

Confirmed Minutes  
**WBPSG7 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009, Gregynog, Powys.**

**Attended**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wildlife Trusts Wales
David Allen	CCW (paper)
Steven Bladwell	RSPB/WEL (for Tim Stowe)
Aethne Cooke	CCW
Hazel Drewitt	CCW
Emma Durward	Local LBAP coordinator
Gareth Ellis	LBAPs S Wales
Heli Gittens	WBP Support Team
Ian Guilford	CCW/SW Police (paper)
Tim Hall	WTW Marine Officer
Juliet Hynes	WBP Support Team
David Jenkins	Coed Cymru
Kate Lock	West Wales Sea-search Co-ordinator
Virginia Prieto Salas	North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Dick Shaw	CABI (paper)
Jan Sherry	CCW
Delcie Simkin	WAG/WBP Support Team
Alison Smith	DE&T (WAG)
Glenda Thomas	FWAG
Chris Tucker	FCW
Kate Williamson	National Parks
Robin Woodyatt	WLGA

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Steven Bromley	Groundwork
Cliff Benson	Seatrust
Peter Birch	British Waterways
Mike Bruford	Cardiff University
Helen Buckingham	National Trust Wales
Anne Butler	LBAPs N Wales
Stephen Jones	WLGA
Sean McHugh	WBP Support Team
Steve Moon	ALGE
Gerry Quarrell	WAG
Ieuan Roberts	Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd
Sean Russell	Wales Env Hub
Bill Somerfield	WAG/WBP Support Team
Tom Stowe	RSPB/WEL
Deb Hill	WLGA/ City & County of Swansea
Roy Tapping	LRCs
Dusi Thomas	Welsh Water Dwr Cymru

**Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair (Diana Reynolds) welcomed the group and explained that Ann John (WAG Marine) had gone on long term sick leave so Gerry Quarrell was still covering two

posts and sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. The Chair read out a note from Gerry which thanked the WBP members for their work and acknowledged the challenge of the 2010 targets but urged the group to think about what happens beyond 2010. Gerry also noted that he is awaiting a note from WAG Planning on the planning review and will forward this to the WBPSG when this arrives as biodiversity must be included in the review. He also reiterated his and the Minister's personal commitment to biodiversity.

### **Paper 1: Japanese Knotweed (JK) Control, Dick Shaw, CABI**

Alison Smith (DE&T) introduced the subject as the Welsh Assembly Government Department of Economy & Transport are one of the sponsors of research work against JK. The research has now reached Phase 3, the implementation and licensing phase.

Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International(CABI) is a global, not for profit organisation whose membership in the UK is represented by DEFRA. It provides solutions such as the online invasive species compendium (trial access to which can be obtained by emailing Dick Shaw [r.shaw@cabi.org](mailto:r.shaw@cabi.org)). CABI is about to merge with Kew to provide a core mycological collection and research base.

Dick gave a comprehensive presentation outlining the principles of biological control and looking in detail at some of the research that has gone into selecting a phytophagous insect. (A voiced over presentation will be available in the future to go with the consultation, unfortunately we are not able to put the current presentation on the web.)

The insect (*Aphalara itadori*, a psyllid) selected as the potential biocontrol agent against JK is extremely specific. It generally only lays eggs on knotweed species and those laid on other species tend not to develop. They also don't feed well on species other than *japonica*. The secondary and tertiary effect of this insect have also been looked into, predators do feed on it but tend to have a preference for their natural prey.

Licensing timetable – the final pest risk analysis has just been submitted. In the summer there will be a public consultation followed by Ministerial decisions. Projects are also running on Himalayan balsam and other species.

Following the presentation, David Jenkins (Coed Cymru) questioned whether the psyllid would be used as a point treatment or whether it was expected to naturally disperse. Some natural dispersal would be expected, although in many of these cases people have been found to collect material and transfer it to their own problem areas so increasing the dispersal. The maximum natural dispersal of a psyllid is 13km. David Jenkins commented that if left to disperse naturally there may be a problem getting the psyllid over the mountains that separate the linear valleys of Wales.

Gareth Ellis (LBAP rep) questioned how the insect would be released. The plan is to do a limited release on low value sites (more like a field test) so that it can be sprayed if anything goes wrong. Would expect 4-6 sites for the real release but there will be no scientific modelling of its colonisation as it will get moved by people.

