

**COORDINATED AGENDA FOR MARINE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS
SCIENCE BOARD**

3rd BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 13 January - Room 004, Pentland House

MINUTE OF MEETING

Present:

Sue Walker (Chair)

James Curran (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)

Ian Bainbridge (Scottish Natural Heritage)

Antje Branding (Environment Directorate, Scottish Government)

Bruce Beveridge (Rural Directorate, Scottish Government) until item 7.

Ron Stagg (RERAD, Scottish Government)

Nick Halfhide (Deer Commission Scotland)

Maggie Gill (RERAD, Scottish Government)

Gordon Machray (SASA, Scottish Government)

Anna Whyte (Food Standards Agency Scotland)

Charlotte Maltin (Quality Meat Scotland)

Rebekah Widdowfield (RERAD, Scottish Government)

Roger Coppock (Forestry Commission Scotland)

Ruth Wolstenholme (SNIFFER) until item 3.

Janet Forbes (SNIFFER) until item 3.

Kevin Rae (CAMERAS Secretariat)

Leanne Miller (CAMERAS Secretariat)

Apologies:

Robin Cook (Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Government)

Martyn Cox (Marine Scotland, Scottish Government)

Richard Allan (Scottish Water)

1. Welcome and introductions

SW welcomed the group to the 3rd meeting of the CAMERAS Board. Bruce Beveridge, SG Rural Communities, was introduced and explained that he would be attending in the interim due to Gerry Selkirk's recent retirement from the Scottish Government.

SW welcomed Ruth Wolstenholme and Janet Forbes from SNIFFER to the meeting and it was agreed that the SNIFFER presentation would be moved up the running order.

Apologies were received from Robin Cook, Martyn Cox and Richard Allan.

2. CAMERAS Information and Communications Management and Analysis contract plus Science Communications Conference Update

KR provided the Board with some background on the Scottish Government contract with SNIFFER.

Ruth Wolstenholme gave a presentation to the Board on the SNIFFER Information and Communications Management and Analysis Contract.

AP01 - KR to circulate SNIFFER presentation to Board members.

A discussion took place around the programme and arrangements for the CAMERAS Science Communication Conference. SW felt that the event description should be developed to include mention of government policy development and implementation. It was agreed that the first slot for each session should a policy presentation to allow policy colleagues to explain their requirements from science.

AP02 - MG to identify relevant policy speakers to open sessions.

JC suggested that a briefing note on the policy context for each theme should be produced and circulated to all speakers and Board members. It was agreed that this would be worthwhile.

AP03 - KR to arrange for policy context briefing note for each theme to be produced and circulated around speakers and Board members.

IB suggested that Steve Albon could provide a very timely overview of ecosystem services and recommended him as a speaker. RW suggested that at future events, an academic could be commissioned to produce an overview of the field.

The draft conference programme was discussed. MG felt that academic talks should be extended to 15 minutes and the brainstorming session reduced to 20 minutes. With regards to academic speakers, her expectation is for SNIFFER to identify controversial, cutting edge, radical science speakers - top scientists with the latest cutting edge science. SW confirmed that the scientists do not necessarily have to be Scottish, although a Scottish connection would be desirable. It was agreed that Board members should provide KR with suggestions for possible speakers and identify the people from within their organisations who should attend the conference and also feed these names to him.

AP04 - Board members to provide KR with suggestions for possible conference speakers.

AP05 - Board members to identify conference attendees from within their organisation and pass names and contact details to KR.

Possible conference chairs were discussed. MG reminded the Board that they had to be minded of the cost of any prospective chair.

AP06 - MG to investigate a suitable chair and liaise with SNIFFER.

The issue of CAMERAS branding was raised. KR explained that this was being looked into. NH suggested that SEARS was a good place to start and thought that Mike Garden or Stephen Lewis may be able to provide some advice.

SW confirmed that a CAMERAS Board meeting will be held on the afternoon of the second day of the conference – Thursday 4th March 2010.

3. Actions arising from last meeting

KR provided an update on actions arising from the last meeting of the Board.

4. CAMERAS Partner Activity Alignment Maps plus Groups, Committees and Connections Tables

Partner Activity Alignment Map (PAAM)

MG shared with the Board her ideas on how the PAAM could be used, including: helping to identify organisations that could be involved in strategy refresh activity; organising work with regards to national outcomes delivery; and informing general coordination.

RS explained that the Rural and Environment Strategy group were in the process of mapping scientific activity across the National Performance Framework and felt that the group would be able to use the PAAM to inform the work.

NH questioned whether mechanisms were in place to address situations where partners do not involve other organisations i.e. some form of enforcement mechanism. He also wondered whether CAMERAS should have a risk/opportunities register in place to allow key people to take ownership of specific items.

