



MINUTES

Fisheries Local Action Group Meeting – 10.00am

Friday 14th December 2018

Held at: Arden House Hotel, Kirkcudbright

Attendees: Alastair McNeill (AM) Chair
Harry Harbottle (HH)
Debbie Park (DP)
Jonathon Warren (JW)
June Lochhead (JL)

Caroline Graham Brown (CGB)
Pam Taylor (PT)
Grant Course (GC)

Staff Nicola Hill (NH)
Rowan Lloyd (RL)

Ellen Grant (EG)

Apologies: Sean McGuire (SM)

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

1 Welcome

AM opened the meeting and welcomed all members.

Apologies

SM was due to attend, however, was unable to make it on the day.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any of the applications being considered for funding.

2 Minutes of Meeting of 14th September 2018

Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting on 14th September. They were proposed by HH and seconded by GC.

3 FLAG Project Officer update

RL provided an update on the progress of the previous applications and expressions of interest considered by the FLAG at the September meeting.

All applications that were approved have now received an offer of grant letter from Marine Scotland.

RL advised the Members that if the 2 projects being considered today are approved there will be approx. £122,000 worth of funds left to commit. RL has had confirmation from Marine Scotland that FLAG funding can be committed until December 2020.

RL informed Members that there were a number of Change Requests being submitted by live projects; many of which are a change in the end date of the project. This is mainly because at the time of writing the application, many applicants did not always consider the length of time Marine Scotland take to pay out claims and has had a knock on effect of their project timeline. RL asked permission from the FLAG for the authority to approve these changes himself, without having to go out to the FLAG members. The FLAG discussed this and agreed that if the change was simply to move dates and did not affect the objectives it would be time efficient for the PO to have authority to approve changes.

FLAG members approved this.

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RL also queried the Members around taking away the lower grant threshold. This had originally been put in place because it was felt the heavy admin outweighed applying for a small grant. RL, however, stated he was happy to continue assisting applicants with admin/paper work regardless of the size of Grant.

FLAG Members approved this change – the lower grant request threshold has now been removed.

4 Consideration of Full Applications

4.1 Applicant: Galloway Static Gear Fisherman's Association. Project title: Safer Fishing. Application reference: SCO2464. Funding request: £7,560.96 (at an intervention rate of 80%).

RL gave a short summary of the project as well as technicalities within the application. Match Funding from the Sea Farers (SF) UK Grant had not yet been confirmed, however, a decision is imminent. RL enquired as to whether members would be happy for the applicant to use their own funds if their application to Seafarers UK was unsuccessful. Members unanimously accepted this option. Members then discussed the application in detail:

Although Members agreed Health & Safety is an absolute and should be supported, a question was raised as to why Health & Safety measure were not already being carried out by the fisherman and whether this project should be considered a general running cost for fishermen. It was noted that certain Health & Safety measures relating to this project would become a legal obligation in October next year, however, not yet.

Many Members of the FLAG agreed that funding and supporting good Health & Safety measures was imperative and good use of the funds. Many noted that fishermen currently own PFD, and that they would purchase PLB once they become a statutory obligation in October next year. However, it was noted that the PFD already owned by members of the GSGA were not designed to hold PLB and are not fit for purpose in the modern fishing industry. It was unanimously agreed that PFB designed to hold a PLB would mean fishermen would be much more likely to wear the PLB.

RL noted that the application the GSGA made to Seafarers UK also contained detail of an intended handover of the devices to members of the GSGA by the local RLNI, who will also provide a brief presentation about the importance of wearing these devices at all times when at sea. Some members were in agreement that Health & Safety measures were not taken as seriously by fishermen and this project is a good way to encourage this. They felt this project was very much about changing culture within the fishing industry, and although this would not happen overnight, this particular project is taking a step in the right direction.

After a lengthy discussion the group scored the application as follows:

Application group score: 27/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 7

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE** this project.

Please see copy of scoring sheet in the Appendix.

4.2 Applicant: Palnackie Port Group. Project Title: Palnackie Community Public Access Point. Applicant Reference: SCO2376. Funding Request: £2,135.00 (at an intervention rate of 100%)

RL gave a summary of the project and technicalities within the application. He informed the Group that this organisation needs permission from Scottish Water before the project could go ahead. He also informed the Group that the

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organisation has contacted the Crown Estate and may need to apply for a licence at a cost of £300, although this had not been included in the application.

Members felt that the wording within the application such as 'Feasibility' were slightly misleading as they were not a true reflection of the purpose of the project. It was felt this project was more about taking preparatory measures for a future project as opposed to feasibility and therefore this could be seen as Phase 1 of a larger project. One Member questioned the cost of the engineer survey as it was felt it was very low. It was then explained to the Members that the surveyor would use radio waves to see how stable to ground is and there would be no physical disturbance.

FLAG members were supportive of the project overall, although felt it had a slight 'chicken and egg' feel as different aspects of the project required confirmation from other bodies. Members also questions whether the applicant would need planning permission, this was debated by Members and it was agreed the PO should look into this with applicant because there was potential permission would be need from Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Members agreed that if they are of a mind to approve the project, the PO could assist the applicants in looking into the different licensing's and permissions needed, and the applicant could look to include the extra £300 in their funding request if necessary. Members unanimously agreed that this increase in cost need not come back to the FLAG from approval, as they were happy to approve this increase in cost in principle.

