

**PROGRAMME BOARD ON NON-NATIVE SPECIES
NINETEENTH MEETING**

MINUTES

**Fera, Room 12F53, Sand Hutton, York
Thursday 23 February 2012, 11.00**

1. Attendance/apologies

Present:

Huw Thomas (Acting Chair, Defra)
Niall Moore (NNSS, Secretary)
Sallie Bailey (FC) – by telecon
Kylie Bamford (Defra, Marine) – by telecon
Olaf Booy (NNSS)
Mark Diamond (EA)
Hugh Dignon (Scottish Government) – by telecon
Robert Griffiths (Welsh Government) – by telecon
Iain Henderson (Fera) – lunchtime presentation
Verity Hunter (NNSS, Minute taker)
Ron Macdonald (SNH) – by telecon
Ant Maddock (JNCC)
Pete Robertson (Fera)
Jon Webb (NE)
Gabe Wyn (CCW)

Apologies received from:

Francis Marlow (Defra)
Catherine Murdoch (Scottish Government)
John Watkins (Welsh Government)

HT explained that on this occasion he would be chairing the meeting in the absence of FM as the latter had been called away urgently on other business.

2. Minutes of 18th Meeting on 29 September 2011

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-02

The Minutes of the 18th Meeting were agreed without comment.

3. Actions/matters arising

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-03

Action 1 – NM reported that work on the country working group prioritisation exercises is ongoing – carry over (but with the Scottish and Welsh Govt. representatives to report on them).

Action 2 – NM reported that work on summarising figures on volunteer effort is ongoing. He has requested the help of the Media & Communications WG – carry over.

Action 3 – HT said that the Rapid Response WG had not yet been re-convened due to the pressure of other work – carry over.

Action 4 – OB said that work on determining priority species was ongoing, some of which would be covered under other agenda items. Work on PAPs and knowledge building is continuing. Ongoing.

Action 7 – To be discussed under Agenda Item 8.

Action 8 – NM said a meeting had not been set up to discuss marine pathways etc. but KB would cover this under Agenda Item 14.

Action 10 – NM reported that he had spoken with JNCC about evidence needs. RM said he would send comments in the next two weeks. AM asked for a clear proposal and an options paper. MD suggested a technical workshop. Carry over.

Action 13 – MD said that a glyphosate ban was unlikely, at least before 2015, and it was widely used. Possible European quality standards may be brought in then.

All other actions had been discharged and there were no matters arising.

ACTION 1 (previous Action 1) – Scottish and Welsh Govt. representatives to report back the results of the country working group prioritisation exercises to the Programme Board at the next meeting.

ACTION 2 (previous Action 3) – HT to re-convene the RRWG to examine lessons learned, review the earlier framework and consider the future approach.

ACTION 3 (previous Action 10) – RM to send comments on evidence needs paper to NM and/or Nick Turner (Defra). Nick Turner consider how to take the paper forward.

4. GB Strategy

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-04

- Implementation plan (forward/reverse look)

OB introduced this, beginning with the Reverse look highlighting the Key Actions that were on amber.

On 6.1 he said that, due to their changed role, Defra Comms could no longer lead on *Be Plant Wise* and *Check, Clean, Dry*. The Secretariat had agreed to lead on this until March 31, 2012. HD said that the WANE Act launch is in June and that he will share details of publicity events. OB highlighted the issue of funding for the Secretariat website and NM said that £2k had been promised by WG for 2011/12 and that SG had made significant contributions in past years. RM indicated that SNH would also help with website funding.

On 6.7/8.3 OB reported that work on the priority ISAPs is not yet complete. In particular more distribution information is needed for the aquatic plants. The Quagga Mussel ISAP is drafted but further discussion is needed to finalise it. Defra and Cefas are working on management methods for crayfish.

RM highlighted the retirement of Robin Payne (current Chair of the Media & Communications WG) and said that SNH would continue to support this role.

