

DRAFT

PROGRAMME BOARD ON NON-NATIVE SPECIES

THIRTY-SECOND MEETING MINUTES

ROOM 207, Defra Nobel House, LONDON

Wednesday, 30 January 2019, 11:00

1. Attendance / Apologies

Present:

Richard Pullen (Defra, Chair)
Niall Moore (Non-native Species Secretariat, Secretary)
Lyndon Baker (Defra)
Mark Diamond (Environment Agency)
Adrian Jowitt (Natural England)
Theresa Kudelska (Natural Resources Wales)
James Lovesey (Defra, Marine)
Michael Sigsworth (Defra)
Leanne Stockdale (Marine Management Organisation)
Flavie Vial (Animal and Plant Health Agency)
Sarah Webster (Defra)

Phone:

Stan Whitaker (Scottish Natural Heritage)
Martin Williams (Welsh Government)

Apologies:

Bill Badger (Defra, fisheries)
Olaf Booy (Non-native Species Secretariat)
Ken Bradley (DOENI)
Paul Rose (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)
Nicola Spence (Defra)
Kath Webster (Animal and Plant Health Agency)
Sarah Wood (NRW)
Stewart Snape (Forestry Commission)
Des Thompson (Scottish Natural Heritage)

2. Minutes of 31st Meeting, July 2018

Paper circulated PB Jan19-02

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed off.

3. **Actions/matters arising**

Paper circulated PB Jan19-03

All actions were signed off as complete or in progress.

4. **Future remit of Board**

Paper circulated PB Jan19-04

Lyndon introduced the paper which outlined the potential terms of reference, membership etc. of the replacement bodies for the IAS Committee and Scientific Forum in the case of a 'no-deal scenario'. This would be achieved by expanding the remits of the GB Programme Board and the Non-native Risk Analysis Panel. There was considerable discussion on this – including on the dual role of the Board (acting as both the UK IAS Committee but also retaining its GB functions), the need for MOUs, being able to tap into disputes resolution mechanisms etc. Adrian asked if the Board would have statutory underpinning but Lyndon confirmed that it would not as Ministers would still take the decisions. The Board agreed that the proposed ToRs of both it and the NNRAP would need extensive re-writing and tasked Lyndon with re-drafting these (currently Annexes 1 and 2). These would look at membership (especially in the light of FC changes, also considering seats for SEPA and Cefas), remit – e.g. whether to include micro-organisms as this is in the scope of the EU IAS Committee, how far out into territorial waters the remit would go etc. The issue of MOUs would be left until later.

<p>ACTION 1: Lyndon to re-draft Annexes 2 and 3 including draft terms of reference, ways of working etc. for the Programme Board and NNRAP – by February 22.</p>
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5. **Resourcing update**

Paper circulated PB Jan19-05

Niall introduced this paper, updating the Board on progress since the extraordinary meeting on resourcing last July. There was confirmation that Welsh and Scottish Ministers had not yet been informed of the approach but it was agreed that close coordination across the GB (or UK) administrations was essential. The Board agreed to hold fire on developing the bid as there is still considerable uncertainty about the timing of the SR19 process although it is likely to be in autumn that bids will need to be finalised. The Board also agreed that there needs to be close coordination of INNS bids with agencies and that the central bid needs to make it clear that there are other resourcing bids on INNS also

going forward. The Board also suggested that the bid needed to be larger as it might give the impression that £1.1 million would solve most INNS problems going forward (which it won't). Martin suggested using the figures on p14 (related to agency spend) to demonstrate why we need to spend more on prevention and the Board agreed again on the priorities that had been agreed at the July meeting – namely alerts, rapid response and prevention more generally.

There was also discussion on the need for a separate inspectorate or whether most of the inspectorate/enforcement functions could be performed by existing inspectorates. **Flavie** queried whether the inspectorate functions outlined in the paper were linked to priority pathways and Niall replied that it was partly linked to agreed Board priorities for PAPs but that the comprehensive pathway analysis that Olaf is completing will also be fed into this process.

ACTION 2: All to feed back on the possible roles and responsibilities of an inspectorate paper – by March 14.

ACTION 3: Olaf to circulate his pathway analysis paper by February 28.