David Allen CCW asked whether, during the evaluation process, potential control solutions were considered in case the unexpected happened. The contingency plan is to stand by with insecticides. The only red data book species that the psyllid has survived on, will also be planted out at the release site and if the psyllid attacked this species it would be destroyed with insecticide.

Stephen Bladwell asked what is the anticipated result. The psyllid won't eradicate JK, but should weaken it enough to make it easier to control. The plants should be smaller and scruffier, less competitive, with a more open canopy that allows native species to recover.

David Jenkins asked that Dick Shaw should come back at a suitable time and tell us about the program to control Himalayan balsam which was agreed.

**ACTION 1.** All - contact Dick for access to the invasive species compendium web resource [r.shaw@cabi.org](mailto:r.shaw@cabi.org)

**ACTION 2.** Dick Shaw - send reference for publication on JK control to WBP Support team to circulate.

**ACTION 3.** All - take part in the JK control public consultation due out summer 2009

**ACTION 4.** Support team to arrange for Dick to come back and talk about Himalayan balsam control

## **Paper 2: Review of Wales wildlife crime priorities, Sgt Ian Guildford, CCW**

The national (UK) wildlife crime (WC) priorities, though not endorsed yet, are expected to remain similar to current ones. The Welsh priorities date from 2004 and it is suggested that they are now reviewed in light of how the national priorities were assessed.

To select the national (UK) priorities, a meeting was held to assess the conservation concerns and priorities and a matrix method of scoring was used. These scores were then fed into a high level wildlife crime task group meeting, who added badgers and poaching as these are WC but not conservation issues.

At a UK level, each priority has a plan owner who will look at the issues and come up with initiatives, beneath this you have enforcement.

This national process worked so it would make sense to make use of this. There was discussion about establishing a repeat process for Wales but this was rejected in favour of presentation and approval by WBP Steering Group. . The national annual review will be published in Oct/Nov .

How do we go though this process of identifying Wales WC priorities?

A meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2009, Llandrindod, will be discussing the WC issues in Wales, this is a meeting for enforcers. Jan Sherry CCW commented that it would be interesting to see the data on reporting of WCs though this would probably not represent the true picture so it makes sense to also look at the conservation issues, CCW would be interested in being involved in the process.

N Wales Sea fisheries committee expressed concerns, on behalf of themselves and SW Sea fisheries committee, that fisheries crimes were not being taken into account.

SSSI offences were also not being fed into the WC unit, CCW should be collating these figures and need a protocol to feed these figures into the WC unit. The same could be set up for marine and fisheries issues. Marine SACs also need WCs collating. The national wildlife crime unit have the capacity to analyse these figures if they are supplied. The WC police rely upon what other organisations bring to the table to advance protection.

**ACTION 5.** Ian Guildford bring final UK priorities back to WBPSG to check them from a conservation perspective and then decide Welsh priorities..

**ACTION 6.** N Wales and S Wales sea fisheries committees compile a list of fisheries WC cases, as far back as they have available, to pass to the WC unit via Ian Guildford.

**ACTION 7.** CCW pass SSSI WC data to Ian Guildford

### **Paper 3: Review of Scotland's Wildlife Crime Recommendations, Sgt Ian Guildford, CCW**

Ian went through the list of Scotland's recommendations (paper 3, annex 1) and identified how they were being addressed in Wales as follows:

Recommendation 1. addressed by Wales Environment Strategy

Recommendation 2-7 Wales advanced in these. Crime Prosecution Service (CPS) seminar will bring together the 4 force areas and these recommendations are either being addressed or will be covered at this meeting. R 5. exists but biodiversity community may not be aware of this.

R 8-10 not relevant to Wales. WBP acts like PAW Scotland steering group.

R 11. WBP enforcement document covers this.

R 12. to be addressed in the future.

R 13. Already exists, Gwent now addressing by appointing another 10 WC officers and running training.

R 14-15. in place in England and Wales.

R 16. In place, 2 CCW, 2 EAW and 1 FCW secondments.

R 17. Not possible

R 18. WBP covers this.

R 19. Some funding available for forensics through DEFRA, e.g. Bird DNA testing or traditional medicine testing. Outside forensics no funding available, bear in mind it can be very costly to seize animals as they have to be cared for. Many animal seizures are carried out by RSPCA due to costs.

