



MINUTES

Fisheries Local Action Group Meeting – 10am Friday 9th December 2016

Held at: Council Offices, Daar Road, Kirkcudbright

Present: Grant Course (GC) Shaun McGuire (SM)
Alastair McNeill – FLAG Chair (AM) John Tooth (JT)
Jonathon Warren (JW) Harry Harbottle (HH)
Caroline Graham Brown (CGB) Debbie Parke (DP)
Stephen Hardy (SH) Pam Taylor (PT).

Staff: Nicola Hill (NH) Rowan Lloyd (RL)

Apologies: N/A

Not Present: Allan Watson (AW)

Welcome

Alastair McNeill opened the meeting with a word of welcome.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were proposed by SM and seconded by DP.

RL provided clarity on the following queries raised at the previous meeting:

Can the FLAG commission their own strategic projects?

- Marine Scotland currently doesn't have a procedure in place to allow FLAGs to commission their own projects. However Marine Scotland agreed that this is something they would be willing to consider if the FLAG was to propose a strategic project.

Can the FLAG award up to 100% match funding to projects which have a collective benefit?

- Currently the LDS has capped match funding at 50%. However it is possible that the LDS could be revised to allow projects of collective benefit to be rewarded up to 100% match funding.

Q&A sessions with applicants

A discussion took place regarding the FLAG inviting applicants to the FLAG meeting for a Q&A session prior to their application being considered and scored by the FLAG. This would allow the FLAG members to ask any questions they might still have about

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the project and then allow for fuller discussion around the application when considered during the meeting. This will take place on an invitation only basis and will only be undertaken where it is felt appropriate by the FLAG members. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the FLAG.

Expressions of Interest

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FARNET Conference

GC represented the FLAG at the FARNET Conference held on the 18th - 20th of October in Thessaloniki, Greece. GC provided an overview of the conference programme and provided details of the field trips they undertook to a rice mill, shell fish purification plant and shell fish processing plant. Grant made reference to the summary sheet which was distributed to all FLAG members by RL.

Strategy for delivering EMFF funding

RL led a discussion on how EMFF funding is delivered elsewhere in Scotland and the approach D&G FLAG could take to ensuring they maximise the benefit of the funding available. The FLAG members agreed it was useful to look at models of delivery from both Scotland and further afield e.g. Cornwall. It was felt it would be useful to explore how the FLAG can support 'boat to plate' activity in D&G. The FLAG agreed it would be useful to have a presentation from Seafood Scotland. RL to contact and arrange a presentation for the March 2017 meeting if possible. RL also proposed holding a workshop/open meeting to brainstorm potential projects ideas with interested parties, such as Inshore Fisheries Group. AMcN highlighted concern that fishermen are unlikely to attend a workshop event and feels this issue requires further consideration before any decisions are made.

Action – RL to contact Seafood Scotland to arrange presentation.

AOCB

FLAG members enquired about the possibility of a light lunch being provided for FLAG meetings in future. The LEADER team will look into what can be provided at future meetings.

Date of next meeting – 10th March 2017

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