- Review of strategy in 2013

HT informed the Board that the GB Strategy was due for review in 2013, five years after its launch. He mentioned the proposal to repeat the Public Attitudes Survey in England. He thought such a survey should look for progress with the angling and horticultural sectors and following the launch of *Check, Clean, Dry*, and establish a new baseline for water users awareness more generally. HT suggested an officials meeting to discuss an approach to the Strategy review and identify any other key evidence needs for this purpose.

ACTION 4 – HT/NNSS to arrange an officials meeting to discuss the Strategy review.

5. Secretariat Report

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-05

NM introduced the Secretariat report. He reported that OB has been chairing the Training Working Group whose draft final report will be presented to the Media & Communications WG at the end of March. The Aquatic Plant Growers meeting had been very successful in engaging with wholesalers who are keen to help with appropriate labeling of plants. HT emphasised that the relationship with Keith Davenport of OATA has been key to success in engaging other stakeholders such as the growers, Keith has also strongly engaged with the INNS issue in Bern Convention and CBD circles (authoring a code of conduct under the former for example). The Board welcomed Keith's engagement and support with the industry

and expressed its thanks for his efforts. JW asked if the Secretariat could inform him on what wholesalers have been doing on listing native plants, work on labeling etc. NM also reported that the meeting with stakeholders on Aquatic Biosecurity had been very successful. OB reported good feedback on the Secretariat website. MD thought the NNSIP portal was very good.

The Board agreed with the proposed Future Work Programme. HT reiterated that the Secretariat is very small and very busy as our agenda resonates with more and more stakeholders. Contributions for the website operations were most welcome but should resources ever permit, Defra would also welcome any contributions from SG and WG to help boost capacity.

ACTION 5 – NNSS to circulate final draft report of the Training WG to the PB for comment at the next meeting.

ACTION 6 – NNSS to thank Keith Davenport (OATA) on behalf of the PB for his work on engaging with stakeholders on *Be Plant Wise*.

6. Risk assessment update and priorities

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-06

OB introduced this paper asking the Board if they had any additions to the suggested species for priority risk assessments (Appendix 2). HT noted that reducing Defra budgets could have implications for current risk assessment capacity. RM asked how Appendix 2 relates to rapid responses, as Scotland may want to move faster on some species, e.g. Piri Piri Burr. MD stated that he has already responded to this paper on behalf of EA. The rest of the Board was content with the priority suggestions.

HT reminded members that it is their final opportunity to comment on the draft NNSIP report before it is published.

ACTION 7 – ALL to comment on the draft NNSIP report by March 23.

7. EU Strategy update

HT reported that a public consultation is being run by the European Commission and this will close on 12 April. The Commission is still hoping to publish its legislative proposal in the third quarter of 2012. Two UK stakeholder meetings are planned in March and April to keep stakeholders abreast of developments.

8. Chinese Mitten Crab – fishery proposal

HT summarised outcomes from the last PB and said that Cefas has been re-evaluating evidence relating to the likelihood of CMC fishery establishment. GW said that fishermen in Wales are already enquiring about the possibility of a mitten crab fishery. MD said that no fishery would open until next Winter and it would still be very restrictive. A number of colleagues expressed concern and urged caution in relation to issuing this license, and requested that the risks are fully evaluated. HT suggested that a paper be developed to provide a broad policy steer on exploitation of invasive non-native species. The Board agreed with HT's suggestion for a general paper on exploitation.

ACTION 8 – NNSS/Delyth to circulate the Cefas paper on Chinese Mitten Crab when available.

ACTION 9 – HT to develop a paper to provide a broad policy steer on exploitation of invasive non-native species for the next meeting.

9. Asian Hornet update

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-09

NM updated the Board on this: Bee Health Policy are currently finalising a response plan with the aim of preventing establishment of the hornet in GB. The Secretariat and the National Bee Unit have produced ID and Alert sheets and will jointly raise awareness. NBU will oversee any response on the ground if the hornet is found. MD thought that action so far is impressive and leaves us better prepared than we were for *Dikerogammarus*. HT noted that expectations have been managed with ministers informed that success in prevention of establishment depends on the propagule pressure and may fail sooner or later.