R 20. In place

R 21-22. In place

R. 23-24 Can be issues here, other agencies need feed back from police but don't always get it. In Wales the situation is not too bad as there is a good partnership approach. If there is a good protocol in place e.g. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) each side knows what the process should be.

The WBPSG agreed that it was happy with the WBP covering the role of a PAW Cymru Steering Group.

The Environment Strategy Wales, Action Plan and Endorsement document covers enough of the Scottish recommendations for the time being.

**ACTION 8.** Ian Guildford to feed back to Diana Reynolds immediately following from Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**ACTION 9.** Ian Guildford to recommend to meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb that Recommendation 5 could be made into a WBP checklist.

#### **Paper 4: Biodiversity Indicators, David Allen, CCW**

New work has been commissioned by WAG to look at developing biodiversity indicators as listed in the environment strategy, these aim to address a range of both bio- and genetic-diversity. There is a need to clarify the relationship between this and David Allen's work. The results of this contract are due out in mid April.

**ACTION 10.** Diana Reynolds check the purpose of these indicators and put forward WBP as advisors to the WAG indicators group (Richard Evans contact at WAG).

**ACTION 11.** WBP indicators group feed into WAG group when results of the contact come out in April

David Allen questioned whether we would prefer a small set of biodiversity indicators just within the Environment or Sustainable Development Strategy, or a larger/broader stand alone set of indicators.

Jan Sherry said CCW is collecting more data for the Habitats Directive Annex 1 and 2 and questioned whether this would connect up with these WAG indicators. Hazel Drewett replied that if an indicator was chosen then data collection for that indicator would feed into the surveillance schemes.

**ACTION 12.** David Allen organise the inaugural meeting of WBP indicators group: David Allen, Stephen Bladwell, Sean Russel and Plantlife Rep.

**ACTION 13.** David Allen speak to Bill Sanderson to see if he will also join the Indicators group (CCW officer leading on marine indicators).

**ACTION 14.** Plantlife supply a representative for WBP indicators group.

#### **Paper 5: LBAP Issues**

Gareth Ellis was contacted by powerlines distributor company about storm resilience felling within 20m of powerlines. It seems that they have a duty to do this felling but are not necessarily aware of the biodiversity issues. DE&T have also had similar issues with powerline companies on their sites. It needs to be made clear to them that they are working for a government body and therefore are covered by the NERC biodiversity duty in addition to the Habitats Regulations.

**ACTION 15.** Gareth Ellis to put together a bullet list of issues that powerline companies need to consider (available with these minutes) and circulate to Chris Tucker (FCW) and Diana Reynolds.

Gareth welcomed Diana Reynolds' drafted WBP governance note.

**ACTION 16.** All - Support team to circulate WBP governance note for further feedback

Connection between Ecosystem Groups and LBAPS – there are very few LBAP officers on the groups and it is important to make sure that communication takes place between the groups and LBAPS. Jan Sherry suggested that this question can be broached with LBAP officers at the Future of BAP workshops, though it might be helpful to get one LBAP officer onto each group, who could then report back to others.

**ACTION 17.** Ecosystem group structure from Future of BAP T&F group will come to WBP as a paper in July

Making the connections - LBAP officers and Ecologists are reassured that the Making the connections issues are being addressed by the WBP and WLGA.

**Paper 7: North Wales Making the Connections project group – discussion to address concerns, Diana Reynolds, WAG/WBP on behalf of WLGA**

The short paper provided by Stephen Jones will be put onto the WBP website in the SG7 section. There is reassurance that they are not talking about staff losses, though where staff are based might be moved. The Group has had a lot of feedback from many sectors and are rewriting the second report based on this feedback. They have been consulting with the statutory bodies and they are all meeting on Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009. Diana Reynolds stated that WBP are very grateful to Stephen Jones WLGA for his work in turning this situation around. Diana has been asked to be the primary contact for biodiversity on behalf of the WAG Making the Connections team.

**Taxonomic Presentation: The marine crayfish (*Palinurus elephas*) - collation of records from old log books of recreational divers. Kate Lock, West Wales Seasearch Coordinator**

Seasearch (<http://seasearch.wisshost.net/>) are a national project run through the marine conservation society. They train recreational divers to do marine habitat and species surveys. Following training they organise dives to target survey areas, e.g. BAP habitats and species. Kate also has a counterpart in N Wales.

