

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
AEFF PROJECT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2012 AT 10.00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM G, WOODHILL HOUSE**

Present

Belinda Miller	FLAG Chairperson
Jamie Bell	Scottish Enterprise
James Buchan	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Gavin Clark	Scottish Natural Heritage
David Cook	Banff & Buchan College
Ian Hay	East Grampian Coastal Partnership

Officers in Attendance

Ann Marie Macaskill	Aberdeenshire Council
Vicky Thomson	Aberdeenshire Council
Anne MacLennan	Aberdeenshire Council

Apologies

None

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

1.1 Belinda welcomed PAC members to the meeting and introductions were made round the table. There were no apologies.

2. MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

2.1 The draft minute of the FLAG meeting on 14 March 2012 was noted and will be approved at the FLAG meeting on 6 June 2012.

2.2 As per the Terms of Reference, it was clarified that Gavin Clark represents Environment and Ian Hay represents Community. In the event that Gavin is unable to attend, Ian will attend as substitute for Environment and Roger Goodyear will attend as substitute for Community.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

3.1 Belinda confirmed that an additional post of Fisheries Project Officer will be funded under Axis 5 for two years. The post holder will help generate project ideas and will assist applicants to work up applications to AEFF while working across the other EFF Axes. The post is currently delayed due to the Economic Development Service Review but it is hoped that it can be advertised in August. This will be a full-time permanent post which Aberdeenshire Council will continue to fund after the two years are up.

3.2 It may be beneficial to provide an AEFF Briefing Session for all new Councillors.

4. CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE

4.1 The Co-ordinators update, which will be presented again at the FLAG, is summarised briefly below:

- Thirty five EOIs received to date.
- Good projects in the pipeline for Round 2.
- Meetings held with applicants to bottom out complicated projects.
- Co-finance element is difficult for applicants to grasp. Examples on the website have been helpful.
- Coastal Communities Fund was oversubscribed. Outcome will be known in June for applications progressing to Stage 2. Outcome for Stage 2 will not be known until December.
- Scottish Government has top-sliced the Axis 4 fund for transnational projects.
- Awaiting information from Marine Scotland regarding procedures for transnational projects.
- Awaiting Service Level Agreement from Marine Scotland although updated guidance has been received and uploaded on the website.
- Advice regarding other possible funding avenues will be uploaded on the website.
- As per information on Google Analytics, the AEFF website received 252 hits over a period of two weeks.
- Community Consultations for AEFF and LEADER are currently being held in Inverbervie, Port Erroll and Banff.
- Ann Marie and Jimmy Buchan gave presentations at the Shire Connections event.
- Ann Marie will be in attendance on the Aberdeenshire Council stand at the Scottish Skipper Expo to be held on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 June.

5. AEFF TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

5.1 A small change was made to Section 7 with regard to the FLAG decision to adopt the one-tier system whereby only the final application comes forward to the PAC and FLAG.

5.2 Section 8.2 score sheets have now been provided by Marine Scotland.

5.3 The amended TOR will be recommended to the FLAG and will be signed off at the FLAG meeting on 6 June.

6. AEFF WEBSITE MEMBERS AREA

6.1 Minor browsing issues were discussed. The members area can be slightly unstable and can jump between two menus.

It was suggested that a website demo be presented at the FLAG.

7. MARINE SCOTLAND GUIDANCE

- 7.1 The Marine Scotland Guidance document has been uploaded on the website. It contains extra information regarding eligibility and aid intensity.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 During the application process, all projects are of a confidential nature. All pre-application information received by the Co-ordinator will be treated in confidence.

Once approved, project description and funds awarded will be in the public domain and the approved minute will be uploaded on the AEFf website.

The pre-application process is confidential and it was agreed to make this clear in section 9.5 of the Terms of Reference.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 6.1 Ian Hay declared an interest as the applicant for project 002, East of Scotland Seafood Festival and Trail – Scoping Study. Ian will not take part in the project discussion or the voting process.
- 6.2 Jamie Bell declared an interest as a match funder for project 003, Scottish Marine Safari. Jamie will take part in the project discussion but will not participate in the vote.

