



**BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
The George Hotel, South Molton**

**Members Present:**

Phil Byers (Vice-Chair & Chamber of Commerce)  
 Andrew Austen (NDC)  
 Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB)  
 Steve Mulberry (AONB Partnership Chairman)  
 Tony Collyer (Biosphere Foundation)  
 David Hoare (on behalf of Peter Heaton-Jones MP)  
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Group)  
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)  
 Andrew Butler (NFU)  
 Adrian Dowding (WRT)  
 Lisa Schneidau (DWT)  
 Brett Grosvenor (EA)  
 Tim Jones (Biosphere Foundation)  
 Cllr. Rodney Cann (NDC)  
 Doug Eltham (DCC)

**BR Team Present:**

Andy Bell  
 Sophia Craddock  
 Jane Hart  
 Chrissie Ingle  
 Gigha Klinkenborg  
 Phil Metcalfe

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<b>1. Chairman's welcome and Introductions</b>	The Chairman made introductions, welcomed Partners. Tim Jones is representing the Biosphere Foundation. Jane Hart has been appointed as Biosphere Operations Manager and Tav Valley Facilitation Fund Coordinator.	
<b>2. Apologies</b>	Michael Winter, Mark Wallace, Ken James, Emma Richardson, Christine Goodall, Mark Prior, Gaye Tabor, James Szmankiewicz	
<b>3. Minutes</b>	Minutes were agreed.	
<b>4. Matters arising</b>	<p><b>James Szmankiewicz</b>            AB proposed Dr. James Szmankiewicz as a new member of the Partnership to represent health. this was seconded by RC. – All agreed</p> <p><b>Highway signs</b>            Just waiting for installation            One sign will be sited on A39 as you enter Torridge and the other will be on the A361 near Rackenford.</p> <p><b>Working Groups</b></p>	<b>Agreed to accept James Szmankiewicz as a representative of the Health sector to the partnership.</b>

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<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p>	<p>Task and finish groups are now reporting back to Jane.</p> <p><b>Interreg project</b> - Biocultural Heritage Tourism (BCHT) contract is about to be signed. Conference planned for October. Press release due out next week.</p> <p><b>Research</b> Not done yet but MW will ensure Tim Williams will convene the group, as part of his new role after the BCHT project is confirmed.</p> <p><b>Biosphere Youth Forum</b> – Representative from Petroc – SM advised PB to approach Dr Ruth Williams who is a board member.</p> <p>TJ has spoken to Plymouth college of art regarding a 1-minute film</p> <p><b>Coastal Issues</b> The technical officers group has now reconvened and have been working the owners at Horsey to get funding in place. A survey has been commissioned which costed the work to fix at £250k. The value of saltmarsh created would only be £150k. The failure of the outer bank would create saltmarsh over the entire area. Severn Tidal Lagoon Power have withdrawn as it is not cost effective.</p> <p>The bottom half of the estuary is a coastal change area and is being monitored by the LAs and Defra agencies</p> <p>EA money of £100k will be used to look at what it will look like in 100years time. Saltmarsh needs to be replaced over the years. Coastal Change and Natural Flood Management will involve stakeholder discussions.</p> <p>TJ said that STLP is looking to American partners for funding as a Plan B.</p> <p>We will update the position statement.</p> <p><b>Kenya Visit</b> AB was recently asked to visit to help with modernising and extending our twin Biosphere Reserve. Malindi Watamu has six times the marine area and a blue belt around the reserve than it previously had in its zonation. The area now includes the Arabuko Sokoke Forest and surrounding village forest zones. The area has</p>	<p><b>AB to keep the partnership informed</b></p> <p><b>Mwinter and Tim W to follow up</b></p> <p><b>AB to write to Petroc Board and ask to appoint Ruth Williams</b></p> <p><b>AB to amend the position statement on the web re the coastal change</b></p> <p><b>AB will develop a new partnership agreement once the BR is formally extended.</b></p>

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	<p>several endemic species. The Kenyan partners want to reinvigorate their twinning agreement with us. UK ambassador in UNESCO is supportive.</p>	
<p><b>4. Biosphere Strategy Progress</b></p> <p><b>a.</b></p> <p><b>b.</b></p> <p><b>c.</b></p>	<p><b>Biosphere Strategy 2015-25</b>  The mid-term review is will be carried out next year. The 24 strategic targets will be reviewed. JH has spoken to all the working groups and collected data. She plans it fill in any gaps and highlight the good news stories. A new project management system will help with drawing up reports and data to feed into CMG. The metrics of the targets may be changed to meet the aspirations in the Defra 25YEP, the UN Sustainable development goals (SDGs) using locally available data that can be compared inside and outside the BR.</p> <p><b>Updates from Working Groups</b>  The NIA Group had their third meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July which included projects update and a large bid with DWT – The Torridge Water Environment Fund  The key issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Native Invasive Species <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Audit &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>2. Bio Security</li> <li>3. Prevention</li> <li>4. Management</li> </ol> </li> <li>• County Wildlife Sites  Ian Egerton from DBRC gave a presentation on CWS. Most don't have protection. There are 786 within the BR and only 349 have been surveyed since 2009 and of those, only 20% are in good condition, 60% amber and 20% red.  We must promote and advocate the importance of CWS and include them in your funding bids.  DWT are working on a major bid on Ash Dieback for Trees Outside Woodlands. The project does not have any focus in North Devon BR but there will be some broader activity that will have some impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Woodlands</b>  The group met three weeks ago to look at review the projects working group for PAWS. It will be primarily woodland restoration and</p>	