10. *Dikerogammarus* - update

HT reported that attempts to contain the shrimp at its current sites are ongoing, as is surveillance across England and Wales. Cefas is currently scoping potential control methods and a report is due soon. MD said that spread is expected if we do nothing and he reported that some viable shrimp have been found in outboard motors.

11. *Presentation on Ruddy Duck eradication – Fera*

Iain Henderson gave a presentation on the Ruddy Duck eradication programme which was well-received. HT thanked Iain on behalf of the Board and asked that the slides be circulated.

ACTION 10 – VH to circulate Ruddy Duck presentation.

12. Non-native Indicator

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-12

NM and HT introduced this item, outlining the five options for the Board to consider to improve and refine the UK indicator in the light of the NNSIP work. NM suggested that options 3 [adding information on the number of new species arrivals] and 4 [adding information on the number of interceptions and eradications] could be most suitable. After discussion the Board was in general agreement that options 3 and 4 looked best but asked for more explanation of options 2 [increasing taxonomic coverage using modeling techniques] and 5 [linking the INNS indicator with the other biodiversity indicators] before it made its final decision.

ACTION 11 – NNS to ask for more explanation of options 2 and 5 on the indicators paper and report back to the Board.

13. LIFE+ Marine pathways bid

GW reported on progress with the *Didemnum vexillum* eradication at Holyhead Marina and said that the last few pontoons have now been wrapped and treated.

The Life+ bid will be submitted in July by a number of partners across GB and Ireland and will be worth £3.5m over five years. This could include early warning buoys and control of various species plus communications actions, monitoring and demonstration sites.

ACTION 12 - GW to circulate the report on part one of the Holyhead *Didemnum* eradication work.

14. MSFD implementation

KB introduced this item. A consultation on MSFD will take place between 27 March and 18 June. Cefas is working on a study on the principal pathways and vectors which should be ready in April. KB would like members and stakeholders to contribute to the consultation on potential measures under Descriptor 2.

ACTION 13 – KB to circulate diagram and explanation of acronyms and groups relating to the MSFD work.

ACTION 14 – KB to circulate the Cefas pathways and vectors study when available.

ACTION 15 – NNS to notify relevant stakeholders of the MSFD consultation when it commences.

15. Stakeholder Forum

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-15

NM told the Board that the Ninth Stakeholder Forum will be held on 10 May 2012 at Aston University Business School, Birmingham and asked for suggestions for the day's programme. HT confirmed he would present an item on the EU strategy but thought non-Government viewpoints should also be included. RM wondered if the ideas already put forward were too heavy on process and he asked for more success stories. HT gave the example of the work done by sailing clubs etc on Killer Shrimp, especially Grafham Water, and thought a presentation by them would be motivating. Other suggestions were a marina operator to talk about *Didemnum*; a brief piece on Asian Hornet; more on LAGs; a short talk on MSFD; a website update. It was decided to delete the suggestion on training/research. There was also a suggestion for a marine-themed afternoon workshop. MD suggested an afternoon workshop on a controversial policy area to stimulate discussion, perhaps 'what should we stop doing?'

ACTION 16 – NNSS to take forward suggestions for speakers and topics for the next Stakeholder Forum as above and finalise the programme by March 31.

16. Local Action Group Workshop

Paper circulated PB Feb 12-16

NM reported on the Local Action Group Workshop held in January, saying that the event has grown and become more successful over the three years it has been held. There is a huge variety of autonomous LAGs working on an increasing range of species. MD suggested that LAGs should follow ISAPs and feed into policy making and the meeting agreed.

17. AOB

NM had received a query from Sean Hathaway of Swansea Council asking whether the Environment Agency is now stopping any control of *Ludwigia* at the one Welsh outbreak. MD confirmed that this was not the case and that management would continue.

18. Date and location of future meetings

It was suggested that the next meeting should be in June/July and RG kindly offered to host this in Wales, probably Cardiff. A Doodle poll of dates will be circulated.

ACTION 17 – VH to circulate a Doodle poll of dates for the next PB meeting in Wales in June.