Marine Crayfish (red underwater, lobster are blue underwater) grow up to 50cm, small ones like rocky reef habitats as they hid in crevices and holes. They are well distributed from 5m depth downwards. They are seen around the Llyn peninsular and Pembs coast but there is little distribution data on where they are found.

In 1979 about 55000kg crayfish were caught, by 1995 only 500kg. Changes to fishing methods (from potting to tangle netting) have contributed to this rapid population decline. A lot of diving targeted crayfish collection during the 1970s but it was not long before it was uneconomical to dive for crayfish. Now there is no targeted fishing for crayfish but if they are caught they fetch a high price. Currently little is known about the crayfish lifecycle so we are unsure how the crayfish populations might recover.

CCW (via the JNCC) have proposed them as a candidate species for Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In the meantime they are trying to collect more data on crayfish.

In the last few years Seasearch carried out online recording for pipefish, this was advertised in diving magazines and 80% of the records entered came from non-seasearch divers. Seasearch would like to do the same for crayfish as they are easy to recognise and the sort of sighting that would be recorded in diver's log books. There are 40 dive clubs in Wales with up to 2000 active divers. They would also like to look at historical dive record log books to get past data.

Seasearch organised dives tend to consist of people from many different dive clubs. If they were provided with crayfish information packs they could take them back to their dive clubs to spread the word and tap into each club to get records. Each record has a date and a site associated with it.

Seasearch would collate the information and produce tables to be entered into Marine Recorder to produce distribution maps of the species. They could then produce 20km<sup>2</sup> gridmaps of Wales. The data could contribute to potential restoration programs and enable more targeted surveys.

David Jenkins asked whether crayfish carry eggs in their tails in the same way as lobster as there could be potential for hatcheries like that done for lobster? If females are found in the summer they can be carrying eggs but generally it is hard to get close enough to see them.

Aethne Cooke explained that crayfish have a much lower fecundity than lobster so more drastic action is needed than that take for lobster recovery. In relation to the Schedule 5 proposal, a schedule 5 review takes place every 5 years. JNCC send recommendations to the Minister Jane Davidson, normally the devolved governments then wait for DEFRA to respond to the recommendations but this has caused long delays in the past. Aethne requested that WBP ask WAG to respond now rather than waiting for DEFRA.

**ACTION 18.** Diana Reynolds to prioritise the Schedule 5 review to enable an earlier response.

**ACTION 19.** Kate Lock send project outline to Sean McHugh to discuss WBP funds for the project.

#### **Paper 6: Statutory protection for sensitive habitats in the Milford Haven waterway from dredge fishing activity. Aethne Cooke, CCW.**

CCW have been speaking with industry and WAG fisheries to get statutory protection for maerl, seagrass and the native beds in the Milford Haven Waterway. So far they have been unsuccessful with the statutory protection but have a voluntary protection scheme in place.

Aethne proposed that WBP contact WAG fisheries to see whether they could establish statutory protection or whether the fisheries committee could impose a bylaw for these beds. Regulation 48 of the Habitat Regs allows bylaws to protect certain areas of

seabeds and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee have established bylaw protected areas but South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee has not done this yet.

Diana Reynolds responded that everyone has a responsibility to apply Reg. 48 to any plan or project but acknowledged that this has not yet happened in the SW seafisheries area due to lack of data. Dredging has just taken place in January, and the data gap has now been filled by CCW so it should be possible to provide a proper assessment for next January's decision.

WAG Fisheries are keen to sort this protection issue out and are currently gathering evidence for statutory protection.

Hazel Drewett explained that on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 there was a meeting held to discuss scallop dredging across Wales. Actions from this meeting were:

- WAG convene small working group to look at scallop dredging.
- CCW look at seabed sensitivities.
- Outcomes to be worked up for October 2009.
- Looking at Wales wide statutory instrument.

**ACTION 20.** Diana Reynolds obtain timescale from WAG fisheries, then consider whether WBP need to write a letter.

## Papers to Note

### **A: Invasive non-native species action plan**

The Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) group are implementing the GB INNS strategy in Wales.