RW felt that before looking at enforcement, it would be helpful to draft a document set out 'what collaboration looks like'. CM expressed concern that enforcement could lead to 'seriously difficult conversations'. GM suggested that it would be useful if policy colleagues were fed into this to allow their views to be included. SW pointed out that the CAMERAS Board had no executive power and its strength was that partners were involved because they saw a benefit. There was strong support for the CAMERAS from policy directors. She was sure that in the unlikely event of a partner having difficulty in engaging with a particular CAMERAS initiative this could be resolved by discussion.

IB thought that the PAAM was interesting due to the lack of major gaps; however, his belief was that to properly identify collaboration opportunities required a level of detail one or two levels below that offered. SW reminded the Board that this was the first cut of the PAAM and over time members would have the opportunity to refine the contents.

On the topic of collaboration, CM suggested that Sharepoint technology may be able to offer a solution. KR agreed to include this in the thinking when working with SNIFFER on communication tools. SW felt that the culture of collaboration needed to be fed down from the Board level to staff within their organisations and suggested that the SEPA drafted CAMERAS paper could be used to assist. AB thought that future resource issues could act as a driver for future collaboration.

Groups, Committees and Organisations

The CAMERAS Groups, Committees and Connections Table was discussed and MG asked those who had yet to submit a return to please do so. KR explained that the level of detail supplied so far prevented any meaningful network diagram to be produced but the tables did allow for the range of organisations to be assessed. MG suggested that it would be useful if each Board member could identify their top five organisations that would have a CAMERAS interest and top five key committees they are involved in. KR agreed to send out a request for the information.

AP07 - Board members to provide KR with detail of their top five organisations that would have a CAMERAS interest and top five key committees they are involved with.

5. Draft of the CAMERAS 'Vision' Paper

SW thanked JC and SEPA for drafting the paper. The updated draft was discussed and Board members identified a number of additional amendments. SW agreed to incorporate the suggestions into a final draft and liaise with KR to arrange for it to be reproduced in hard copy and on the web.

NH suggested that the paper was possibly something that Ministers may wish to launch.

AP08 - KR to engage communications staff about CAMERAS paper and investigate ministerial involvement in the Conference.

6. Long Term Monitoring

JC presented a draft paper on long term monitoring to the Board, explaining that SEPA, SG and SNH were planning to meet to begin taking this work forward. SW asked how broad the Board felt this strategy should be.

IB explained that SNH had responsibility for legally required monitoring that if not carried out would result in infraction. He suggested that a piece for work should be taken forward to identify all areas of monitoring to allow any gaps to be identified.

RS felt that it would be helpful if the document explained the drivers for this monitoring e.g. EU regulations. RW said that it was good that the paper included the socio-economic aspect but there was a question as to how we were defining monitoring. NH suggested that the National Performance Framework (NPF) should be the starting point for any gap analysis; although JC felt that the document needed to be future-proof, with a shelf life of decades. BB thought that the NPF and how monitoring supported this would be a useful exercise.

At this point Bruce Beveridge left the meeting.

AB explained that she had circulated the paper around the Environmental Quality Directorate and the feedback was that most monitoring was set in stone by the EU – it was an element of work that was fixed; at this point no soil monitoring was taking place and the Soils Directive would be very prescriptive.

RC explained that FCS are currently carrying out a complete review of their monitoring; however, most of their drivers are industry and organisational. In his view, this paper should cover national and international drivers.

IB suggested that the strategy could take a modular approach, with each organisation's monitoring requirements being slotted in place. He then questioned what this would look like if an ecosystem services approach was taken, rather than DPSIR. JC explained that an ecosystem services approach was highly anthropocentric and did not include air; however, he thought that a modular framework approach would be a good way to tackle this and would help to identify gaps and synergies.

RS suggested that existing SG and SEPA links with the EOF operational group meant that there was potential to duplicate work unless these functions were amalgamated e.g. a single representative on the EOF Board.

JC thanks the Board and felt that he had been able to pick up a useful steer to feedback to key SEPA staff who would be responsible for co-ordinating the next phase of strategy development. He also offered to circulate information to the wider group after the next meeting.

7. Co-ordination Activities

It was agreed that the CAMERAS Action Plan agenda item would be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

SW reminded the Board members that coordination should become second nature and asked them to encourage their staff to include staff from partner organisation in relevant communications for example in relation to conference proposals and technical visits. She asked for a volunteer to liaise with Ann Glover's office in relation to careers in science promotion. GM offered to take this to the Science and Engineering sub group that he and Robin Cook are members of.

AP09 - GM to discuss careers in science liaison role with Science and Engineering sub-group and feedback outcome before the next Board meeting.