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<p>d.</p> <p>e.</p>	<p>investigating and addressing the barriers to landowners carrying out surveys. We have 2 landowners signed up at Buckland Filleigh RHS Rosemoor and are working with them on Management Plans. This exceed the area targets in this contract. We are looking at the next stage contract to develop other approaches to the hard to reach landowners. There was a woodland hubs development with small woodlands associated within our area using Leader funds, but this was not successful . We will try to adapt the project to apply to other funds.</p> <p>The BR is leading a bid across the LEP area for FC to look at regional sustainable forest policy with partners in Finland, Latvia, Ireland, Sweden and Spain. The result will be good practice and model policies to include in the regional funding policies post Brexit If successful, it will begin in January.</p> <p><b>ND Catchment Partnership</b> - is a partnership co-hosted by WRT and DWT The next meeting will be in September.</p> <p>Water Environment Grant – We should hear in September/October if successful. DWT also has a major bid to restore the Torridge catchment which will enable four project officers to work to make improvements for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Lundy are moving away from bottled water. The CSF officer is concerned that out of 150 farms only one is compliant! Landowners are not aware of water quality regulations, this need to be addressed.</p> <p><b>Green Economy Group</b> Barnstaple Chamber of Commerce (CoC) are rolling out a certification scheme for waste and energy which will be BR &amp; CoC badged. Currently waiting for a report. Early in March 2019 there will be a day around education/school and local businesses on waste and energy reduction.</p> <p>To coincide with the new BR road signs, we hope to produce a short video working with Coast PR for communication with bigger business.</p> <p>Shared apprenticeships – with Petrock. PB will approach Petroc. DCC offers schools a variety of workshops various materials/plastics.</p>	

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<p><b>5. Delivering on the health &amp; wellbeing agenda</b></p>	<p><b>A report was submitted</b> - AB summarised progress to date.</p> <p>The environment sector has a key role. It needs to be place-based and in higher population/urban areas. Making sites accessible. AONB walking groups are meeting in September</p> <p>The pilot in Ilfracombe will extend to other areas. Cognitive behaviour therapy can improve productivity.</p> <p>Partners were asked to provide a focus. There may be some resources.</p> <p>The Youth Service is a potential new partner – a short term commitment and a local delivery team signposting and linking in with our projects. Does not have to be on the coast.</p>	
<p><b>6. Update on Landscape Pioneer</b></p>	<p>JTT submitted her Landscape Pioneer Report.</p> <p>Congratulation to JTT for her achievement. Both Partnership and Foundation must respond.</p> <p>Suggestions for potential pilot schemes and lots of consultation with the wider community.</p> <p>DE – Landscape Character Assessments and Heritage</p>	
<p>7. Marine Pioneer</p>	<p>CI submitted her Marine Pioneer report</p> <p>The Marine Pioneer is progressing well and the key points are:</p> <p>Blue Marine Foundation have joined the steering group.</p> <p>Mel Austen, Head of Science is now on the Natural Capital Committee.</p> <p>There are several demonstration projects that are up and running and further projects in the pipeline</p> <p>Full Marine Working Group met in February. This was a well-attended meeting with useful outputs that have helped develop the projects.</p> <p>SWEEP have developed a 'Geodatabase' which acts as the baseline of natural capital in North Devon and will be expanding this through the Marine Natural Capital Plan project.</p> <p>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund application is now ready to be submitted.</p>	

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	Partners were asked to send comments on the marine fisheries white paper	
<b>8. Foundation Direction</b>	<p>TJ – We are aiming to broaden regional development of the Biosphere and look at how we align with current policy makers. We intend to run a branding awareness campaign</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Tim and the other directors for the work they have carried out. We are looking at the long term plan for the Biosphere and we are looking at increasing capacity. New software for the Foundations will be more efficient and less reliant on DCC financial team.</p> <p>Mark and Beaford are engaged with a series of campaigns to promote the Biosphere and PFND.</p>	
<b>9. Pledge for Nature</b>	MMs NIA has a concept proposal for 'Pledge for Nature' working group. A three-year pilot starting in 2019 to reverse the trend of diminishing biodiversity. For example - a landowner would pledge not to flay hedges every year. Using social media to reach BR wide projects and an internet based scheme will need a coordinator and assistance with IT. (possibly someone from Petroc).	MM to develop the project, and liaise with the community working group on the timing of the campaign. Funding to referred to CMG to support and reduce conflicts with other applications.
<b>10. AOB</b>	None	
<b>10. Next meeting</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 – venue TBA	