The WBPSG thought that some parts of the GB INNS action plan should be added to the Wales Action Plan under a 'beyond Wales' section on the plan, including:

- Risk assessment work (National but cascading to a Wales level)
- UK wide media communications strategy (going to UK board end of March for approval)
- Invasives indicators being developed, report just out from DEFRA (UK level but some attempt to disaggregate to country level).
- Scottish led review of economic impact of INNS that will be fed down to Wales.

David Jenkins said that the action plan could be considered as having two strands, 1) long slow grind trying to control species and 2) technological step change.

Robin Woodyatt announced that the SE Wales rivers trusts have funding to train 40 volunteer sprayers, this initiative is going to the association of rivers trusts to be taken further, looking pretty positive at the moment.

**ACTION 21.** Robin Woodyatt to put someone from rivers trusts in touch with Bill Somerfield.

**ACTION 22.** All, - send any INNS actions to Bill Somerfield or Heli Gittens so that they can keep the actions audit up to date.

**ACTION 23.** Heli Gittens, change 3<sup>rd</sup> column heading to 'resourcing' rather than 'funding'.

Kate Williamson suggested that in addition to the action plan provided by the audit it would be better to have a report that picks up the issues identified by the audit as areas lacking or needing resolving.

**ACTION 24.** INNS Group to put a paper to net WBP that picks up the issues identified by the audit as areas lacking or needing resolving, on the next INNS agenda.

## **B: BARS**

In addition to the ongoing progress reported in the paper, Diana Reynolds pointed out that a number of WAG departments are also taking positive action. Also Jodi Massey at the WAG Nature Conservation Team is currently updating the Environment Strategy strategic actions.

**ACTION 25.** All, contact Juliet Hynes ([j.hynes@welshwildlife.org](mailto:j.hynes@welshwildlife.org)) if you want to discuss how your organisation might make more or better use of BARS.

## **C: Wildlife Crime (WC) Update**

See also action 5 to 7. Completed crime cases will go on the WBP website, ongoing cases will not.

**ACTION 26.** Ian Guildford, include fisheries and marine issues on the WC list.

**ACTION 27.** CCW, Seafisheries committees and EAW report any fisheries or marine SAC wildlife crimes to Ian Guildford.

**ACTION 28.** Ian Guildford to reformat the list into 'Wales' and 'Elsewhere' (to include Europe and UK).

## **D: Wetlands Ecosystem Group**

Three Ecosystem groups have still to meet, the groups that have met so far have had successful meetings. Specific issues for the WBP that came out of the Wetlands group meeting were:

Any advice on external funding?

**ACTION 29.** The wetland group will put together a list of sites that Charles can then work up to a number of projects. WBP will need to think about how they might support these projects.

SSSI notification – Peter Jones's wetland Phase II survey program is identifying wetlands of SSSI quality but may need help from WBP to encourage notification of these sites

**ACTION 30.** Hazel Drewett feedback to CCW the need to bring these forward as efficiently as possible

A list of sites of local importance – is there a list of these sites for the whole of Wales? It would be useful to see all second tier sites across Wales.

**ACTION 31.** Hazel Drewett to raise this issue of wetland sites of local importance with Wales Environmental Information Forum (WEIF), some sites should already be with LRCs

**ACTION 32.** Diana Reynolds take up various wetland issues with John Westlake and water colleagues

Ecosystem groups can report to WBPSG as and when they wish to. They can talk to the policy group in the first instance but if issues cannot be resolved they should then bring them to WBPSG. There can provide an annual report from each group which will be fitted into the draft annual report timetable.

**ACTION 33.** Juliet Hynes, fit ecosystem groups into annual report timetable.

### **E: Next steps for Red Squirrel Conservation in Wales**

A meeting will take place at the end of March between the Red Squirrel Forum and Wales Squirrel Partnership. At this meeting it is hoped that the assessment criteria and plan of action will be approved.

### **F: WBP Planning**

**ACTION 34.** All - any events for International Biodiversity Day please forward to Sean McHugh to go on the website([s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org](mailto:s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org)).

**ACTION 35.** All - any Wales Biodiversity Week events, please send to Sean McHugh to go on the website.

2009 WBP conference theme was discussed, it was suggested that the new BAP structure of ecosystem and species specialist groups should be a background to the conference. The preferred main theme for the conference was “Celebrating Success”, i.e. to talk about what we have done, practical examples to inspire us beyond the 2010 targets.

