

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

6th BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 28 July 2010 – Saughton House, Edinburgh

MINUTE OF MEETING

Present:

Sue Walker (Chair)
Anna Whyte (Food Standards Agency Scotland)
Avril Davidson (SG, Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser)
Ben Dipper (SG, Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser)
Bruce Beveridge (Rural Directorate, Scottish Government)
Charles Stewart Roper (SG, Biodiversity Strategy)
Charlotte Maltin (Quality Meat Scotland) *from Item 4*
Colin Galbraith (RERAD, Scottish Government)
Francis Brewis (Environment Directorate, Scottish Government) (*from item 7*)
Gordon Machray (SASA, Scottish Government)
Kevin Rae (CAMERAS Secretariat)
James Curran (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)
Maggie Gill (RERAD, Scottish Government)
Nick Halfhide (Deer Commission Scotland)
Richard Allan (Scottish Water)
Robin Cook (Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Government)
Roger Coppock (Forestry Commission Scotland) (RCop)
Ruth Wolstenholme (SNIFFER)

Apologies:

Ian Bainbridge (Scottish Natural Heritage)
Rebekah Widdowfield (RERAD, Scottish Government)
Ron Stagg (RERAD, Scottish Government)

1) Welcome and introductions

SW welcomed the group to the sixth meeting of the CAMERAS Board.
Apologies were received from Ian Bainbridge, Rebekah Widdowfield and Ron Stagg.

2) Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions Arising

The minutes of the 5th Board meeting were agreed with minor amendments.

Actions Arising

KR informed the Board that all actions arising had been cleared and presented the Cameras groups and committees table for discussion. SW suggested that the Board agree to pilot a single Cameras representative approach in relation to attendance at some external meetings. MG suggested the LWEC Partners Board as a suitable candidate and agreed to take this forward with JC.

AP01 - Pilot single Cameras co-ordinated approach for LWEC Partners Board – discuss with JC (MG)

CG spoke to the research commissioning rounds paper and asked the Board if they felt there would be value in partners analysing the timeline to identify opportunities for commissioning alignment. SW suggested that this was of most relevance to the big research commissioners, including : SW, SNH and FCS. RCop agreed to take this analysis forward, in conjunction with SNH, and produce a brief paper for the next Board meeting on October.

AP02 - Produce research commissioning alignment paper for October Board meeting (RCop)

3) SNIFFER Work Plan 2010-11 Progress Report and Proposal for single Outcomes workshop

RW was welcomed to the Board and provided a progress update on the SNIFFER Cameras Communication contract work programme. She informed that Board that work was progressing on the horizon scanning and soil carbon workshops and that website development work was underway, with an aim to have the site live by the end of August 2010 (www.camerasscotland.org.uk). MG suggested that in advance of the horizon scanning workshop RW speak to the SG futures team, as they are taking forward futures work in the area of food.

AP03 - Provide RW with contact details for SG Food futures lead (MG)

RW then presented a proposal to the Board for a Cameras Single Outcomes Agreement workshop. A discussion followed with the view being that it was an area that justified further work. SW felt that a workshop would have two purposes of exploring with Local Authorities what their needs are and identifying subject areas for discussion, and that it should be seen as the beginning of a process. RW suggested that any workshop should be limited to two subjects There agreement around the table that it should incorporate an urban focus - flood management and biodiversity were suggested as possible subjects. BB though that the workshop could be very significant and fully supported the suggestion. The Board agreed for SNIFFER to take this forward on that basis.

4) CAMERAS Conference – March 2011 - Themes

SW asked the Board for their views on possible themes for the March 2011 Cameras conference and suggested that it could either be policy driven or, in light of the three Cameras strategies being in place, used as an information and discursive session. MG thought that the timing of the event, which coincides with the beginning of the new RERAD programmes of research, Centres of Expertise (CoE) and Strategic Partnerships and the election period, could provide an opportunity; although, BB felt that the sensitivities around the timing and location of the conference must be taken into account when deciding on themes. The discussion revolved around science engagement, knowledge exchange and communications but it was suggested that some of these areas had been covered elsewhere. RCop suggested the Forestry Standards as a possible theme due to their evidence based nature and the involvement of Cameras partners in their development.

