

Agenda for SFNC Sustainable Land Management Working Groups Meeting

07.05.19

10:30

Forth Meeting Room, Silvan House, Edinburgh

Chair: Mary Christie (SNH)

Coordinator: Nicola Melville (SEPA)

Attending:

Anne Grey (Heather Trust); Kerry Waylen (JHI); Alistair McVittie (SRUC); Bruce Wilson (SWT); Mark Williams (Scottish Water); Mary Christie (SNH); Pat Snowdon (FCS); Paola Ovando Pol (JHI – by phone); Marc Metzger (ESCom/ University of Edinburgh); Eleanor Kay (Scottish Land and Estates); Helen Duncan (Scottish Government); Marina Curran-Cultard (Argyll and Bute Council); Punit Desai (SFNC);

Guest: James Peacock (EnTrade)

Apologies:

Andrew Wells (Crown Estates Scotland); Alex Jones (Scotch Whisky Association); Gita Anand (SG); Bruce Wilson (SWT)

Purpose:

1. To update on natural capital protocol trials and LENS projects
2. To discuss the potential for developing an environmental trading platform between land based businesses and other organisations / businesses in Scotland
3. To discuss a joint SFNC/ESCom event to share progress

Progress updates:

1. LENS in Scotland Mary Christie

Action 1: Mary to check with Tim Curtis if she can circulate LENS presentation from the Girvan workshop

2. Trials of natural capital protocol

- Forestry – Pat Snowdon

Action 2: Pat to circulate specification for trial after it has been agreed with sub-group and questions for Pat by email

- Dairy – Nicola
- JHI research farms – Paola and Kerry

Action 3: Paola to circulate lesson so far to group

- Roll out of protocol to Crown Estates farms

Action 4: Nicola to contact Andy Wells about involvement of Kirsten Brewster from SNH on the project group (completed)

- Upland moorland – Anne Grey

Action 5: Anne and Mary to set up a sub-group to discuss upland moorland trial. Eleanor, Pat and Paola asked to be involved.

3. ForLand – Marc Metzger

New and emerging projects:

Rewilding Project using natural capital assessment – Alistair McVittie

This is a rewilding project over 100ha at Whitebridge near Inverness. AECOM is setting up long term monitoring to understand the natural capital and ecosystem service benefits that come

from rewilding and native woodland regeneration. It was suggested that AECOM should make links to the Cairngorms Connect project. Also that AECOM could present at a future meeting or perhaps the knowledge sharing event in the autumn.

Action 6: Alistair to contact AECOM to make this offer.

EnTrade:

James Peacock (EnTrade Technical Director) presented the screen shots of the on-line platform, described how it had been developed and the new areas the platform was extending into. The platform was originally designed for enabling Wessex Water to set up a reverse auction with land managers in a catchment to put in place measures to manage nitrate. It was subsequently used for managing phosphate which requires uplift in rates for specific locations as phosphate management needs to be more targeted than nitrates. The platform is now being designed to meet the needs of LENS in England. This will create a trading platform to enable multiple buyers of a wider range of ecosystem services to participate including flood regulation, carbon, pollination and biodiversity. NatCap research involved in developing the models to enable this part of the platform for Poole Harbour. The trial will start in the autumn.

The group requested a follow up with EnTrade once the trial was completed.

Pat offered to share Forestry commission Carbon models. James will check on what was used and get back to him.

Questions:

- How payments would be made for multiple benefits? - this will be based on the primary purpose of the buyers and would be weighted in favour of their outcomes
- Long term investment in capital vs. operational costs? – probably defers investment rather than replace it e.g. treating phosphorous from small STW not financially viable for small STW where you need small scale tertiary treatment. If this defers action for another 10 years there may be better technology available that is cost effective
- Dealing with uncertainty for drinking water catchments related to public health – overall less willingness to take risks
- Evaluating effectiveness- regulator needs to be willing to accept higher levels of uncertainty – it has 1 year baseline data minimum, 2-3 years of monitoring at a field level to see if has worked; then feed results back into payments to farmers
- Public sector involvement in the platform as a buyer of specific flows and outcomes – trust is important to business engagement in some cases this is reduced by public sector involvement due to past history of bureaucracy, however sometimes public sector involvement provides credibility.

Next steps:

Action 7: James liaise with Helen about a follow up session with Scottish Government colleagues especially those involved in agricultural policy

Action 8: Nicola to speak to Mark Williams and Jim Pritchard about their feedback following the presentation and consider use of the platform within the One Planet Choices project

Action 9: Mary/Marco to feedback on trial of the platform in the SW Scotland LENS

Action 10: James to provide an update to a future meeting following completion of the Poole Harbour trial

Proposal for joint ECom/SFNC event - Marc Metzger

The working group agreed to two events:

October 2019 ECom/SFNC knowledge sharing event for businesses, agencies, policy makers and researchers

Action 11: Marc to work with **Punit** to arrange this workshop, with input from the group via **Nicola**

Jan/Feb 2020 Practitioners and land managers knowledge sharing event

Action 12: Anne and Eleanor to work together to lead on setting up this event working with the group via Nicola

Next meeting of working group late August/ early September

Action 13: Nicola to set up doodle poll and set up meeting.