



**BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Instow Yacht Club @ 13.30.**

**Members Present:**

Michael Winter (Chairman)  
 Lesley Garlick (Devon County Council)  
 Andrew Austen (NDC)  
 Phil Byers (Vice-Chair & Chamber of Commerce)  
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Area)  
 Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB)  
 Steve Pitcher (AONB Chairman)  
 Mark Wallace (Vice-Chairman & Beaford Arts)  
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)  
 Andrew Butler (NFU)  
 Cllr. Rodney Cann  
 Tony Pratt (TTEF)  
 Lewis Andrews (TDC)  
 Brett Grosvenor (EA)  
 Tony Collyer (Biosphere Foundation)  
 Robert Down (Coastwise)

Lisa Schneidau (DWT)  
 Mark Prior (FC)  
 David Hoare (on behalf of Peter Heaton-Jones MP)  
 Cllr. Peter Le Maistre (TDC)

**BR Team Present:**

Andy Bell  
 Matt Edworthy  
 Gigha Klinkenberg  
 Chrissie Ingle

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<b>1. Chairman's welcome and Introductions</b>	The Chairman made introductions, welcomed Partners. The Chairman mentioned that this meeting is the last one the Steve Pitcher will attend as AONB Partnership representative and thanked him for all his hard work.	
<b>2. Apologies</b>	Christine Goodall, Tom Hynes, Richard Butler	
<b>3. Minutes</b>	Minutes were agreed.	
<b>4. Matters arising</b>	Defra 25-year Environment Plan Policy update – following a meeting with Michael Gove it became clear that the 25 year Environment Plan is still on the agenda, however it will be a totally new document with a much broader remit including 'food & farming'. There is a clear commitment to continuing.	

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	<p>Pioneers We are not yet in a position to highlight the Pioneers. A press release has been written but not yet released. The next stage should be public engagement. JCW reported that Lord Gardener gave a clear speech at the AONB Conference about the 25year plan. He was very clear that it will be focussed on farming and the environment together.</p> <p>We need a few key messages.</p> <p>Highways signs Still waiting to hear from them.</p> <p>Invasive weeds The New NIG will include invasive plants on the agenda. Any new projects will have built-in time to address these issues</p> <p>MM will address the geography issue in the coming months. National Parks – AB sent in comments Environment Agency and other statutory consultees appreciate the work councils – environment appraisal and Water framework directive targets and objections.</p> <p>Multiple cores – Exmoor national park felt that some sites are not best suited such as peat bogs and that woodlands are a better fit. Likewise, Black Tor copse could be an option on Dartmoor. LS reported that ENP are cautious about the NIA extension, but keen to collaborate.</p> <p>CFG Update The redesign has reduced core staff to 1.6 FTE. This means that both Matt &amp; Tom's posts are deleted. As there were no significant objections, this will be implemented by Autumn. Thanks to Lesley and Peter for completing this difficult task.</p>	<p><b>MWi, AB &amp; JCW will put together an explanatory paragraph to present to Defra</b></p> <p><b>AB will chase up the engineer for the designs</b></p>

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<p><b>5. Update on Pioneers</b></p>	<p>Marine - Good partnership with WWF looking at stakeholder engagement, not just MCZs also management of marine areas, MPAs etc. following the steps of the NCC.</p> <p>A marine meeting has been held, MWG and SWEEP set up. The MWG still needs Marine Energy representation.</p> <p>The licence for energy at Foreland Point has been handed back as they couldn't get funding.</p> <p>Bideford Chamber of Commerce has requested a feasibility study for a tidal barrage – it is supported by TDC and DCC - The barrage study goes against everything we do and is not supported by NDC.</p> <p>Chrissie is working with steering group next week to fill in the gaps.</p> <p>EMFF with MMO help to secure funding and delivery. She has had some contact with the Suffolk coordinator as there is some cross-over. Mainly sea defences and natural flood management.</p> <p>RD asked for clarification of the governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine Working Group – what/vision</li> <li>• Steering Group – support/facilitation</li> </ul> <p>A list of who's who on the various groups was requested.</p> <p>MMO officer is keen to move from MCZs – to include fisheries and marine areas.</p> <p>Chrissie reported that the Natural Capital Conference organised through Devon maritime Forum was reasonably successful and the workshops were useful. A report will be available on the DMF shortly.</p> <p>Landscape – JTT reported that although communications restrictions are in place Mr Gove was quite keen, there should be an announcement in Autumn. There is work to be done on organising the financial data. Some square km have many organisations investing and there are some where it is just Defra. We need to build up an evidence base but it is difficult to link what we do with working on Natural Capital</p> <p>The Landscape Pioneer is a fantastic opportunity We have a new working group, with the Catchment partnership and NIA. We will work with the Facilitation Fund which will help to ground-truth. NE - innovative programme which will enable better decision making and bring together evidence and delivery.</p> <p>Cambridge Institute for Sustainability leadership have a Valuing Nature Network and a potential link with Colm Bow who is looking at how big businesses might behave when engaging in natural capital.</p>	<p><b>AB/CI to provide list of members in the Pioneer SG and Marine WG.</b></p> <p><b>CI to make the report from the conference available as soon as it is ready.</b></p>

