

**PROGRAMME BOARD ON NON-NATIVE SPECIES
TWENTY SECOND MEETING**

MINUTES

**SYLVAN HOUSE, CORSTORPHINE ROAD, EDINBURGH
Tuesday 29 October 2013, 11.00**

1. Attendance / Apologies

Present:

Trevor Salmon (Chair, Defra)
Niall Moore (NNS, Secretary)
Nick Bialynicki-Birula (NRW)
Phil Boon (SNH), until 2pm
Olaf Booy (NNS)
Emma Boyd (Defra)
Roger Coppock (FC)
Mark Diamond (EA)
Hugh Dignon (Scottish Government)
Jason Hubert (FC)
Adrian Jowitt (NE)
Ian Macleod (SNH) – lunchtime presentation only
Ant Maddock (JNCC)
Catherine Murdoch (Scottish Government)
Linda Raine (NNS - Minutes)
Alastair Ward (AHVLA)
Martin Williams (Welsh Government)
Gabe Wyn (NRW)
Stan Whitaker (SNH) - from 12.45pm

Apologies received from:

Jeremy Eppel (Defra)
Richard Ferris (JNCC)
Dave Thomas (Welsh Government)
Julian Hosking (NE)
Colin Charman (NRW)
Pete Robertson (AHVLA) – replaced by Alastair Ward
Sallie Bailey (FC) – replaced by Jason Hubert
Ron Macdonald (SNH) – replaced by Phil Boon
Martin Ward (Defra)

TS welcomed all to the meeting and explained that he was chairing in the absence of JE.

PB informed the Board that he would be replacing Ron Macdonald for the next year and JH told the Board that he was replacing Sallie Bailey for the next 6 months.

2. Minutes of 11 April 2013

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-02

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed with one minor change on page 3: removing the words 'and fundamental' from the description of the GB Strategy Review.

3. Actions/matters arising

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-03

All actions had been discharged or were dealt with further down in the agenda. There were no matters arising.

ACTION 1 (previous Action 3 - modified) – AJ to forward a copy of the report on the removal of satellite populations of Ring-necked Parakeet to Defra (TS) for discussion.

ACTION 2 (Previous Action 5) – TS to circulate draft ToRs for the Strategy Review Core Group to the Board.

ACTION 3 (Previous Action 10) – NNSS to invite Simon Maxwell to the next Media and Communications Working Group in December 2013.

ACTION 4 (Previous Action 12) – NNSS to send the final version of the commercial exploitation paper to the Board.

4. Secretariat Report

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-04

- NM introduced this item highlighting some key issues such as the Secretariat input into the EU Regulation, Strategy Review and Public Awareness. The Board signed off the Secretariat report, including the key priorities going forward but MD and PB stressed the importance of continued input to public awareness while MW highlighted the importance of the Secretariat's continued engagement with the Welsh Working Group.

Defra have confirmed that the secretariat website has received an exemption from being subsumed into *.gov.uk*. The statistics for people visiting the NNSS website showed a dramatic increase compared with the previous reporting period. The Board expressed its curiosity as to why this dramatic increase had occurred and asked the Secretariat to look at where exactly this traffic is coming from.

Comments made on the NNSS future work priorities included:

- MD stated that the EA would like to see more emphasis placed on raising public awareness using the *Be Plant Wise* and *Check Clean Dry* campaigns.
- GW stated that links with Wales are very helpful especially the Secretariat's attendance at meetings.
- PB commented that not much progress had been made on pathway action plans and research.

5. EU Legislation Update

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-05

TS summarised the extensive progress that had taken place with the EU Regulation since the last Board meeting, including the main provisions of the Regulation, how the UK was feeding in to the co-decision process and the establishment of the three UK contact groups (policy, technical and stakeholder).

The Board expressed a desire for further information on how the process worked and also its likely timetabling. PB informed the Board that he had raised the issue of the non-inclusion of native EU species in the regulation with Ecostat but that it had been reluctant to get involved in the issue.

ACTION 5 - TS to circulate to the Board Lord de Mauley's letter to Parliament on the EU Regulation.

ACTION 6 - TS to circulate to the Board the paper on other Member State comments on the EU Regulation (on a restricted basis).

ACTION 7 - NNSS to circulate a guide to the EU legislative process.

ACTION 8 - NNSS to circulate to the Board the lists of invitees to the EU IAS Regulation and Strategy Review meetings/workshops.

6 GB Strategy Review Update

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-06

NM introduced this item on behalf of Craig Lee (Defra) who is leading on the Strategy review. TS drew attention to the issue of the non-establishment of a core group of the Board to review the Strategy as was originally envisaged. Whilst AM had some concerns, the Board agreed that this was a good idea but suggested that regular updates on progress (particularly with the stakeholder workshops) were necessary. The Board also agreed to devote most of the next meeting to the issue of the Strategy review and its redrafting. Furthermore, the Board stressed the importance of ensuring transparency and the need to make it clear in the new strategy how the component parts of the GB mechanism fit together, and how issues are prioritised.