**ACTION 36.** All, - to send ideas for the conference to Sean McHugh ([s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org](mailto:s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org)) within the concept of “Celebrating Success”.

The Flood Risk Management (FRM) report was mentioned (a collaboration between Imperial College and Nottingham university) which is good scientific research on taking policy through to practice; provision of biodiversity produces quantifiable benefits.

**ACTION 37.** David Jenkins provide contacts for FRMRC to Sean McHugh.

### **G: Policy Group**

The Policy Group has drafted guidance on the Section 42 list and the planning process. Diana Reynolds suggested that it be included with the WBP checklists as informal guidance so that it can be built upon before, perhaps, being including as official guidance within the planning review which is currently underway.

Alison Smith welcomed the guidance for providing consistency in the approach to Section 42 species and habitats. It was questioned whether there was any way to monitor success or consistency or influence on planning decisions; CCW are looking

at the impact of their advice on decision making and WAG are considering the need for research on survey quality in decision making.

**ACTION 38.** All, please note where this section 42 guidance does get used and inform the WBP support team.

**ACTION 39.** Policy group, slightly re-word bullet point 1 on the Section 42 guidance to clarify CCW's role.

**ACTION 40.** Policy group, produce 2 versions of section 42 guidance, one for planning and the other for more general decision making, to include short supporting notes for the chart.

The conflict in legislation bullets from WBPSG5 were mentioned as possibly suitable for inclusion in the guidance.

**ACTION 41.** All, comments on section 42 guidance to be returned to Delcie Simkin ([Delcie.Simkin@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Delcie.Simkin@wales.gsi.gov.uk)) within 2 weeks.

**ACTION 42.** Policy group, include BAP coordinator as competent person to give advice – flow chart box 4.

#### **Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership (WCMP) Update.**

Steve Moon sends his apologies, WBP support team will obtain an update from Steve and circulate to the partnership.

Lia Moutselou is leaving WCMP on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009, not sure how or when she will be replaced. Diana Reynolds will talk to WAG colleagues about the situation.

**ACTION 43.** WBP support team to circulate WCMP update to the partnership.

**ACTION 44.** Diana to report back on new WCMP arrangements to SG8

**Standing committee Update** – no meeting to report

#### **Confirmation of minutes from WBPSG6**

The minutes from WBPSG6 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting with two minor corrections to Page 5 re: meadows recreation under Tir Gofal, and the spelling of Mike Dunn's name.

#### **Actions outstanding from WBPSG6**

Action 19, received a couple of no net loss examples, dealing with each to see if future occurrences can be avoided. Along these lines, it has been brought to the support team's attention that during forest clear felling it is not always obvious that species are being taken into account. Suggestion that LBAP officers may coordinate training on key species for forestry staff.

Chris Tucker suggest that its more likely FC are not communicating what they are doing, a FC case study Chris has forwarded to the WBP support team should allay fears. Species training could help. FC are already arranging training with operational

managers in spring. Gareth Ellis suggested that it is a 2 way process and that the LBAPs also need to communicate to the FC when they know of the existence of particular species on forestry land.

**ACTION 45.** Gareth Ellis and Chris Tucker communicate over supporting the FC training.

**ACTION 46.** All, remind regional/local officers that they need to be involved with the LBAPs and should reinstate communications where they may have lapsed due to staff changes (contact the WBP support team if any LBAP contact details are needed).

Action 42: A group put together in 2006 developed the species packages for Agri environment. The Future of BAP Task and Finish Group thought this group would be more appropriate for this group to complete this action than the species expert group itself.

**ACTION 47.** Stephen Bladwell report back that WBP are happy with this arrangement.

The Natur Cymru MOU has been agreed but Diana Reynolds has not yet been asked to sign.

**ACTION 48.** Mandy Marsh send MOU to Diana Reynolds to sign.

Action 50-51: Ecotype (forest research publication) contains an update article but Michelle Bromley not received the CCW data..

**ACTION 49.** Hazel Drewett chase up CCW data for Michelle Bromley

**ACTION 50.** Chris Tucker send WBP support team weblink for Ecotype article.

**ACTION 51.** All, if procuring aerial photographs please contact Chris Tucker [chris.tucker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.tucker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) to coordinate useful times of the year for obtaining forestry data.

Looking for a volunteer for heritage Lottery Fund meeting in March.

