



## NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

### BOARD MEETING

10.30 am – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

The Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge, County Durham

**Board Members Present:** David Hill (Chairman), Chris Woodley-Stewart (North Pennines AONB Partnership – Vice Chair), Andrew Miller (Northumberland National Park Authority), Gary Smith (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority), Robert Benson (Moorland Association), Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission), Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust), Clare Steward (Environment Agency), David Alborough (Northumbrian Water), Paul Burgess (Nidderdale AONB Partnership)

**Others present:** Adrian Shepherd (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority); Naomi Waite (RSPB); Stewart Pudney (Northumbrian Water).

### 1. Apologies

Amanda Miller (RSPB), Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), Laurie Norris (NFU), Richard Betton (Open seat); Christine Venus (Natural England)

### 2. Curlew project update

Naomi Waite (RSPB) provided an update on the work of NUCLNP Curlew Group. The group formed following a workshop in March facilitated by RSPB & attended by representatives of the 5 protected landscapes, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Natural England, Moorland Association & the Northern Hill Farming Panel. Two outputs were produced: a work plan and a briefing document. One aim of the project is to pull together existing data. The next meeting of the group has been arranged for the 3<sup>rd</sup> October to start to drive forward the work programme, particularly for the on the ground measures for the 2018 breeding season.

Board members supported the work and raised key issues for the group including predator control, beneficial land management, and the negative impact on Curlew of intensive silage cutting and inappropriate woodland planting. It was agreed that the NUCLNP project should focus on improving the data, and using this to work with farmers and landowners to promote good practice in predator control and land management. The point was made that the Board was committed to the project and would put resources in to making it happen.

**Action:** *GS to consider staff support for the Curlew project as part of the proposals under item 8 below.*

### 3. Presentation on the Peatland Code

The presentation was postponed to the next meeting. Members were advised that a DEFRA fund of £10 million for peat restoration was available for bids and that YWT were co-ordinating a bid for the north of England. The launch of the Pennine Peat Partnership LIFE programme would be held at the Morritt Arms on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **4. Logic Framework for LNP priorities**

Chris Woodley-Stewart presented an initial 'logic framework', as a tool to enable the NUCLNP to stay focused on its priorities. Following an initial discussion, it was agreed that the framework will be further refined with a view to agreeing a final version at December Board meeting.

**Action:** *GS to circulate the draft logic framework with the minutes*

*All to provide comments to CWS on the draft logic framework by 20 October*

#### **5. HNV farming and natural capital**

Gary presented the paper on setting out a vision for supporting farming and the environment in the LNP area. Adrian updated the Board on the recent discussions on this subject by the Northern Hill Farming Panel.

Board members were broadly supportive of the vision. Discussion centred on the need to encourage a change from a focus on food production towards a focus on producing 'natural capital' in the broadest sense, and how the delivery of public benefits and the production of food could be delivered in balance. This could be demonstrated through using existing projects in the NUCLNP, such as the national 'payments by results' pilot project, and the business advice projects.

There is an opportunity to demonstrate the successes of these projects to the Secretary of State when he visits the national Trust estate in November at which officers from the YDNPA will be present and use the wider work which has been happening in the LNP to try to influence his thinking on the future.

**Action:** *All to send comments on the vision document to Gary by 20 October.*

*Adrian/Richard to agenda the vision for discussion at the November meeting of the Northern Hill Farming Panel.*

#### **6. Natural capital document for the LNP**

This item was deferred to the next meeting in Rob Stoneman's absence.

#### **7. Review of membership and Terms of Reference**

Gary presented the paper and proposals, which Board members discussed. It was agreed that:

- the Board should continue to meet 4 times a year
- the Northern Hill farming panel should have a seat on the Board
- the Board would retain 3 seats for business. Northumbrian Water and David Hill would fill two of those seats. James Farrer (NY LEP) would be approached about the other.
- The Board would not retain the current seat for a representative from a health organisation
- the Chair should be elected from within the membership, and serve for a fixed term (2 years) before needing to seek re-election
- as a result of the changes above, the Board would revert back to 19 representatives;
- the Terms of Reference should be reviewed not less than every 3 years

**Action: GS to invite James Farrer (NYLEP) to sit on the Board.**

**David Alborough to look for other potential business representatives**

**GS to circulate the revised Terms of Reference.**

## **8. LNP project officer**

Paul Burgess gave a verbal update on discussions with HLF. Recent discussions with HLF had moved on to the opportunity of a delegated grant scheme for the NUCLNP. However, it would be difficult to deliver that without additional staff resource, and it wouldn't solve the problem of a lack of capacity to drive forward the existing LNP projects. After a discussion amongst Board members, it was agreed to: develop the delegated grant fund idea for further discussion with HLF; and, to fund a part time staff resource (ideally from within one the AONBs/NPAs) to help drive forward the LNP's priority projects.

**Action: PB to develop delegated grant scheme proposal and discuss with HLF;**

**PB/CWS/EL/AM to let GS know by 12 October if they have a member of staff who might be suitable for the LNP project officer role**

**GS to finalise a JD/spec for the post and appoint to the post**

## **9. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed. All but two of the actions had been completed: GS was still waiting for Beth Halski (Plantlife) to come back with proposals for promoting the vascular plants work through the LNP's website; and, Paul Burgess was still to assess the extent of nature tourism within the LNP.

## **10. Financial update**

The financial update paper was noted and that funding was there to be allocated to supporting priority projects.

## **11. Information sharing**

Board members discussed the Red Squirrel North England report circulated by Crispin, and noted the excellent work being done by local groups. The LNP should only become involved in this if there are ways it can add value. Could be an item for the Annual Forum in March 2018.

David Hill informed the Board that he is now on the Board of the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, which has funding available for projects linked to natural capital. David is also on the Food, Farming & Countryside Commission, which is looking at ways to improve the environmental performance of farming.

Claire Steward informed the Board of the Water Environment Improvement Fund, which is funded through RDPE and will focus on WFD (and potentially INNS). EA is working with catchment partnerships to develop proposals. Likely to be application window in Dec/Jan for spend in 2018/19.

## **12. Forward items**

The forward items were noted. No new items proposed except the 2 items deferred from this meeting to December to be led by Rob Stoneman

## **13. Date of the next meeting**

8 December 2017 – 10.30 am at the Morritt Arms.



	NAME	ACTION
1.	Gary Smith	To circulate the draft logic framework with the minutes
2.	All	To send comments to Chris on the Logic framework by 20 October
3.	All	To send comments to Gary on the vision on supporting farming & the environment by 20 October
4.	Adrian/Richard	To agenda the vision for discussion at the November meeting of the Northern Hill Farming Panel
5.	Gary Smith	To invite James Farrer (NYLEP) to sit on the Board.
6.	David Alborough	To identify other potential business representatives who could add value to the Board
7.	Gary Smith	To circulate the revised Terms of Reference.
8.	Paul Burgess	To develop delegated grant scheme proposal and discuss with HLF;
9.	Paul, Chris, Elliot and Andrew	To let GS know by 12 October if they have a member of staff who might be suitable for the LNP project officer role
10.	Gary Smith	To finalise a JD/spec for the LNP project officer post and appoint to it
11.	Paul Burgess	To assess the extent of nature tourism in the LNP
12.	Rob Stoneman	To prepare the 2 papers deferred from this meeting for presentation to the December Board meeting.