



BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes

**Friday 31st October 27th 2014
Umberleigh village Hall @ 13.30.**

Members Present:

Michael Winter (Chairman)
 Mark Wallace (Vice-Chairman and Beaford Arts)
 Richard Butler (BR Ambassador)
 Robert Down (Coastwise)
 Lesley Garlick (Devon County Council)
 Brian Fraser-Smith (DAPC)
 Peter Howard
 Tony Collier (BR Foundation)
 Rodney Cann (NDC)
 Mark Prior (Forestry Commission)
 Lisa Schneidau (DWT)
 Steve Pitcher (AONB Chairman)
 Eirene Williams (FWAG South West)
 Cllr. Gaye Tabor (TDC)

Hannah Harington (NDC)
 Roland Stonex (FWAG SW)
 Eirene Williams (FWAG SW)
 Kate Little (TDC)
 Andrew Austen (NDC)
 Phil Byers (Chamber of Commerce)
 Cllr. Derrick Spear (North Devon +)

BR Team Present:

Andy Bell
 Tom Hynes
 Matt Edworthy
 Gigha Klinkenborg

Item	Issues	Action agreed
1. Welcome from Chairman	The Chairman made introductions and welcomed Partners.	
2. Apologies & Minutes	Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Area) Brett Grosvenor (Environment Agency) Laurence Couldrick (WRT) David Appleton (Natural England) John Balls (Clovelly Shellfish Association) Cllr. Caroline Chugg (DCC) Pete Jollands (BR Foundation) Andrew Butler (NFU) Emma Richardson (Devon Wildlife Trust) Harry Barton (DWT) John Butterwith (NDFA) Minutes were amended and agreed.	
3. Matters arising	a) i NIA A report was tabled on the progress of the Northern Devon NIA. A film has been released about Farmers with the NIA.	

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	<p>http://youtu.be/q2wMk1s4dyc</p> <p>MWallace reported a new show called 'The Common' which asks 'what's our rural landscape worth?' Monitoring report was tabled. NIA was again congratulated on its successful work.</p>	
	<p>ii Law River Improvement Project The project has been very successful. We are expecting all the claims to come in by the end of November. Progress</p> <p>The main partners (Westcountry Rivers Trust, FWAG SW, Devon Wildlife Trust and Silvanus) have been continuing to reach targets during the final year of this three year project.</p> <p>£42k of grant aid was agreed with 21 farmers along the River Law through the Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Capital Grant Scheme. Much of this grant has been to improve fencing along the river. 10,600m of new fencing had been grant aided along with 12,500m of fence repairs. 16 new water troughs have also been agreed. £11k has so far been claimed and the remaining farmers are being reminded to submit their claims by the end of November.</p> <p>CSF A contract has now been let to deliver 20 infrastructure audits, produce 1 newsletter, deliver 5 farm pesticide reports, run 1 pesticide workshop, run 2 slurries and manures farm events, deliver 5 soil husbandry reports and 1 soils farm event. ADAS was the successful contractor.</p> <p>The target area will be similar to last year (7 catchments in the Torridge and 2 in the Law) with the addition of both the Barnstaple Yeo (focussing on pesticides) and a 5 mile radius around the estuary (to benefit water quality for shellfish).</p>	
	<p>b) Governance of the Biosphere Reserve MW assured partners that he would be staying until the end of the review process. Forma approval is now in place and we are now moving toward the procurement process. There will be a pre-procurement briefing for potential bidders on the 10th November at County Hall. There will be a 3-year funding commitment with HR pensions, etc. Potential bidders are DWT, WRT, Biosphere Foundation and North Devon Plus. If partners know of any other potential interested parties please let them know.</p> <p>The tender timetable will be: Oct/Nov – drawing up of tender specifications 12th December – issue tender – with 8 week response window FebMar 2015 review of bids by local authorities followed by formal consultation with staff. Contract awarded by 24th April 2015. There is a staff meeting on Monday with Peter Chamberlain and</p>	<p>Biosphere Reserve executive funding group to continue with the procurement process.</p>

