

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

4th BOARD MEETING

Thursday 4 March – Discovery Point, Dundee

MINUTE OF MEETING

Present:

Sue Walker (Chair)

James Curran (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)

Ian Bainbridge (Scottish Natural Heritage)

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)

Richard Allan (Scottish Water)

Trevor Hastings (Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Government)

Colin Galbraith (RERAD, Scottish Government)

Steve Albon (MLURI) until item 3

Joanne Porter (Heriot Watt University – Observer)

Kevin Rae (CAMERAS Secretariat)

Leanne Miller (CAMERAS Secretariat)

Apologies:

Robin Cook (Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Government)

Martyn Cox (Marine Scotland, Scottish Government)

Francis Brewis (Environment Directorate, Scottish Government)

Bruce Beveridge (Rural Directorate, Scottish Government)

The Board agreed to take agenda item 8, a presentation from Anna Whyte on Analysis of UK Cross Government Food Research and Innovation Strategy, before the formal opening of the meeting to enable the meeting to proceed in advance of Steve Albon's arrival. In addition to Board members, Fiona Newcombe (DCS) and Nichola Badcock (LWEC) were present for this item.

1) Welcome and introductions

SW welcomed the group to the 4th meeting of the CAMERAS Board.

Apologies were received from Robin Cook, Martyn Cox, Francis Brewis and Bruce Beveridge.

2) Presentation on the National Ecosystem Assessment Project

MG introduced Steve Albon who delivered a presentation on the National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA).

Steve explained that the NEA had established a client group on which the Scottish Government were represented by Charles Stewart Roper and Joanna Drewitt. The Board were told that the NEA report would be published in March 2011.

AP01 - Circulate the NEA brochure web link to Board members (KR)

NEA Progress and Steps Towards Delivery Brochure:

<http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/NEACommunications/tabid/105/Default.aspx>

3) Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions Arising

The minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Board were agreed. KR provided an update on matters arising and indicated that there had been a low response to 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." KR agreed to send out a reminder email to the Board and members were asked to provide the requested information.

AP02 - Send reminder email to Board re detail of top five organisations with a CAMERAS interest and top five key committees (KR)

4) CAMERAS Conference Debrief

SW felt that this item had been mainly covered in the morning workshop session and offered the Board an opportunity for further discussion. The consensus was that no additional discussion was required and the feeling was the conference had been a success. SNIFFER would provide a formal report on the conference identifying next steps and the matter would be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

RA thanked SNIFFER and the organising committee for arranging such a successful event. SW seconded this.

5) Reflections on NEA Presentation

The Board reflected on the NEA presentation. NH asked for a point of clarification on how NEA outcomes were built into the SG 2011-16 programmes of research. RS

confirmed that there was a theme on ecosystem services (ESS) within the programme – containing three work packages: identifying, valuing and how to use.

TH felt Scotland had opportunity to shape the assessment of marine ecosystems and MG explained that this process is already taking place to a certain extent e.g. Marine Scotland feeding into the charting process. JC said that he did not think that ESS can answer all questions – it does not address the atmosphere for example – but it should be used when appropriate.

RS explained that this should be viewed as a first step as it was still in the developmental stage and seen as progress that a discussion was taking place around ecosystems.

RC was interested in the second stage of the assessment but thought that there was danger in developing unrealistic policy scenarios if policy colleagues were not directly involved. MG confirmed that it would be policy colleagues that would take this forward. KR was asked to invite Charles Stewart Roper to a future Board to talk about the NEA.

AP03 - Invite Charles Stewart Roper to future Board to discuss NEA (KR)

RS questioned whether there was a need to get marine policy further engaged with the NEA. It was agreed that TH should take back to Marine Scotland suggestion that they should engage with Charles Stewart Roper on NEA to ensure that their interests are covered.

AP04 - Take back to Marine Scotland suggestion that they should engage with Charles Stewart Roper on NEA to ensure that their interests are covered (TH)

6) CAMERAS Leaflet

The newly published CAMERAS Leaflet was presented to the Board. KR was asked to ensure copies were distributed to all CAMERAS partner organisations.

AP05 - Email board members to ascertain point of contact and numbers for leaflet distribution (KR)

SW identified the need to distribute the leaflet to a wider audience such as Universities, MRPs and MSPs who sit on relevant committees.

AP06 - Distribute leaflet around a wider audience, including a covering letter (KR)

A web version of the leaflet is available on the Scottish Government website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/25135310/0>

7) CAMERAS – Early Thoughts and Analysis

Colin Galbraith presented his paper to the Board and a discussion took place.

JC does not see resource as a major issue - SEPA see CAMERAS as allowing them to do the things that they want to do but with added value provided by pooling resource and expertise.

IB highlighted the need to ensure high level policy buy in to the process. SW felt that it is vital to identify outputs that will show value to policy staff.

NH wondered whether some work had been done in relation to the national outcomes to identify additional evidence needed to help deliver of them. MG suggested that the policy questions, provided as part of the recent research commissioning consultations, could be used. RS warned that these questions were constrained by what the MRPs could deliver so CAMERAS needed to have a wider view.

The group agreed that it would be worthwhile to create a briefing group and tasked CG to take this forward to pilot the development of a briefing.

AP07 - Identify a policy topic and pull together briefing group with an aim to deliver by the April 2010 Board Meeting (CG)

RC suggested that it would be useful to find out the dates for research commissioning rounds. JC suggested that a partner may already be in the process of pulling together a briefing which could be used for this trial.

AP08 - Provide information on commissioning rounds and suggestions for policy briefing topics (Board Members)

Agenda Item 8 was dealt with before the meeting formally opened.