7. PROJECTS 001 to 003

7.1 001 Build and Sail Our own Dinghies

The project is to introduce local primary school pupils to the sport of sailing through learning how to build a dinghy and progressing on to learn practical sailing skills.

The project will employ two Scottish Royal Yachting Association (SYRA) instructors to deliver the programme. The instructors will be assisted by volunteers. Portsoy Primary and other schools in the Loch Soy area such as Banff, Bracoden, Aberchirder, Ordiquhill and Fordyce will benefit from the project which aims to raise awareness amongst pupils about the fishing and maritime heritage of the area. The proposals are inclusive and aim to help to build pupil confidence, especially for disadvantaged children.

Co-finance has been secured from Aberdeenshire Council's Active Schools. The ineligible costs include items which have already been purchased for the project.

The applicant, Banff Community Small Schools Sailing Initiative (BCSSSI) has received wide community support for their activities and there is evidence of support from pupils and Head Teachers.

PAC was supportive of this innovative project which could be seen as a

positive example for other communities. The question of sustainability was raised regarding the future once the instructors leave the project. However, it is hoped to get further community buy in for the future and by then, it is hoped that pupils will have the confidence to progress to sailing at the next level.

PAC would welcome further information about maintenance of the dinghies.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £750 APPROVED BY PAC.

7.2 **002 – East of Scotland Seafood Festival and Trail – Scoping Study** DOI - Ian Hay left the room prior to the project discussion.

The project is for a feasibility study to look at the possibilities for a year-long Seafood Festival in the North East and the creation of a Seafood Trail.

East Grampian Coastal Partnership will manage the project and will employ a graduate student for a two month period to undertake the study which will research the availability of locally caught seafood, create a list of establishments who are interested in becoming seafood 'champions' and carry out an audit of fresh fish outlets. A final report and DVD of the findings will be produced.

The year long seafood festival and trail will be the second phase.

PAC raised some queries mainly regarding the geographical area. PAC was keen to ensure that Aberdeenshire is the focus of the pilot study but welcomed the engagement of neighbouring FLAG areas when it comes to the main project with the possibility of rolling out the proposal to other areas across Scotland.

PAC welcomed the opportunities for the community to benefit from events being held in the area through increased footfall and tourism.

PAC was supportive of the proposals but would welcome assurances from the applicant regarding the geographical area of the project. PAC suggested that Ian Hay be invited to make a short presentation about the project at the FLAG meeting. It was also suggested that a condition of the award could be that the findings are published on the AEFF website.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £3,600 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR FLAG.

Ian Hay returned to the room.

7.3 **003 – Scottish Marine Safari**

It was noted that the applicant, Michael Watt, was recently re-elected as Councillor for Banff & Buchan.

The project is to purchase an electric tender boat for the exploration of marine wildlife on safari type expeditions from the Orlik vessel. An ROV camera will also be incorporated to enable tourists to see wildlife

underwater.

The Orlik is a wooden fishing trawler which has been refurbished to luxury standards. It will offer visitors and tourists the opportunity to experience marine wildlife along the North East coast. The Orlik has a green energy policy and the solar panels and wind turbine will charge the electric engine of the tender vessel which means there will be minimal disturbance to wildlife.

PAC were supportive of the proposals but raised the question regarding how much time the vessel will spend in Aberdeenshire and out of Fraserburgh as the main port. It will be important for any potential spend to be retained in the area. The question of displacement was also raised and PAC would like clarification about other similar ventures which may be operating in the area.

PAC would welcome a letter of comfort from the applicant confirming the expectation that the vessel will primarily operate along the Aberdeenshire coastline as per the application form. Clarification will also be sought with regard to the stated number of jobs created.

PROJECT FUNDING OF £13,194 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR FLAG.

8. AOCB

There was no other business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

LAG meeting – Wednesday, 6 June 2012,
Port Erroll Public Hall, 10.00 am

PAC meeting – Tuesday, 28 August 2012,
Conference Room E1, Woodhill House, 10.00 am