

Lochaber Biodiversity Group Meeting

20/06/06 Governors House Fort William 1300-1520 hrs

Present: Lorna Anness (chair), Christine Welsh, Adele Beck, Alison Devey, Alan Boulton, Donald Kennedy, Ian Strachan, Stuart Wilkie, Alastair Stewart (mins)

Apologies: None

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. **I.S, C.W**

L.A provided feedback on the BAGS freshwater larval invert. Surveys to the group. More local volunteers have attended and been trained in sampling and identification at a second workshop run by L.A. and Craig Macadam (National Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme). Inverts. Will be identified to species level and the data will be used to assess river health throughout Lochaber and form the first comprehensive distribution survey, to species level, for the region.

D.K provided feedback on the R. Ponticum control technique being adopted by the S.W.T. **Action All:** To read his review and comment back to Donald.

Matters Arising

Feedback on projects:

Clunes Forest School

The interim payments have been made on this project and there will be a final claim in Aug/Oct. Details of expenditure and a final report will be circulated to the group prior to the next meeting. It was agreed the group would gather at Clunes for the next meeting. **Action A. Be**

Food link Project

The project is still progressing. There are seven accredited producers from a target of 12. Five have completed the process. For the last range of funding a comprehensive report will be produced, the report will function as a useful resource in its own right. **Action A. Bo**

The group were told that all records of spend and progress on both projects had been sent directly to Jonathan Willett the H.C Biodiversity Officer.

Discussion followed on group status, membership and a possible constitution. The main drivers for formal progress were identified as funding opportunities. The next funding package is for £5000 per group (T.B.C). The Scottish Exec may offer new development funds and Local Authorities are being encouraged to promote biodiversity. It was agreed the group could lead projects, act as facilitator or simply provide advice to assist local projects.

Ian Strachan explained Jonathon Willet's role.

The group were uncertain of the route made towards current status and the statutory nature of the biodiversity plan for Scotland. A brief history was requested. **Action A.S**

Members were requested to take forward ideas as presented to the group by Stephen Corcoran. **L.A** will circulate info. **Action All.**

The group looked at the H.C community plan 2006 from the Lochaber partnership. Dot Fergusson contacted **I.S** and asked for group feedback as there is a biodiversity element in the document. The group were requested to pass comments to **I.S** for compilation. **Action all**

The group had a brainstorming session on the structure, purpose and aspirations of the group. To be discussed further at next meeting. Current ideas will be compiled and circulated. **Action L.A**

Action All: To reread Lochaber Biodiversity Action Plan and choose and prioritise 3 species and 3 habitats. Consider practicality of any possible action and to write down relevant practical project ideas. Send to LA who will compile full list for discussion at next meeting.

D.O.N.M: F.C.S Clunes. 3rd of August at 12.30pm

ACTION SUMMARY:

Action All: To read Donald's review and send comments to him.

Action A. Be: Compile details of expenditure and final report for Clunes

Action A. Bo: Produce comprehensive final report

Action A.S : Brief history of group and statutory info.

Action All: Send comments to Stephen re. Projects

Action All: Send comments to **I.S** re. Community proposal

Action I.S.: Compile comments

Action L.A: Summarise brainstorm session

Action All: Review LBAP and send comments to **L.A.** to compile