After lengthy discussion the group scored the application as follows:

Application group score: 29/33

Number of Members APPROVING: 7

Number of Members NOT APPROVING: 0

The decision was taken to **APPROVE IN PRINCIPAL**

5 EOI's received

5.1: Scottish Seaweed Farming - £60,000.00

FLAG Members were not comfortable with this project proceeding to a full application for the following reasons:

- An exact location for the delivery of this project was not specified in the application.
- The applicant was relying on redundant muscle farms, which does not exist in Dumfries & Galloway.
- The FLAG felt that the time frame presented was grossly underestimated.
- Potentially controversial
- A feasibility study should be carried out first

5.2 Kirkmaiden Community Harbour Project

FLAG Members would like to see this come forward as a full application, however, at the minute it is too vague and would like a better idea of what the organisation would like to actually do. There is also a potential risk to the community as this harbour currently runs at a loss so this should be mitigated when applying to the fund. It was raised by a Member that this is a well-used harbour and all members agreed it was certainly worth supporting, however felt the project idea and application will need further development work.

5.3 Stranraer Oyster Festival: Development Officer

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All Members were in agreement that the Oyster Festival has been very successful and boosted Stranraer's economy. They agreed, however, that if the organisation was applying for funds to EMMF again the project had to be different. It was questioned how sustainable the festival was, with Members discussing that this Development Officer post would be looking at ways the festival can become more sustainable in future. The Group would like to see the project progress into a full application, however, should reconsider their costs. FLAG Members were unsure if the following had been taken into consideration: Recruitment costs, timing, type of contract, travel & expenses. FLAG members unanimously agreed that the post should be externally advertised to insure a fair and transparent recruitment process for a FLAG funded project.

5.4 Port William Harbour Lockup Facility

FLAG Members agreed that because of the demand from local fisherman, this project should proceed to a full application.

5.5 Harbour Lighting

Again, FLAG Members agreed this should proceed to a full application. They also noted that as long as the Lighting complies with Dark Skies Park light restrictions.

5.6 Wigtown Bay St Ayles Skiff Project

The question was raised as to whether this project had enough of a connection to Fisheries. Members discussed that they felt it did as it would help coastal communities, encourage tourism as well as help to develop boat handling skills that could be used in the fishing sector. A point was raised that the Men's Shed link should be removed from the application as FLAG Members want to ensure all projects are inclusive.

Cockle Project Update

RL informed the group that the application was scheduled for resubmission to the Marine Scotland EMFF central scheme on the 28th of February. However, RL requested FLAG members take a note of any other potentially suitable funding streams as he suspects there is limited funding left available under the EMFF scheme.

AOB

There no other business to discuss.

Meeting closed 12:00

Next Meeting is on 15th March at Arden House – start time of 10.00am

Appendix:

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| 4.1 Galloway Static Gear Fisherman's Assosation, Safer Fishing, SCO2464 | | | | TOTAL SCORE | 27/33 | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------|-------------|---|------------|--|
| 0 = Insufficient evidence provided | 1 = Some evidence provided | 2 = Good level of evidence provided | 3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided | | | | | | |
| Strategic Fit: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>) | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 2. To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>) | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 3. To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>) | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 4. To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>) | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Eligibility: | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted? | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 6. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support? | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 7. Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested? | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 8. Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50% and 100% of the total eligible expenditure where the FLAG conclude the project fulfils all of the following criteria: (i) It is of collective interest (ii) It has a collective beneficiary (iii) It has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level | | | | Yes (if so, why?) | | No | | | |
| Competency: | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)? | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 10. Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period? | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 11. Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver? | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 12. Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks? | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Recommendation for funding: | | | | APPROVE 7 | | REJECT 0 | | DEFER 0 | |

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|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Chair Signature: | Council Signature: | | |
| | | TOTAL SCORE | 27/33 |

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| 4.2 Palnackie Port Group, <i>Palnackie Community Public</i> Access Point, SCO2376 | | | | TOTAL SCORE | 29/33 | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------|----|---|
| 0 = Insufficient evidence provided | 1 = Some evidence provided | 2 = Good level of evidence provided | 3 = Fully demonstrated by evidence provided | | | | |
| Strategic Fit: | | | | | | | |
| 1 | To the EMFF Union Priority 4 (<i>appendix 1</i>) | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | To the EMFF Community-Led Local Development objectives (<i>appendix 2</i>) | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | To at least one of the LDS Themes (<i>appendix 3</i>) | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | To the LDS priorities for inshore fisheries (<i>appendix 3</i>) | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Eligibility: | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Does this project conform to the EMFF funding criteria, i.e. has required documentation been submitted? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | Has the applicant demonstrated that this project could not run without EMFF support? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | Is the projects contribution to the objectives of the EMFF and the LDS proportionate to the funding being requested? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8 | Member States may apply an intensity of public aid between 50% and 100% of the total eligible expenditure where the FLAG conclude the project fulfils all of the following criteria: (i) It is of collective interest (ii) It has a collective beneficiary (iii) It has innovative features, where appropriate, at local level | | | Yes (if so, why?) | | No | |
| Competency: | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Are the project plans viable (considering the costs, timeframes and delivery mechanisms)? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10 | Is the project likely to deliver an impact/benefit beyond the funding period? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 11 | Does the project applicant demonstrate adequate knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to deliver? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 12 | Does the project adequately identified and address anticipated project barriers or risks? | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Recommendation for funding: | | APPROVE 7 | REJECT 0 | DEFER 0 | | | |

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Chair Signature:

Council Signature:

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