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	<p>members of HR.</p> <p>The Districts want to retain locality – there is still room for debate. There is also the possibility of no tenders, in which case a clear fall back plan is needed.</p>	
	<p>c) Marine Issues</p> <p>The closure of the ray fishery is a major concern. Filmed in the summer as part of the series Boat Stories, the film shown by AB was particularly topical and demonstrates the importance of ray fishing to North Devon fisherman. http://youtu.be/inrQsEtabno</p> <p>Work is needed to avoid this type of ‘sudden shock’ in the future. 40% of UK ray is landed at Appledore. It was suggested that a ‘Sustainably caught in the Biosphere Reserve’ label could be part of a set of strategic tools – how to manage resources. It could be factored in to a Marine Plan for the area.</p> <p>AB highlighted the interim outputs from ValMER and its applicability as a tool to support decision making processes in the Biosphere Reserve. MW asked the partnership whether it would be used by planners. It was agreed that it was a good visual support mechanism and needs to be set for specific contexts. It also gave a perspective on the scale of impacts of various projects on the total marine environment of the Biosphere Reserve.</p>	<p>MWG to continue its support for a sustainable ray fishery</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Biosphere Reserve Strategy</p> <p>The Strategy is ready for consultation once we have the Chairman’s forward.</p> <p>Please can Partners comment on how it links to the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment Plan Woodland Strategy Sustainable Energy Plan Marine Plan Communications and engagement 	<p>AB to send deadline</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>River Basin Plan Consultation</p> <p>The Environment Agency have recently launched 2 consultation documents.: the Southwest River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan. The Biosphere Reserve will respond to both of these documents and individual organisations are also encouraged to do the same. There is funding linked to these plans and therefore it is important that an appropriate response is given. Contact Brett Grosvenor for any clarification.</p> <p>To clarify the link with the Biosphere Reserve Catchment Plan; The CaBA project is producing a catchment plan that complements the River Basin Plan that draws in the wider benefits and issues. TDC and NDC are in the early stages of setting up a task team arising from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. AB stressed that it was important that this group did not duplicate the work already being done but would be a good mechanism for deepening the engagement of the local authorities in the CaBA project and responding to the South west River Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>AB and Catchment partnership to draft a Biosphere Reserve response (for FRMP and RBMP) for all to share</p> <p>Torrige District Council and North Devon District Council to ensure the new task group works with the existing efforts on water</p>

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		quality
6.	<p>Engaging Business Phil Byers reported on how we might engage business sector. the Chair of Governors of Petroc and Bicton, Peter Brend, Barnstaple Chamber of Commerce, Andy for the BR and Tony Colier for the Foundation. Key players are needed to kick start a business group. They need to understand how they can benefit businesses. Many Businesses don't understand what the Biosphere is. Gateway signage would help. Mole Valley are meeting very soon and there is a meeting planned with Activis as a major employer in the area.</p>	PB and AB to continue to develop the engagement with businesses
7.	<p>Potential Major Bids and Collaborations Woodland Enterprise Zone (report from Biosphere Reserve coordinator) – a paper was circulated.</p> <p>NIA have done great work – the challenges are woodlands competing in value with current farming and land subsidies. 22% of woodland are small blocks. The known values of ecosystem services are £58million to our area if the calculations are correct. South West Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee have endorsed the concept of the WEZ in the Biosphere Reserve. Training, advice and market management is essential to creating a viable industry.</p> <p>Suggestions from the partnership included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage with Norbord at South Molton– they are big enough to set the price. • PH offered the support of the Save our Woods Campaign in engaging the community. <p>Part 2 of the paper was highlighting the range of projects and funds that are being pursued. The information needed populating further. MW repeated that this emphasises the need for a strategic funding meeting to agree programmes and funding between the partners so that we work collaboratively to draw down the maximum resources for the area</p>	<p>AB to continue to pursue the WEZ and its funding.</p> <p>AB to report back on the feedback from the Local Enterprise Rural Special Interest Group</p> <p>AB to speak with PH about working with Save our Woods</p> <p>AB and MW to set up the strategic funding meeting</p>
8.	<p>Zonation issues/opportunities highlighted in Periodic review Ab introduced various options (real and hypothetical) for the review of the Biosphere Reserve Zonation. The ideas were introduced Potential BR additional core areas/buffer zones and transitions zones – in the marine area as well as on land. The idea was to help people make a more conscious link between the Biosphere Reserve and their local environment by introducing more local identity. PH warned against over emphasis on certain sites since it can lead to fewer resources for undesignated areas.</p> <p>It was suggested that if core areas in West Devon were to be established, it would be important that West Devon should be more active as a partner in the Biosphere Reserve governance.</p>	AB to develop most likely options as part of the Periodic Review process.
9.	<p>Any other business Local Nature Partnership newsletter is just out. MW pointed out that the link between the LNP and the Biosphere Reserve which covers</p>	

Item	Issues	Action agreed
	almost half of Devon should be much stronger than it is. Date of next meeting: To be arranged Doodle	GK to arrange Doodle Poll