6. EU Regulation

Paper circulated PB Jan19-06

The Board agreed with the approach set out in the paper on EU reporting. **Stan** said that Jenny Park will be leading on collating the information for Scotland. **Sarah** then updated the Board on progress with the two SI's for England and Wales and **Stan** updated on the position in Scotland. The Board was keen to be kept abreast of progress. **Niall** also updated the Board on the current position with species listing (17-18 likely to be proposed by the Commission with a vote in June) and pathway analysis/action.

ACTION 4: Sarah to keep the Board updated on progress with the statutory instruments.

7. GB Strategy

Paper circulated PB Jan19-07

Exception reporting

Niall reported on problems with the stalled research working group – due to the very busy schedules of the chair and secretary. He hopes that it can be reconvened soon.

Wales working group

Martin provided an update for the Board on progress with the Wales Working Group – which met once in 2018. He mentioned the new INNS portal for Wales, the new newsletter, the continued prioritising of species and the funding bid for the pan-Wales project to assist in developing strategic action.

Scotland working group

Stan reported that the working group had not met in over 12 months. He reported on the success of the HLF bid for stoat eradication in Orkney, the Life RSPB seabird island biosecurity project for the UK and the successful eradication of Rhododendron in a glen in Scotland.

8. Rapid responses

Updates from agencies

Mark, Adrian, Theresa, Flavie and **Stan** all provided updates on rapid response priorities as detailed below.

Environment Agency

- White-river crayfish. Phase one of the eradication (from the only site in GB - three ponds near Windsor) has begun.
- Water primrose. Now eradicated from 15 out of 36 sites (when the campaign started there were only six known sites so the problem is still growing).
- Various-leaved water milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). Work continues to eradicate this species at its only GB site. The final pond (of three) will be filled in this year.
- Topmouth Gudgeon. Eradicated from all but 2 sites in England (out of a total of 30 across England and Wales).

- Floating pennywort. This plant has received considerable media attention in the past year. The EA removed over 1,700 tons from rivers in 2018.

Natural Resources Wales

- Topmouth Gudgeon. NRW intends to secure a secondment from the Environment Agency to carry out a feasibility study on eradication at the Welsh sites. The intention is that, subject to the results of the study, removal will begin in winter 2019-20.
- Raccoon dog. One had been captured in mid-Wales but was released and has not been seen since. This was reported to NNSS.
- Edible frog. Several edible frogs were captured in central Wales during work on Alpine newts. These were euthanised. It looks like they were not breeding.

Natural England

- American Bullfrog. The Sussex population is believed exterminated and a report of bullfrog in Essex is likely to be marsh frog, NE will continue surveillance for the next few years.
- Marbled Newt. There will be surveillance in the area near the known ponds in Devon to determine the extent of their distribution – prior to commencing control. The Macclesfield population is believed to have died out – as a survey failed to locate any.

Animal and Plant Health Agency

- Ruddy duck. Estimated UK population is now 23, with 17 birds removed in 2018. The largest remaining concentration is in north-west England. These will be targeted in 2019.
- Monk parakeet. Still about 20 birds remaining – all on the Isle of Dogs, which are being dealt with by egg control – 57 eggs were removed in 2018. Whilst this is keeping a lid on the population it is not reducing it Defra is paying for research on a novel nest trap.

Scottish Natural Heritage

- Floating pennywort. This has not returned to the single Scottish site which was controlled in 2018.
- Racoons. There have been two individuals detected using camera traps.

9. Communications update

Paper circulated PB Jan19-09

Niall updated the Board on Communications developments - notably the Public Awareness survey (England), Invasive Species Week and Border Campaign.

10. Secretariat report

Paper circulated PB Jan19-10

Niall talked to the paper detailing the work of the secretariat since February last year. The Board thanked the secretariat on the large volume of its work.

11. AOB

Mark raised the issue of Japanese knotweed, including the Network Rail court case and the recent Science and Technology select committee enquiry at which he gave evidence. He highlighted the issue around RICS and mortgage lenders and raised the issue that there may be a need for research to quantify the actual risk that Japanese knotweed poses to the built environment. **Theresa** pointed out that they had let a small contract reviewing the impacts of Japanese knotweed in Wales.

12. Date and location of future meetings

The Board decided to aim to have the next meeting in Edinburgh in June back-to-back with the stakeholder forum.