburn season) and a perceived lack of knowledge of the revised Muirburn Code. Raising Awareness of the code is a priority.
 - SNH are looking into the pattern and severity of recent fires using GIS info and remote sensing and will report back to the next Forum meeting. **Action: Eileen Stuart**

- This information would be incorporated into the Supplementary Information.
- 3.2.7 Firebreak Services (Michael Bruce) are working on how to interpret information available on the internet through the European Forestry Information Service and this could be developed into a Fire Danger Warning Guidance document.
- 3.2.8 The ‘Open Land’ guidance could be developed as a list of issues to consider before changing land use on open land.
- Land within this category would include the 10-15% of land within forestry, which is unplanted.
- 3.2.9 Further ‘light-touch’ signposting topic suggestions were suggested:
Action: Davy McCracken & Eileen Stuart
- Common grazings guidance linking with other PoMM documents and helping to engage crofters and farmers with Forum activities.
 - Herbivore impact assessment guidance signposting back to deer management groups.

3.3 Working for Waders

- 3.3.1 A plan of actions to be delivered in the next financial year to March 2019 has been produced by the three Action Groups and will be placed on the forum meetings page. **Action: Administrator**
- 3.3.2 SNH have provided a challenge fund of £75,000 to ‘pump prime’ these activities. A range of outputs and milestones to claim funding are being produced.
- 3.3.3 Wader Management Guidance will be developed through PoMM. The guidance will focus on providing signposts to other available material but knowledge gaps will also be identified.
- 3.3.4 With agri-environment schemes remaining uncertain farmers and land managers will be actively encouraged to help waders with activities that do not require government funding.
- 3.3.5 WfW is confident they can get the message out to the farming community but are still unsure how they will engage:
- There have been some changes in NFUS team and fresh approaches will be made.
 - Andrew Bauer now leads SAC consulting farm advisory service for Scotland and is keen to engage and promote WfW at events.
 - Janette Sutherland, SAC Consulting in Skye, has produced wading bird conservation videos.
 - The National Sheep Association will also be approached
 - BBC Alba continue to support and feature the WfW initiative.

- 3.3.6 Mary Colwell has held 3 curlew conferences throughout the UK with a particular focus on farmer engagement. The WfW Initiative will be supporting her Scottish Conference at Battleby on 27th September and will use the opportunity to flag wider wader issues.
- 3.3.7 Branding and a specific Working for Waders website are currently under development and will be available for the Scottish Game Fair and, if possible, the Royal Highland Show.
- 3.3.8 The Facilitation Team met on 31st May to discuss SNH licensing issues in light of the Strathbraan licence application.
- 3.3.9 An internal process proposal is being drafted on how WfW would engage if any such issue arose in the future either from within or outwith the initiative and a blog article will be produced and circulated.
Action: D McCracken/Administrator

3.4 Muirburn Code

- 3.4.1 Members will be kept briefed on any further developments.

3.5 Strategic Issues

- 3.5.1 A sub-group comprising volunteers Anne Gray, Julia Stoddart, Duncan Orr-Ewing, Andrew Bachell and Mark Aitken will be convened over the summer to produce a short proposal – ‘a Forum Manifesto’ – on what the uplands can deliver and the support needed to maintain this.
Action: Director

3.6 Autumn Meeting Agenda

- 3.6.1 Dissemination of PoMM was proposed.
- 3.6.2 Further suggestions will be circulated with the minutes and comments welcomed. (See Appendix 3) **Action: Director**

4 AOB

- 4.1 SRUC will be meeting with policy leads in Defra on 4th July to discuss upland issues and agricultural challenges and opportunities in Scotland to consider when deciding a common framework for agriculture and the environment. SNH Chairman, Dr Mike Cantlay, will be updated on this.
- 4.2 On the same day, there is the possibility that a meeting with interested MPs will be hosted by Iain Duncan MP.

CARSPHAIRN MEETING

5 Welcome

- 5.1 The Chairman thanked Ed Forrest, Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, for hosting and helping to organise today's event.
- 5.2 The Chairman also welcomed 16 guests which included 5 speakers.

6 Presentations

- 6.1 The presentations provided a local context for a discussion around the merits of Regional Land Use Forums.
- 6.2 Information gathered from the discussions and those which took place on site will be gathered to produce a short post-event statement. **Action: Director**

7 Speakers

- 7.1 **Joan Mitchell, GSAB**
 - 7.1.1 Welcome and Introduction to the Biosphere
- 7.2 **Davie McMillan, Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd**
 - 7.2.1 Carsphairn Community Pressures & Opportunities
- 7.3 **Karen Morley, Galloway Glens Project**
 - 7.3.1 Galloway Glens Project & Natural Flood Management
- 7.4 **Wendy Fenton & Steve Cowley, Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd**
 - 7.4.1 Marscalloch Forest Community Acquisition Plans
- 7.5 **Emily Taylor, Crichton Carbon Centre**
 - 7.5.1 Peatland ACTION work

8 Summary of Actions

Ref	Item	Action
3.1.4	Circulate cvs and voting form to Forum representatives	Administrator
3.1.5	Arrange meeting of Succession Task Group to review results and agree course of action	Administrator
3.2.6	Report back to Forum on recent wildfires	Eileen Stuart
3.2.9	Produce light-touch PoMM guidance	Davy McCracken / Eileen Stuart
3.3.1	Put WfW Project Action Plan onto forum website	Administrator
3.3.9	Produce and circulate WfW blog on licensing	Davy McCracken/Administrator
3.5.1	Convene sub-group to produce short 'Forum manifesto' proposal	Director
3.6.2	Provide suggestions for autumn agenda	All