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<p><b>6. Working Groups</b></p>	<p>We are looking to broker relationships where people buy raw materials from North Devon – buying into the landscape and investing in businesses.</p> <p>LS suggested a strong link with working with the facilitation fund groups to develop case studies across the Biosphere.</p> <p>BG – Ideas around innovation and CAP reform and how incentives work. A Farming Future approach. Farmers will identify how a scheme. There is a danger of whole swathes of the countryside will go is Basic Payments go.</p> <p>There is some mapping showing different sources of funding – something about investigation Natural Environment Act – Sept 11th deadline – Future of Public Sector Investments – it will be essential to enable a shared investment plan.</p> <p>MWi was concerned about the lack of engagement with the community and many of the stakeholders. Being suppressed by lack of communication from Defra was not helpful.</p> <p>Paper – Emma and Brett are looking at partnership and governance. The CMG was set up for detailed discussions with DCC and to look at the day to day strategic decisions – to be more responsive than the full partnership.</p> <p>The staff team cannot deliver all the strategic plan – coordination of the working groups is by the staff team</p> <p>Full Partnership, then CMG, then Working Groups. We need to encourage and support a more structured approach. Reporting back to Partnership via CMG. Where activities are not funded within the group – could be a project.</p> <p>Funding strategy – catchment partnership £3m-£4m over the next four years.</p> <p>PB – The green economy/green energy group hasn't had a meeting for some time. It is the least resourced group with the most lead targets – this needs addressing. A meeting is planned with NAT company – it is hoped they'll offer resources. The Energy Challenge Fund is a possible match. The Marine group needs a chair – the Marine Pioneer Coordinator will bring in funding.</p> <p>NIA Group (now Nature Improvement Group) has its first formal meeting next week. They'll be drawing up an action plan, ToR and members list. A list of new projects will link into the discussions. DWT(LS) is</p>	<p><b>AB/JTT to come up with a form of words that can keep stakeholders informed and engaged with the pioneers.</b></p> <p><b>Confirm the reporting procedure and identify how it might be done with an “operations director” role.</b></p> <p><b>AB/ BG/BRF</b></p>

Item	Issues	Action agreed
	<p>underpinning.</p> <p>The NIA group is also looking for input from other groups.</p> <p>It would be useful to have minimum criteria for the working groups to ensure the groups are doing what they were set up to do.</p> <p>Community Group: AA asked who will be doing what Matt did on the community group. No one, the group will need reconfiguration and develop a support or facilitating mechanism.</p> <p>Public engagement/education – every month schools get in touch for help/resources – broad membership. Decision in July.</p> <p>Community, research and NIA report together and should be working with the other groups. There are few options to give the community groups the capacity.</p> <p>The Partnership members expressed their gratitude for all Tom and Matt have done.</p> <p>Once Matt leaves there is an option for supporting a core role – either within an organisation, or as part of a project? Working through the CMG and regularly reporting back.</p> <p>SP - The BR either needs more money or to do less. MWa – The Partnership has great respect for what Matt has achieved – he brought in a whole stack of projects and we owe him a big vote of thanks. We will need a network of community members and volunteers.</p> <p>Twice a year Beaford lists all their artists who want to do activities in villages etc. Then talk to Parish Councils and communities to take responsibility. Each of the working groups could do this.</p> <p>LG – A lot of projects – may not be deliverable – do we need an overall post? There is District money.</p> <p>LA - Agreed that the Districts want a proposal for task specific funding.</p> <p>Woodland/Forestry Commission Group</p> <p>WEZ for main programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woods for business</li> <li>Woods for people</li> <li>Woods for nature</li> <li>Woods for ever</li> </ul> <p>Projects to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making local things work</li> </ul>	<p><b>AB/GT to draw up a terms of reference for a Community WG supporting role for the CMG</b></p>