RW suggested that named contacts within the partner organisations would be useful in assisting SNIFFER to take this forward. The Board members agreed that they would be willing to take on this role. SW asked RW to engage with Board members to develop the thinking further and provide an update proposal for the Oct meeting.

AP04 - Provide Cameras conference update proposal for October Board meeting (RW)

5) Draft Rural and Environment Science Strategy (RESS)

RW talked through the RESS development process, on behalf of Ron Stagg. She explained that the group attempted to mirror the marine Science Strategy approach. She sought the views of the Board in the following areas:

i) Clarify what should constitute the strategy and whether 'strategy' was the correct term

RW informed the Board that the development group raised questions around whether the document was about the way partner organisations work together or about science needs. SW agreed that there was a question around what the appropriate titles were for these documents and asked MG to provide clarification.

AP05 - Ascertain the appropriate titles for the Cameras 'strategy' documents (MG)

JC raised the issue of whether the documents were for Cameras or for Scotland, with his view being that they were for the former. NH explained that his interpretation of the document was that it set out a common science agenda and provided a mechanism for taking this agenda forward. MG said that she would not have any difficulty in referring to the document as an agenda and implementation plan.

RC stated that the Marine Science Strategy is a Scottish Government rather than Cameras document, although the Cameras Board provided a valuable level of alignment. His personal view was that he was not precious about the name. JC was open to suggestions for document titles and thought that it was a good document, although he had identified areas where work was already being taken forward and was not reflected in the document.

The outcome of the discussion was that the group were broadly content with the tone and pitch of the RESS document. They identified the need to reference the other Cameras documents and would take some guidance on the title.

ii) Purpose of document and drivers

The earlier discussion covered the purpose of the document and MG confirmed that although the economic situation was not the initial driver; it should now be viewed as an accelerator.

iii) The Vision

The group then discussed the document 'vision'. NH felt that this was not required; however, MG was of the view that as the Marine Science strategy had a vision for the marine environment one was needed for the landmass. SW suggested that the draft vision could be reworked to make it clear how it relates to the land use strategy (LUS) and Cameras. MG confirmed that the LUS wording should be finalised by the end of August. RCop felt that the purpose of the document should be set out at the beginning.

The Board then discussed section 5 of the document. JC suggested that the issues around public engagement needed a higher profile in the document; MG thought that there was a need to set out what would be done in the future; BB suggested that it was important to describe the significant added value that will be achieved by Cameras partner organisations coming together; NH suggested the need to cover public perceptions of priorities; and RCop felt that section 5 was akin to a "gap analysis" and could usefully set out how identified gaps would be addressed.

RW agreed to revisit section 5 based on these comments. SW asked RW to provide the Board with a revised final draft before the October Board meeting. It was confirmed that, as 'strategy' owner, the final version would have to be signed off by Peter Russell.

AP06 - Provide Board with final draft of RESS before October meeting (RS/RW)

6) National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) – Policy Perspective Presentation

Charles Stewart Roper, Biodiversity Strategy Team Leader, gave a presentation to the Board on the NEA and highlighted the need to identify what the NEA 'story' is for Scotland. A discussion followed.

7) Science Engagement Presentation

Ben Dipper from the Office of the Chief Scientist gave a presentation on the work that his office was taking forward on science engagement. The Board agreed that this was an area in which Cameras should become involved and JC suggested that he had a member of staff who could investigate this further in conjunction with FSAS and SASA.

AP07 - Nominate SEPA lead to Investigate and identify suitable Cameras science engagement project in conjunction with Office of Chief Scientist, FSAS and SASA (JC)

8) CAMERAS Process for Involvement of Post Graduate Students

JC talked to the SEPA produce postgraduate paper and explained the rationale behind it. RA and RCop agreed with the principal and RCop explained that FCS has extensive experience of supporting postgraduates. CM suggested that it could be useful for Cameras to link up with BBSRC to get studentships.

The Board agreed in principal with proposal and CM and RCop both agreed to feed in there experience to JC, who would lead on this.