9) Careers in Science – Progress Update

GM provided an update. He explained that he had been in discussion with Robin Cook, who chairs a sub-group of the Science and Engineering Profession Board looking into careers in science in the Scottish Government. This sub-group would be focusing on internal issues which have arisen from SASA and FRS scientists coming back into central government.

GM also confirmed that he had taken this issue to the Science and Engineering Profession Board – they welcomed this and indicated that they would be happy to provide information.

SW suggested that this could feed into a future agenda item.

The recently published “Science & Engineering 21 - Action Plan for education for the 21st Century” was mentioned. KR was asked to pass the web link to Board members.

AP09 - Provide web link to Science & Engineering 21 - Action Plan for education for the 21st Century(KR)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/Science/Plan>

10) Strategy Updates

Rural/Environment Strategy

RS provided an update on development of the Rural/Environment strategy. He explained that the working group had found difficulty in brigading activity by national outcomes and found the purpose targets to be much more useful for this exercise. A mapping exercise is now underway and the aim is to publish the strategy at the end of May 2010.

Scottish Environmental Monitoring Strategy

JC provided an update on strategy development. A PID has now been drafted and they are currently looking into approaches that other countries have taken. They are hopeful that gaps and opportunities for shared services will be identified. Internal workshops are being trialled before holding external events with CAMERAS partners. The aim is to complete by September 2010.

SW stressed the need to ensure that the marine side was covered and Marine Scotland was involved.

TH wondered whether monitoring that was not required would be identified. JC confirmed that this is a sensitivity that they were aware of.

11) Work Plan Review

The CAMERAS work plan was reviewed. RA and TH agreed to take the lead on development of a freshwater strategy.

AP10 - Take lead on Fresh Water strategy development – form a group and report back to April Board meeting with a scoping document (RA/TH)

TH asked for clarification on the need for this strategy. SW explained that there was a need to ensure that existing approaches, across partners, were aligned and any gaps identified. This is why a scoping exercise is so important.

RW suggested that it would be useful to add a column to the work plan that explains the purpose of the activity/actions. The Board agree a number of actions to be added to the work plan.

AP11 - Add purpose of activity column to work plan (KR)

AP12 - Arrange a food seminar on conjunction with policy colleagues (MG)

AP13 - Produce scoping note on waste in relation to food: Producer – Consumer (RW)

AP14 - Scoping of micro flora and fauna – monitoring, issues around policy – land based and marine. JC suggested John Redshaw from SEPA genomics workshop (JC/GM)

AP15 - Scope Soil Carbon activity across CAMERAS Partners include Geeta Puri (RSD) and Patricia Bruno (SNH) (RC)

AP16 - Scope Horizon Scanning activity (IB to speak to SNH Lead)

AP17 - Provide Board with regular updates on behaviour research (RW)

AP18 - Produce a three meeting, forward look agenda programme(KR)

AP19 - Send web address of SG CAMERAS sub site to partners (KR)

AP20 - Add SG CAMERAS Sub site web link to organisation website (Board Members)

12)AOB

RC explained that the previously circulated FCS Science and Innovation strategy document had gone to the FCS Board and is now being viewed as a holding strategy until a new strategy can be produced. This will provide an opportunity for CAMERAS partner involvement.

13)Date of future meetings

The next meeting to be held on 28th April in Pentland House.

4th Meeting of CAMERAS Board - Agreed Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
AP01	Circulate the NEA brochure web link to Board members (KR)	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP02	Send reminder email to Board re detail of top five organisations with a CAMERAS interest and top five key committees (KR)	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP03	Invite Charles Stewart Roper to future Board to discuss NEA (KR)	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP04	Take back to Marine Scotland suggestion that they should engage with Charles Stewart Roper on NEA to ensure that their interests are covered (TH)	Trevor Hastings	End April 2010
AP05	Email board members to ascertain point of contact and numbers for leaflet distribution (KR)	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP06	Distribute leaflet around a wider audience, including a covering letter (KR)	Kevin Rae	End March 2010
AP07	Identify a policy topic and pull together briefing group with an aim to deliver by the April 2010 Board Meeting (CG)	Colin Galbraith	End April 2010
AP08	Provide information on commissioning rounds and suggestions for policy briefing topics.	Board Members	End March 2010
AP09	Provide web link to Science & Engineering 21 - Action Plan for education for the 21st Century	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP10	Take lead on Fresh Water strategy development – form a group and report back to April Board meeting with a scoping document (RA/TH)	Richard Allan Trevor Hastings	See work plan
AP11	Add purpose of activity column to work plan	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP12	Arrange a food seminar on conjunction with policy colleagues	Maggie Gill	See work plan
AP13	Produce scoping note on waste in relation to food: Producer – Consumer	Rebekah Widdowfield	See work plan
AP14	Scoping of micro flora and fauna – monitoring, issues around policy – land based and marine. JC suggested John Redshaw from SEPA genomics workshop	James Curran Gordon Machray	See work plan
AP15	Scope Soil Carbon activity across CAMERAS Partners include Geeta Puri (RSD) and Patricia Bruno (SNH)	Roger Coppock	See work plan
AP16	Scope Horizon Scanning activity (IB to speak to SNH Lead)	Ian Bainbridge	See work plan
AP17	Provide Board with regular updates on behaviour and analysis of behaviours.	Rebekah Widdowfield	Ongoing
AP18	Produce a three meeting, forward look agenda programme.	Kevin Rae	End April 2010
AP19	Send web address of SG CAMERAS sub site to partners.	Kevin Rae	Cleared
AP20	Add SG CAMERAS Sub site web link to organisation website.	Board Members	End April 2010

Ongoing Actions from Previous Meetings

Original Action	Updated Action	Responsibility
Provide KR with detail of their top five organisations that would have a CAMERAS interest and top five key committees they are involved with.	N/A	Board Members