



## **BOARD MEETING**

**10.30 am – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**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), Amanda Anderson (Moorland Association), Ben Lamb (Tees Rivers Trust), Graham Warren (Environment Agency), Paul Burgess (Nidderdale AONB Partnership), Amanda Miller (RSPB), Rob Stoneman (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust), Christine Venus (Natural England)

**Others present:** Kate Hawley (Forestry Commission), Rebecca Barrett (North Pennines AONB Partnership), Joanna Swiers (Consultant)

### **1. Apologies**

David Alborough (Northumbrian Water), Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission), Laurie Norris (NFU), Richard Betton (Northern Hill Farming Panel); Elliott Lorimer (Forest of Bowland AONB)

The Board welcomed Amanda Anderson and asked that best wishes be conveyed to Robert Benson for a swift recovery.

### **2. Principles for afforestation**

Kate Hawley gave a presentation on the FC's principles for afforestation on or near priority habitats, and some initial draft guidance on afforestation near important wader sites.

The Board noted that the wader guidance was still very much a work in progress. There was a general feeling that mapping and prediction based on thresholds/criteria are not the solution for this issue. CV noted that at many sites there will be a mix of priority habitats that need to be considered and the priority is to identify what can be enhanced and how planting can be integrated into this. DH, Andrew Miller and CWS noted that waders need to be given a chance to recover; where there is currently a low density of waders, there is an opportunity to enhance/recover populations. It was noted that the LNP curlew working group is identifying curlew 'hotspots' through a mapping exercise but there is no quick and easy fix to identify which sites are key to curlew populations. The impact of planting on neighbouring ground needs to be considered, not just the impact on the planting site itself. Survey and 'ground-truthing' cannot be entirely avoided. AA pointed out that the density of planting is also important, as low density planting can be very beneficial. The Board was unclear about the status of the waders paper – whether there would be a formal consultation, and what was the deadline for comments.

**Action: Kate Hawley to ask Crispin Thorn to clarify the consultation status of the waders paper [Done – see CT's e-mail to Board members dated 20 March].**

### **3. HNV farming study**

A HNV farming study has been proposed that would summarise recent studies on the economics of hill farming in the NUCLNP area; clarify what it contributes to natural capital and ecosystem service delivery, what it has the potential to deliver in the future, and the impact on 'social capital'. The study would cost £10-20k. Of the £10k originally allocated to HNV farming work, £9k remains. The NFU will be asked to contribute towards this. A sub-group of the HNV farming working group will develop the brief, and it will be circulated to Board members.

CV noted that the brief must ensure that the study is objective and independent. AM & RS stressed that it must consider options and opportunities for what could happen in the future. RS mentioned that YWT has done a model for three notional farms in the Aire catchment that demonstrates how much more could be done in terms of delivery of public goods for the same investment. AA noted that there is an important role to explain what is meant by public goods so farmers can understand the concept and buy into it.

The Board agreed to allocate up to a further £10,000 to support the study subject. The NFU should be approached for funding but if this were unsuccessful, the LNP will fully fund the project.

GS mentioned that YDNPA are encouraging Defra to fund the continuation and expansion of the RBAPS pilot in Wensleydale, and will keep Board members informed if there is any progress.

**Action: RS to circulate the YWT case study on three notional farms in the Aire catchment**

**Action: AS/RB to develop a detailed brief for the study and circulate to the Board prior to commissioning .**

**Action: CWS to circulate his copy of Lois Mansfield's book (Managing Upland Resources – new approaches for rural environments).**

### **4. Scope of a Natural Capital document for the LNP**

CWS reported that there has been little progress to date but that there is certainly value in doing something.

**Action: CWS to progress for next meeting**

### **5. HLF bid update**

Joanna Swiers updated the Board on progress with developing the bid, and sought views on the various potential strands of activity. Key points:

- the Project Enquiry form was submitted in November. The deadline for Stage 1 application is June;
- Joanna has had discussions with officers from the 5 protected landscapes about potential projects
- the scheme is an opportunity to put the LNP on the map for the wider public
- HLF's priority is to get people involved in natural heritage, including 'hard to reach' audiences
- the grant will primarily target local communities, businesses, voluntary groups and individuals
- the scheme will need to be underpinned by a comprehensive communication plan

CWS encouraged a June application (rather than later). RS stressed the challenges to get people to sign up, and the need to facilitate, support or even do projects for people. Amanda Miller suggested that partners could form a panel to help develop criteria and judge applications. GS emphasised the need to identify plausible match funding. The Board thanked Joanna for her work.