6.2	Produce short post-event statement	Director
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APPENDIX 1

Attendees

Lord	Lindsay	Chairman
Simon	Thorp	Director
Anne	Stoddart	Administrator
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Aitchison</i>	<i>Scottish Water – did not attend</i>
Mark	Aitken	SEPA
Tim	Baynes	Scottish Land & Estate
Susan	Davies	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Jonathan	Young	Scottish Government
Jamie	Farquhar	Confor
Anne	Gray	The Heather Trust
Davy	McCracken	SRUC
Duncan	Orr-Ewing	RSPB
Colin	Shedden	BASC
Julia	Stoddart	Scottish Association of Countryside Sports
Eileen	Stuart	Scottish Natural Heritage
Mark	Wilson	British Trust for Ornithology
Malcolm	Younger	RICS

Speakers

Joan	Mitchell	GSA Biosphere
Davie	McMillan	Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd
Karen	Morley	Galloway Glens Project
Wendy	Fenton	Carsphairn Community Woodland ltd
Emily	Taylor	Crichton Carbon Centre

Guests

Melanie	Allen	GSA Biosphere
Nick	Chisholm	Galloway Glens Project
Steve	Cowley	Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd
John	Esslemont	South Ayrshire Council
Ed	Forrest	GSA Biosphere
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Craigengillan Estate – did not attend</i>
Will	Marshall	SACS
Francesca	Osowska	Scottish Natural Heritage
Chris	Rollie	RSPB
Peter	Ross	GSAB
Mary-Ann	Smyth	Crichton Carbon Centre
John	Thomson	Nether Linkins Farm

Apologies

Name		Organisation	Representative
Andrew	Bachell	John Muir Trust	
Will	Boyd-Wallis	CNPA	
John	Bruce	British Deer Society	
Richard	Cooke	ADMG	
Andrew	Coupar	SNH	Eileen Stuart
Colin	Edwards	FCS	Doug Howieson - apologies 31.5.18
Jonathan	Hall	NFUS	
Alex	Hogg	SGA	
Ronnie	Kippen	SGA	
Scott	Newey	James Hutton Institute	
John	Reid	LL&TNPA	
Adam	Smith	GWCT	
Jared	Stewart	Scottish Water	Richard Aitchison
Chris	Wernham	BTO	Mark Wilson
Hugh	Dignon	Scottish Government	Jonathan Young
Doug	Howieson	FCS	
Patrick	Stirling-Aird	SRSG	
Jamie	Stewart	Scottish Countryside Alliance	
James	Scott	Crofting Commission	

APPENDIX 2

Action Status from Recent Meetings

Full Forum 23rd March, Dewars Centre, Perth

Ref	Item	Action	Status
2.3	Request and circulate brief from Emma Goodyer	Administrator	Completed
2.5	Scottish Land Commission to join the Forum	Director	Declined
4.5	Seek volunteers for Programme for Delivery task group	Director	Completed
5.7	Invite volunteers for Strategic Issues task group	Director	In progress
5.8	Send letter detailing Forum's plans to Cabinet Secretary	Director	Completed
6.1	Arrange summer meeting at Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere	Director	Completed
7.1.2	Remove wording from each guidance document	Director	Completed
7.1.4	Submit final comments on documents by deadline	Members	Completed
7.1.6	Seek Volunteers for Wader Management guidance	Director	Through WfW
7.1.7	Submit other topics for consideration to Director	Members	Ongoing
8.3	Circulate Succession Task Group note to members	Administrator	Completed

CWG Meeting 11th May 2018, RSPB, Edinburgh

Ref	Item	Action	Status
2.6	Circulate 'set the scene' information to members	Administrator	Completed
2.7	Provide brief outline SG view of Biospheres	Hugh Dignon	Meeting webpage
2.8	Issue additional invitations	Administrator	Completed
2.8.2	Invite Professor Russel Griggs	Chairman	Completed
2.10	Create information framework for post event statement	Director	Completed
3.1	Publish Cabinet Secretary response on website	Administrator	Completed
3.5	Convene small task group to produce short uplands proposal	Director	In progress
3.8	Flag updates on the Grouse Moor Management review to forum members	Adam Smith /Administrator	Ongoing
4.3.8	Apply for funding via Hugh Dignon's office	Adam Smith /Duncan Orr-Ewing	WfW action
5.2	Produce succession recommendations for FF meeting on 1 st June	Will Boyd-Wallis	Completed
6.1	Provide links to listed documents in next forum newsletter	Administrator	Ongoing

Autumn Forum Meeting - Options for Discussion

- 1 The Forum’s Autumn meeting will be held in the Dewars Centre, Perth on Friday, 2nd November 2018.
- 2 Some ideas were proposed for discussion during the Chairman’s Working Group meeting on 11th May and are listed below.
- 3 These are more than can be addressed in a single meeting but support for one or more of these topics is requested from Forum members, or proposals for any additional topics.

Forest Strategy
The Forum’s ‘Upland Manifesto’
PoMM
Wildfire
Renewables
Asset register update (European Nature Information System (EUNIS) Map)
Countryside Survey update (Ed Mackie, SNH)
Ecosystem health indicators
Natural Capital Accounting (feedback from Andy Wells, Crown Estates)
JHI data on heather cover (Colin Campbell)
Wireless sensing - use for data management and Natural Capital accounting (Davy McCracken)