9) Marine Science Strategy – Progress Report

RC provided the Board with an update on his strategy development and asked for any comments on the draft to be sent to him as soon as possible. He explained that the document was specific to MSS, SEPA and SNH – organisations directly funded by government, delivering the marine vision – and would be finalised in the next couple of weeks. Although, there were questions to bottom out around branding and ensuring consistency across the three Cameras documents. MG suggested that it would be useful if at the front of each document its purpose was clearly set out.

Fresh Water Strategy

SW informed the Board that the Policy and Science Alignments Board had asked the CAMERAS Board to look at the timing of the Fresh Water Strategy with an aim to bring forward completion to October 2010.

RA agreed to this request but made it clear that the shorter timescale would prevent extensive consultation.

AP08 - Deliver completed Fresh Water Strategy by end of October 2010 (RA)

MG suggested that the revised timing would allow a connection to be made with the Water Centre of Expertise in particular.

10) Actions Status Update

Careers in Science

GM provided an update of careers in science activity. He explained that he had discussed Cameras skills shortages with OCSA who pointed him in the direction of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). GM agreed to speak to SFC and feedback at the October meeting.

AP09 - Discuss Cameras skills requirements with SFC and feedback at October meeting (GM)

Cameras Web Presence

Partners were reminded to ensure that a link to the SG Cameras page was added to their internet pages by the end of August 2010.

Wetland International Conference

CG provided an update on the Wetlands International conference, which will be held on 22-24 February 2011 in Edinburgh. He informed the Board that in addition the seminar, a ministerial reception would be held at the Castle on the evening of 23 February 2011.

11)CAMERAS Work Plan Review

The Cameras work plan was reviewed.

12)AOB

Cameras Annual Report

SW explained that the Cameras annual report was presented to the policy and Science Alignment Board (PSB), who were content with the work of the initiative so far. SW thanked the Board members and colleagues for all of their effort in making the first year a success and stated that the plan was to circulate the report to a wider audience. She also thanked staff in RERAD for providing support to the initiative over the past year.

EU Funding Opportunities

SW told the Board that the PSB had asked Cameras partners to explore the opportunities to leave in more EU funding. The expectation was that within each organisation there would be staff who were au fait with the EU and funding, so members were asked to provide KR with a nominated individual to help take this forward.

AP10 - Provide KR with a name and contact detail for individual to take forward EU funding opportunities work (All Board Members)

Policy Interaction with Cameras

MG told the Board that she had been in discussion with policy colleagues about how best for them to interact with Cameras. One of the suggestions being to establish a smaller policy specific group to work in parallel with the Board. The Board members were warm to this suggestion and MG agreed to explore the idea further.

Deer Commission Scotland

NH informed the Board that due to the merger of DCS with SNH, this would be his final meeting as DCS representative. He offered, however, to remain on the Board if that did not present any difficulty. SW thanked him for his time as DCS representative and welcomed his offer to remain a member of the Board.

13)Date of future meetings

The next meeting to be held on 27th October in Saughton House.

6th Meeting of CAMERAS Board - Agreed Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Timescale
AP01	Pilot single Cameras co-ordinated approach for LWEC Partners Board – discuss with James Curran.	Maggie Gill	Oct 2010
AP02	Produce research commissioning alignment paper for October Board meeting.	Roger Coppock	Oct 2010
AP03	Provide Ruth Wolstenholme with contact details for SG Food futures lead.	Maggie Gill	Aug 2010
AP04	Provide Cameras conference update proposal for October Board meeting.	Ruth Wolstenholme	Oct 2010
AP05	Ascertain the appropriate titles for the Cameras 'strategy' documents.	Maggie Gill	Oct 2010
AP06	Provide Board with final draft of RESS before October meeting.	Ron Stagg/Ruth Wolstenholme	Oct 2010
AP07	Nominate SEPA lead to Investigate and identify suitable Cameras science engagement project in conjunction with Office of Chief Scientist, FSAS and SASA.	James Curran	Oct 2010
AP08	Deliver completed Fresh Water Strategy by end of October 2010.	Richard Allan	Oct 2010
AP09	Discuss Cameras skills requirements with Scottish Funding Council and feedback at October meeting.	Gordon Machray	Oct 2010
AP10	Provide KR with a name and contact detail for individual to take forward EU funding opportunities work.	All Board Members	Oct 2010

Ongoing Actions from Previous Meetings

Original Action	Updated Action	Responsibility
Nil		