8. Science Strategy Updates

RS provided the Board with an update on the development of the Rural and Environment strategy. He explained that SNIFFER would be assisting with the development meeting, which were taking place at the end of January.

9. Rural Land Use Summit Feedback

MG provided an update on the Rural Land Use Summit, which was held in November, and confirmed that the associated reports were now on the SG website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/About/EBAR/RLUS>). She explained that the recent Climate Change Act included a requirement for a land use strategy to be laid before parliament by March 2011 - there was now a structure in place to produce this.

A discussion took place around the need for training/CPD for people such as land managers. NH explained that the DCS provided this type of training to Deer managers and CM confirmed that QMS were also involved in providing training. RS stated that there were questions around capacity of the supply base to deliver the type of training required and explained that his research strategy policy consultation had flagged up the requirement for knowledge exchange to key end users such as farmers, industry etc.

AP10 - KR to ensure that SNIFFER includes a session during the second day of the CAMERAS conference that covers knowledge exchange to end users (training, sharing good practice, etc).

10. UK Food Research and Innovation

MG provided the Board with information on the recently published cross-government UK Food Research and Innovation Strategy.

Web link: <http://www.dius.gov.uk/~media/publications/GO-Science/UK-Cross-Government-Food-Research-Strategy>

Her opinion was that CAMERAS members on the food side should review the document, formulate a CAMERAS response to it and assess how we could connect. AW agreed to take this forward and RS was asked to connect with Robin Cook to identify individuals for each science strategy group to work with AW on this.

AP11 - AW to review UK Food Research and Innovation Strategy and produce a discussion paper for the next Board meeting.

AP12 - RS to liaise with Robin Cook to identify individuals from each science strategy working group to work with AW on CAMERAS response paper.

11. CAMERAS Action Plan

It was agreed that this standing item would be dealt with at the end of every Board meeting and SW asked for the action plan to be renamed the CAMERAS Work Programme.

The draft work programme was reviewed and a number of items added.

AP13 - KR to add CAMERAS Work Programme standing item at the end of each agenda.

12. AOB

CM brought to the attention of the Board the recently published Enabling Technologies Strategy for Scotland, which was recently published by Scottish Enterprise, and expressed some concern that the interests of much of the Board had been omitted from the document.

Web link: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/enabling-technologies-strategy.pdf>

MG informed the Board that Colin Galbraith would be joining RERAD shortly to help drive forward CAMERAS on a strategic basis.

JC provided the Board with an update on changes within SEPA relating to science. The plans included: rationalising four science lands down to two; the policy and strategy directorate joining the science directorate; reducing the amount of water monitoring under the water monitoring directive, while increasing land monitoring; and establishing a network of 'citizen scientists'.

SW informed the Board that she would be meeting with Ann Glover in March.

13. Date of future meetings

The next meeting to be held on 4th March as part of the second day of the CAMERAS conference.

3rd Meeting of CAMERAS Board - Agreed Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
AP01	Circulate SNIFFER presentation to Board members.	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP02	Identify relevant policy speakers to open sessions	Maggie Gill	End of January 2010
AP03	Arrange for policy context briefing note for each conference theme to be produced and circulated around speakers and Board members.	Kevin Rae	End of January 2010
AP04	Provide KR with suggestions for possible conference speakers.	Board Members	22 January 2010
AP05	Identify conference attendees from within their organisation and pass names and contact details to KR.	Board Members	22 January 2010
AP06	Investigate a suitable chair and liaise with SNIFFER.	Maggie Gill	Ongoing
AP07	Provide KR with detail of their top five organisations that would have a CAMERAS interest and top five key committees they are involved with.	Board Members	End of February 2010
AP08	Engage communications staff about CAMERAS paper, arrange publication and investigate ministerial involvement in the Conference.	Kevin Rae	End of January 2010
AP09	GM to discuss careers in science liaison role with Science and Engineering sub-group and feedback outcome before the next Board meeting.	Gordon Machray	End of February 2010
AP10	Ensure that SNIFFER includes a session during the second day of the CAMERAS conference that covers knowledge exchange to end users (training, sharing good practice, etc).	Kevin Rae	End of January 2010
AP11	Review UK Food Research and Innovation Strategy and produce a discussion paper for the next Board meeting.	Anna Whyte	End of February 2010
AP12	Liaise with Robin Cook to identify individuals from each strategy working group to work with AW on CAMERAS response paper.	Ron Stagg	End of January 2010
AP13	Add CAMERAS Work Programme standing item at the end of each agenda.	Kevin Rae	Cleared

Ongoing Actions from Previous Meetings

Original Action	Updated Action	Responsibility
The CAMERAS statement with minor modifications to be published on the SG website.	N/A	KR