**ACTION 52.** David Jenkins offered to ask his finance colleague to attend HLF meeting.

Volunteer needed for WREN funding board to ensure the inclusion of biodiversity on the agenda. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting around 24-26 March.

**ACTION 53.** Stephen Bladwell offered to find someone to attend WREN, if unable then Alison Smith offered to be backup.

Action 53: Martin Parkinson replacing Russel De'ath as CCW funding lead

**ACTION 54.** Martin Parkinson will convene meeting with FC and EA reps.

WBP support mechanisms; we want to carry on as far as possible as things are now and have remitted the Wildlife Trusts Wales and CCW project to take this forward (Howard Davis WTW leading on this).

WAG is considering commissioning a brief review of the current WBP systems and services to feed into this process.

**ACTION 55.** All, let Diana Reynolds know if there are changes that you'd like to see or if you have an alternative offer to provide WBP support services.

### AOB

Elm propagation proposal from SG5, Sean McHugh and David Jenkins have spoken, but there were insufficient funds in the WBP budget, which would cost £3000 for Elm and could be extended for Aspen. Need to start collecting material in July.

**ACTION 56.** Sean McHugh check whether £3000 for Elm available in WBP budget.

**ACTION 57.** Alison Smith send name of Heads of the Valleys forest regeneration officer to David Jenkins as another possible avenue of funding.

Gareth Ellis announced Buglife have done an assessment of species signposting for invertebrates, this is useful for Future of BAP T&F to be aware of. T&F have already started new signposting exercise for Wales, someone from Buglife will be coming to the next species specialist group meeting.

**ACTION 58.** Gareth Ellis forward Buglife signposting exercise to Juliet Hynes

Stephen Bladwell asked whether there was any more information about CCW grant budget cuts; will it affect action delivery. Hazel Drewett responded that there is a cut taking place in CCW grant aid but reassured that biodiversity grants will not be cut, the cutbacks are being made in other areas and wherever possible resources will be supplemented with in kind support such as staff time. The aim is to y are focus money where it is needed most.

Glenda Thomas (FWAG) warned that biodiversity delivery on farms has slowed following the stoppage of Tir Cynnal and slowdown of Tir Gofal funding. Better Woodlands for Wales has had little uptake on farms.

The Gower commons initiative has produced a viable product from bracken; need to encourage these sorts of self-sustaining activities.

Kate Williamson asked about the progress of the new CCW grant scheme (paper due at WBPSG8). They are gathering data/opinions (in house rather than using consultants) from people who have and haven't run grant schemes to get views. Brief conclusion on this exercise by end of March, then scope up such schemes during the next financial year. Jan Sherry asked whether the Ecosystem/Species groups could be used to assess applications for prioritization. Hazel agreed that they could look at the



WBP being a strategic approving body for the grant scheme. Collaborative funding could be coordinated by the Ecosystem/species groups rather than competitive funding.

**ACTION 59.** Support team circulate the CCW grant report when received.

**ACTION 60.** All, any useful summaries of grant schemes, send these to Hazel Drewett ([H.Drewett@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:H.Drewett@ccw.gov.uk))

Kate Williamson requested that the group get feedback on how the taxonomic presentation's projects are going.

**ACTION 61.** Sean Mchugh provide Chair with a note on taxonomic projects before each SG meeting to be reported immediately prior to the next taxonomic presentation

**ACTION 62.** All, -invited to send views to the EU CAP 2020 consultation (<http://cap2020.ieep.eu/have-your-say/topic/7>)

**ACTION 63.** Steering group need to advise the Minister on future WBPSG membership; anyone currently a member of the SG should either confirm continuation of attendance or recommend a replacement. Send to Delcie Simkin ([Delcie.Simkin@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Delcie.Simkin@wales.gsi.gov.uk)) before June.

Natur – IEEM want to collaborate with WBP to make information available on training and development opportunities and courses in Wales.

**ACTION 64.** All, Natur conference 11-13<sup>th</sup> March (<http://www.natur.eu.com/>)

**ACTION 65.** All, feed in any 'less formal accredited or otherwise, courses on ecology, conservation or related areas to Marie Madigan ([marie@natur.eu.com](mailto:marie@natur.eu.com))

**Date of next meeting:**

**Swansea 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Wrexham 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

-----Meeting Ends-----