**Action: DH to put Joanna in touch with potential youth organisation partners**

**Action: GS/CWS/PB to continue to support Joanna to develop and submit the bid by June.**

### **6. Raptors**

The Board agreed that this subject merited detailed consideration outside of a regular Board

meeting. It was, therefore, agreed to hold a special meeting on raptors immediately after the next Board meeting.

## **7. Delegated natural heritage grant scheme**

Covered by item 5 above.

## **8. Great Upland Forest group**

Kate Hawley gave an update on progress with the group. The first meeting has been held since the event at Barningham last year. Rob Mayhew is the interim chair of the group and is considering its future role and function. The key question is: is there anything the LNP can usefully add to existing local action? DH felt that the group needs to refocus efforts towards ghyll and low density planting.

**Action: CWS & DH to contact Rob Mayhew to help steer the future shape and scope of the group. A proposal then to come to the Board.**

## **9. 25 Year Environment Plan**

This item had been left on the agenda by mistake.

## **10. Elected Members Guide**

CWS introduced the draft guide, which was aimed at raising awareness of the value of the natural environment and the work of LNPs amongst North East politicians. The Board agreed to endorse the guide, and delegated CWS to make any final amendments back to Capability North East.

**Action: CWS to advise Capability North East of final amendments on behalf of the NUCLNP.**

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

The minutes were noted and adopted as a formal record of the meeting on 8 December. GS confirmed that a part-time (1 day per fortnight) officer had been recruited to support the LNP's projects, and would start in April. The following actions are still outstanding:

***GS/RS to draft letter for the Chairman to send to the Secretary of State at Defra.***

***GS to commission an infographic for 2017-18 and briefing notes on key LNP projects.***

***DH, CW-S, RS and GS to determine the agenda for the Forum and secure relevant speakers.***

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

***DA to look for other potential business representatives to sit on the Board***

## **12. Update on LNP projects**

**Curlews** – the group had received £10,000 from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation to fund its work. £4,000 had been spent so far on the data collection. The group is looking to map 'curlew hotspots'.

## **13. Financial update**

The Board noted the current financial state of the LNP, which remains healthy.

#### **14. Information sharing**

No specific new items

#### **15. Forward items**

The Board noted the current forward items.

#### **16. Date of next meeting**

15 June 2018 – 10.30 am at the Morritt Arms. To be followed by a Board discussion on raptor issues 13.30-15.30.

	NAME	ACTION
1.	Kate Hawley	<i>To ask Crispin Thorn to clarify the consultation status of the afforestation &amp; waders paper</i>
2.	Rob Stoneman	<i>To circulate YWT's report on the notional Aire catchment farms</i>
3.	Adrian Shepherd / Richard Betton	<i>To develop the detailed brief for the study and circulate to the Board prior to commissioning it.</i>
4.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	<i>To circulate his copy of Lois Mansfield's book (Managing Upland Resources – new approaches for rural environments).</i>
5.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	<i>To prepare report on scope of a Natural Capital document for the LNP for next meeting</i>
6.	David Hill	<i>To put Joanna in touch with potential youth organisation partners for HLF grant bid</i>
7.	Gary Smith / Chris Woodley-Stewart / Paul Burgess	<i>To continue to support Joanna to develop and submit the HLF grant bid by June</i>
8.	Chris Woodley-Stewart / David Hill	<i>To contact Rob Mayhew to help steer the future shape and scope of the GUF group. A proposal then to come to the Board.</i>
9.	Chris Woodley-Stewart	<i>To advise Capability North East of final amendments to the Elected Members Guide on behalf of the NUCLNP.</i>
10.	Gary Smith / Rob Stoneman	<i>To draft letter for the Chairman to send to the Secretary of State at Defra</i>
11.	Gary Smith	<i>To commission an LNP infographic for 2017-18 and briefing notes on key LNP projects.</i>
12.	David Hill / Chris Woodley-Stewart / Rob Stoneman / Gary Smith	<i>To determine the agenda for the Forum and secure relevant speakers.</i>
13.	Gary Smith	<i>To invite James Farrer (NYLEP) to sit on the Board</i>
14.	David Aldborough	<i>To look for other potential business representatives to sit on the Board</i>