



MINUTES

Fisheries Local Action Group Meeting – 10am Friday 15th July 2016

Held at: Council Offices, Daar Road, Kirkcudbright

Present: Grant Course Shaun McGuire
Alastair McNeill John Tooth
Jonathon Warren Pam Taylor
Debbie Parke Caroline Graham Brown

Staff: Nicola Hill Simone Tyrie

Apologies: Stephen Hardy, June Lochhead, Harry Harbottle, Allan Watson

Welcome

Alastair McNeill opened the meeting with a word of welcome and thanked everyone for electing him as Chair.

Introductions

A round the table introduction took place.

EMFF Update

AMcN stated that following a meeting yesterday with Marine Scotland they have suggested the FLAG takes a business as usual approach to the delivery of the EMFF programme in the meantime. NH stated that the offer of grant letter had been received from Marine Scotland but referenced Orkney FLAG rather than Dumfries & Galloway. An amended letter is still to be received. The main EMFF programme guidance has been received and NH stated she would be giving a presentation of the main points. The FLAG members were informed that the Project Officer post should be advertised in approximately two weeks, the post will be for 18 months with the possibility to extend depending on funding. NH suggested FLAG members need to consider if they wish to set local criteria and if so these will need to be checked with Marine Scotland. Promotion of the programme will be undertaken once all criteria and thresholds have been agreed. The FLAG are being encouraged by Marine Scotland to ensure early commitment of the funds.

Presentation

NH delivered a power point presentation based on the EMFF guidance received. NH described the split of roles & responsibilities for the FLAG and Marine Scotland; the FLAG are responsible for making recommendations for support which will then be approved by Marine Scotland; the requirement of at least 50% of the votes when making recommendations for funding to be from private representatives on the FLAG; intervention rates have been detailed in the guidance document as follows:

- Up to 50% public aid – individual businesses

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- Up to 100% public aid – a collective beneficiary or interest
- A project can attract a max of 50% of their funding from a public source

Marine Scotland has not set any upper or lower threshold but the FLAG can if they wish to; all projects must fit with the LDS.

Discussion

Criteria/thresholds – A discussion took place around setting of local criteria and thresholds - The FLAG unanimously agreed to a lower limit of £3,000 grant but agreed to not set an upper limit at this time.

Match funding - The FLAG members raised a number of questions as follows:

- How are we expected to deal with match funding...must all match funding be secured prior to a recommendation being made?
- Can we do recommendations in principle?
- Can projects have money withdrawn part way through?

It was agreed that all match funding must be in place when projects are considered for recommendation. It was also agreed that given the FLAG are only making recommendations for support Marine Scotland will have final approval on all applications and will therefore decide if a decision in principle is appropriate.

- Is In kind eligible?

There is no mention of in kind in the guidance document therefore NH will contact Marine Scotland for clarification. **(Action Point)**

Meeting frequency/dates - The FLAG members agreed that they would have quarterly meetings with the first decision making meeting in December, meetings will be scheduled on a Friday. NH will prepare suggested meeting and application deadline dates for circulation prior to the next FLAG meeting on 19th August. **(Action Point)**

Once the dates are agreed they will be set in stone as the applicants will be working towards them. NH stated that there is nothing in the guidance about having to be quorate for meetings. It has been suggested that this is because the FLAG are making recommendations as opposed to approving applications for funding.

NH reminded FLAG members that they must inform the LEADER team if they are approached by potential applicants for support – this type of activity can result in a member having to declare a conflict of interest or in some instances compromising their position on the FLAG.

AOCB

None

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Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting on the 19th of August would be needed to cover business but that a separate meeting would be arranged for a presentation from Marine Scotland with the IFG invited to attend.

19th of August at 10am, D&G Council Offices, Daar Road, Kirkcudbright

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