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<p><b>7. Estuary Programme HLF Potential</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taw Valley Facilitation Fund</li> <li>• Ancient woodland restoration work with Woodland Trust</li> <li>• Woodland Directory – Confer will host</li> <li>• Timber Jills – HLF project</li> <li>• Nationally agreed apprenticeships equivalent forest craftsmen</li> <li>• Visit to Sweden – This was an exploratory visit to see how we can partner with Sweden on forest initiatives.</li> <li>• Promote North Devon in Forestry Commission</li> <li>• Woods for Water</li> </ul> <p>For future agendas we need a general report back but then need to select a number of items for a “deep dive” discussion and decision.</p> <p>Submission would be next May  Matched funding of £300k for managed realignment  £10k for biodiversity offset  £50k Early studies  £100k Natural Flood Management (NFM)  Plus £50k NFM small river catchments</p> <p>There has not been much engagement with the public about or for the estuary, which the HLF could provide.</p> <p>Partners asked to mark potential projects on the maps  Natural &amp; cultural heritage of the estuary basin.  Forgotten culture of boat builders on Bideford and Barnstaple such as the different jointing methods.  WWII landing practices etc.</p> <p>The planning inspector said that local people didn’t value the estuary landscape.</p> <p>JCW – Is this a priority for the partnership?</p> <p>LS - CABA and NIA want to develop a large project.</p> <p>AB – CABA offered money to get the bid rolling.  The lead has not yet been identified – it’s open to Partners to offer to lead. We could address the implementation between the Terrestrial and Marine Pioneers.</p> <p>MWa – It should be a BR Landscape Partnership bid.</p> <p>BG – No capacity – how are we to resource the group functionality?</p> <p>MWi – Should establish a task and finish group. Item 1 on the agenda should be ‘Can we do this?’  LG – Landscape Partnership – Item 2 – Intelligence from HLF.</p>	<p><b>Set up a task and finish group to explore the potential of the HLF bid for the estuary basin</b></p>

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<p data-bbox="129 636 300 730"><b>8. Seek Partnership views</b></p> <p data-bbox="129 1406 233 1438"><b>9. AOB</b></p>	<p data-bbox="352 199 815 465">Volunteers for the group– Peter Burgess (suggested by LS) Tony Pratt Andrew Austen Mark Wallace Lewis Andrews (railway) Jenny CW Natural England</p> <p data-bbox="352 669 1059 730">The views of the partnership on how the research and demands on the community can be managed.</p> <p data-bbox="352 770 1015 869">We need a protocol for requests from the BR for in kind contributions from PhD students. We have 4 PhD students trying to tap into our Pioneer.</p> <p data-bbox="352 907 1043 1070">List of research needs Lots of projects will need monitoring etc. If it's in the name of the BR it must be of high quality. Ethical standards committee should address this. If approached to comment/support etc.</p> <p data-bbox="352 1108 1059 1169">We will need to decide <i>if</i> we want to support and have a contact point to field the research requests.</p> <p data-bbox="352 1207 810 1238">Need a register of what's going on.</p> <p data-bbox="352 1375 1038 1473">MWa – Richard Butler's work with MAB has resulted in a UK MAB working group set up to explore a UK wide cultural programme.</p> <p data-bbox="352 1543 1046 1603">We will have a formal chance to thank Tom &amp; Matt at the next meeting.</p>	<p data-bbox="1093 165 1166 197"><b>area.</b></p> <p data-bbox="1093 938 1433 1137"><b>Agreed to set up a meeting of the research group to identify how research can be encourage and managed. AB/MWi</b></p>
<p data-bbox="129 1912 248 1973"><b>10. Next meeting</b></p>	<p data-bbox="352 1912 603 1944"><b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b></p>	