

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

MINUTES

**CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, LONDON
Tuesday 01 April 2014, 14.00**

1. Attendance / Apologies

Present:

Trevor Salmon (Chair, Defra)
Niall Moore (NNS, Secretary)
Nick Bialynicki-Birula (NRW) – by telecon
Olaf Booy (NNS)
Emma Boyd (Defra)
Ken Bradley (DOENI) – by telecon
Mark Diamond (EA)
Chris De Grouchy (Defra)
Megan Ellershaw (NE)
Richard Ferris (JNCC)
Stephen Foster (DOENI) – by telecon
Julian Hosking (NE) - by telecon
Jason Hubert (FC)
Craig Lee (Defra)
Ant Maddock (JNCC)
Gerardine McEvoy (DOENI) – by telecon
Rose Muir (DOENI) – by telecon
Catherine Murdoch (Scottish Government) - by telecon
Pete Robertson (AHVLA) - by telecon
Dave Thomas (Welsh Government)
Des Thompson (SNH)
Stan Whitaker (SNH) – by telecon

Apologies received from:

Sallie Bailey (FC) – replaced by Jason Hubert
Phil Boon (SNH) - replaced by Des Thompson
Colin Charman (NRW)
Hugh Dignon (Scottish Government)
Adrian Jowitt (NE) – replaced by Megan Ellershaw
Martin Williams (Welsh Government)
Gabe Wyn (NRW)

TS welcomed all to the meeting and explained that he was chairing for this meeting as Jeremy Eppel has changed his responsibilities and would no longer be chairing the Board. TS introduced Chris De Grouchy (CDG), Jeremy's replacement, who will be chairing subsequent Board meetings.

JH informed the Board that he was continuing to represent the Forestry Commission (in place of Sallie Bailey) until June.

2. Minutes of meeting on 29 October 2013

Paper circulated PB Apr 14-02

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3. Actions/matters arising

Paper circulated PB Apr 14-03

All actions had been discharged or were carried over (see Action Point list with deadlines). There were no matters arising.

ACTION 1 (previous 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).

ACTION 2 (Previous Action 12) – MD to circulate the Ponto-Caspian risk assessment report to the Board when it is finalised.

ACTION 3 (Previous 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 4 (Previous 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 5 (Previous Action 18) – OB to circulate his Presentation on Risk Management (*from the October Board meeting*) to the Board.

ACTION 6 (Previous Action 19 *modified*) – NNSS to take forward publication of the Crayfish ISAP (note dates in Crayfish ISAP need to be revisited).

ACTION 7 (Previous Action 20 *modified*) – MD to keep the Board informed on progress with the Floating Pennywort business case in order to feed in to the ISAP.

ACTION 8 (Previous Action 21 *modified*) – NNSS to start to develop a Framework for Pathway Action Planning (using Zoos as the model) for discussion at the next Programme Board meeting.

4. EU IAS Regulation

Papers circulated PB Apr 14-04A, B and C

TS updated the Board on the current situation with the EU IAS Regulation. MD queried whether there would be a common implementation strategy across the EU. TS confirmed that this was the aim, but that additional cooperation such as that to support regional pathway action plans, were also envisaged. AM queried whether there was a gap in the EU regulations on wildlife diseases. TS agreed to review this. RF asked about the frequency of revision of the list of IAS of Union Concern. TS confirmed that this was intended to be flexible so that species could be added or removed at relatively short notice. A formal review of the Regulations and the lists would though also occur in 2021. JH queried the onerousness of the obligations on member states re species such as grey squirrels. TS confirmed that the regulations were intended to apply proportionately and allowed a degree of flexibility regarding the nature and scale of management plans for widespread species. We will be working with the Commission to develop this approach and seek guidance where necessary. ME queried whether there was guidance on the surveillance obligations in the regulation. TS replied that there was no specific guidance as yet but that the Commission had been asked to develop this. ME also queried whether Border Force (BF) have been included in discussions on the implementation of the Regulation. TS replied that BF have been included in discussions and are confident that they can build on existing mechanisms to implement the necessary border controls required by the Regulation.

ACTION 9 – TS to investigate the approach being proposed to wildlife disease issues in the proposed new EU Animal Health regulation and report back to the Board.

ACTION 10 – TS to draft and circulate ‘Duffer’s Guide’ for the EU Regulation.

5. GB Strategy Review

Papers circulated PB Apr 14-05A and B

CL introduced this item, updating the Board on progress and outlining next steps. CM observed that the proposal to publish in September was not good timing for Scotland. DT agreed that this timing was also not good for Wales. The Board agreed to aim for publication by the end of the calendar year. CM also offered help with drafting.

NBB suggested that it would be useful (for the governance section) if the Board could be reminded of the ToRs for itself and the Scottish and Welsh INNS working groups. There was considerable discussion on the future composition of the Board, including the issue of having NGO/Industry representation. The Board agreed that whilst engagement with NGOs and transparency of actions to them was important, their membership of the PB was not appropriate as it may serve to inhibit a frank exchange of views amongst government and its agencies. However, it also agreed that NGOs representation on a revived England working group could achieve these aims. There was also considerable discussion on the other governance issues including the strategic nature of the Board.

Whether the strategy should make explicit mention of resourcing upfront in this section was highlighted by MD. CDG suggested that the resourcing issue would clearly be a large part of the strategic role of the Board in the future but that too explicit mention of it in the strategy would not be appropriate. It was noted that resources were already mentioned in specific sections rather than upfront.

The Board then went through the other parts of the paper – section by section – only highlighting areas where there was disagreement with the suggested recommendations. AM suggested that on the pathway and risk assessment sections it would be useful if it was more explicit about how all this fits together. This was agreed. On contingency planning CM suggested that there should be more emphasis on general contingency planning, MD queried this and the Board generally agreed that this should be mentioned but taken forward only where appropriate.

In the legislation section CM raised that issue that some of the recommendations were more appropriate for Ministers and it was agreed to remove the second recommendation in this section. ME suggested that in the public awareness section there was a need for an extra recommendation on minimum standards for awareness/training of staff at Agencies. AM suggested having a recommendation for closer ties with Europe rather than just one specific recommendation for a forum among neighbouring EU member states. Consideration would be given to these suggestions.

ACTION 11 - NNSS to circulate ToR's of the Programme Board and Scottish and Welsh INNS Working Groups.

ACTION 12 - ALL to comment (to NNSS or Craig Lee at Defra) on the proposals for the revised strategy by April 30.

6. Any Other Business

DT informed the Board that control of the chipmunks in the Neath area of south Wales had commenced with live trapping. None has been trapped so far and no animals have been seen.

CL updated the Board on progress with the proposals for legislating for Species Control Orders in England in Wales.

NM informed the board that the National Trust is planning an eradication of the Asian ant *Lasius neglectus* which only occurs at one location in GB. The Trust is keen for the Board to take a view on and if possible support its plans for this unique eradication.

ACTION 13 - NM to circulate a paper outlining the current position with plans for eradicating the Asian ant *Lasius neglectus*.

7. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held in early July.

ACTION 14 - NNSS to canvass for suitable dates for the next Programme Board meeting (in early July 2014 if possible).