TS updated the Board regarding powers of access in England. Defra is looking into potentially including this in an upcoming bill.

ACTION 9 - After the Strategy Review Meetings, Craig Lee to circulate a summary of the main findings to the Board for information and comment.

ACTION 10 - OB to re-circulate the Strategy Implementation Plan to the Board.

7. Presentation – Ian Macleod (SNH), the Hebridean Mink Project

8. Rapid Response Priorities Update

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-08

NM summarised progress with the six priority rapid responses, highlighting the lack of progress on bullfrogs - the only one on red. AJ gave some background on the issue but conceded that the red rating was justified. TS stated that Defra and NE would be holding joint discussions on the issue shortly.

ACTION 11 - NNSS to provide more detail on progress with the list of rapid response species at Annex 1 of PB Oct13-08 (where an assessment of feasibility is ongoing).

9. Risk Analysis

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-09a, 13-09b, 13-09c

Items 8 and 9 were dealt with in reverse order. OB gave the Board the background on the carp risk assessment which has been in progress for over 4 years. PB raised several technical issues with the current draft (questions 1.7, 2.15 and 2.16). The Board agreed that the risk assessment should be signed off subject to these technical points being addressed.

The Board further agreed that a small group of relevant officials and stakeholders should be established by the Secretariat to agree presentational issues, lines to take etc. with the aim of publication of the carp risk assessment by the end of December.

Risk prioritisation

OB introduced this item, which had been requested by several Board members. TS asked the Board if it agreed with the method of prioritisation for risk assessments and there followed considerable discussion. The Board agreed that criterion 4 (page 2 of PB Oct13-09b) should be removed and that the Secretariat would have a standing item on the agenda which outlines new requests for risk assessments, who made them and what priority the Secretariat recommends giving them, as well as a table showing progress with existing risk assessments. MW suggested that the Secretariat discuss the issue of prioritisation of their risk register process with Plant Health. NM replied that the Secretariat has already done this to some extent. GW suggested that all people recommending a species for risk assessment should be asked to provide evidence of impact and why they are requesting an assessment.

ACTION 12 - MD to circulate the Ponto-Caspian risk assessment report to the Board when it is finalised.

ACTION 13 - OB to address Board comments on carp risk assessment relating to questions 1.7, 2.15, 2.16 and in particular uncertainty at question 2.23.

ACTION 14 - OB to establish a group of relevant officials and other stakeholders to agree a plan to handle the publication of the carp risk assessment.

ACTION 15 - ALL to contact OB to nominate participants for the Carp Risk Assessment publication group.

ACTION 16 - OB to speak to Martin Ward to further explore how Plant Health priorities its risk assessments.

ACTION 17 - NNSS to provide a short, template based, update on priorities for risk assessment as a standard agenda item (to include new requests for additions and an explanation of changes to the priority list).

ACTION 18 - OB to circulate his Presentation on Risk Management to the Board.

10. BIC Workshop Feedback

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-10

OB summarised the outcomes of the April BIC workshop – principally the agreement for greater cooperation across the BIC countries on issues such as early warning, research etc. The Board asked for a further report on progress in two meetings time.

11. ISAP Progress

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-11

OB introduced this item which was asking the Board to sign off four ISAPs. After considerable discussion the Board agreed to sign off the ISAPs for Indian house crow and sacred ibis but several members (in particular MD and MW) queried the resource implications of the Floating pennywort ISAP and the timescales for the Crayfish ISAP and instructed the Secretariat to revisit the issue of resources with the relevant ISAP working groups, modify them if necessary and then bring them back to the Board electronically for sign off.

ACTION 19 - NNSS to take forward publication of House Crow, Sacred Ibis and Crayfish ISAPs (note dates in Crayfish ISAP need to be revisited).

ACTION 20 - NNSS to request that the Floating Pennywort ISAP group re-consider and clarify funding issues in the ISAP, to update the ISAP as necessary and amended ISAP to be sent to Board electronically for approval.

12. Pathway Action Plan – Zoos and Wildlife Parks

Paper circulated PB Oct 13-12

NM outlined the paper that proposed to establish a framework for pathway action plans using escapes from zoos and wildlife parts as an example. The Board agreed to this requesting a report on progress in two meetings time.

ACTION 21 - NNSS to start to develop a Framework for Pathway Action Planning (using Zoos as the model) for discussion at the next but one Programme Board meeting.

13. Water Framework Directive (MD)

MD updated the Board on progress with the Water Framework Directive and assessing the risks to waterways in England and Wales from invasive non-native species.

14. Monthly Biosecurity Meetings

TS gave an update on the approach being taken by Defra looking at the risks posed to biosecurity across the plant health, animal health, aquaculture and invasive species sectors.

15. Any Other Business

MW informed the Board that a very small number of chipmunks had been discovered in the Neath area of south Wales.

ACTION 22 - MW to report back to the Board on action being taken on the Chipmunks reported in the Neath area of south Wales.

16. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held in London with the primary focus being on the Strategy Review.

ACTION 23 - NNSS to canvass for suitable dates for the next Programme Board meeting (February/March 2014).
