

**East Loch Sheil Deer Management Group Meeting**  
**22/06/2015**  
**Held at Ardgour Estate Office, Salachan House**

Present:

*Robin Maclean of Ardgour- **Chairman***

*Ewen Maclean of Ardgour- **Secretary***

*David Mackenzie (Conaglen)*

*Ross Maclean (Conaglen)*

*David Mosgrove (Conaglen)*

*John Jackson (FCS)*

*Colin Lavin (FCS)*

*Peter Sinclair (Resipole)*

*Rory Sinclair (Resipole)*

*Iain Jackson (Resipole)*

*Shaun Corrigan (Ardgour)*

*Steve Fox (Carnoch)*

*Lynda Campbell (ADMG)*

Apologies- John Macdonald, Graeme Taylor

Not present: Harvey Philips

Matters arising;

1. A copy of the minutes from the previous meeting was circulated and they were agreed by the chairman to be a true record of events.

2.

**Chairmanship**

EM informed the group that further to previous discussions surrounding RM stepping down as chairman, EM had been in discussion with SF since the last meeting and SF had agreed to take on the role as chair. This was met with unanimous approval and SF thanked RM for his work in the past.

3.

**DMP Progress**

EM informed the group that DM had been solely working on the DMP and invited DM to inform the group as to what progress had been made.

DM circulated copies of the draft DMP and went through the changes being worked on.

DM stressed the importance of feedback from members, stating that from the group as a whole, only SF had given him any information. In going through the DMP, it transpired that a lot of the missing information could be supplied by members of the group and the information should be passed on to DM as soon as possible.

LC stressed the importance of SNH involvement, DM countered that the information required from SNH had not been forthcoming and that there was no real urge to circulate a partially completed document to government departments.

CL was confident that a lot of the public interest benefits required in the Benchmark process were being achieved.

Discussion around Cull returns took place, it was felt that the more historical records members could produce, the better.

There was some discussion around FCS separating the cull returns between hill ground and woodland culls.

It was concluded that the DMP would be ready by October and that DM would circulate an email detailing what information was required from which members and it was universally agreed that the information would be supplied with great haste.

4.

#### **ADMG fees**

EM stated that there had been discussion around the ADMG fees and how they are paid, at present Conaglen have been collecting the fees and paying the ADMG, DM stated that this is a structure which the auditors are unhappy with and will not take place in the future.

Discussion was had around the best way to proceed, LC stated that many groups have a bank account into which funds are paid which then makes it a simple process to pay ADMG. SF had concerns surrounding the costs involved in opening another bank account and what auditors would have to be paid to administer the account.

DM raised the query to ADMG whether it would be possible to allow the group to produce a SBI in the name of ADMG which could be circulated to the group and enable members to pay ADMG. LC to investigate.

SF meeting with his own accountant shortly, to ask if there is a more efficient way to structure system.

5.

#### **Non contributing members**

EM raised the point that the DMP would contain information on members who have not contributed in the past and some had stated categorically that they had no wish to be part of the DG, some discussion took place as to the best way to proceed, DM stated that Billy Macpherson had now given cull returns, but had no wish to attend meetings or pay ADMG fees. PS now has cull return figures for Ranachan, and it was felt that some progress had been made on the issue, with all but a small percentage of the group now providing valid information.

6.

#### **HIA training and monitoring**

EM informed the group that Graeme Taylor had provided some new dates for HIA training, originally due to take place on the same day as the meeting, members keen to take part were available on the new dates, EM to contact GT to confirm.

Much discussion was had in the group regarding the merits and failures of HIA, DM stated that Conaglen would not be taking part for a number of reasons, primarily due to the scale of the monitoring work needing to be undertaken, and the efficacy of the results being suspect.

EM stated that he viewed the HIA training and monitoring as a box that needed to be ticked, largely agreeing with DM's point of view.

JJ stated that members producing their own results would get better results than SNH performing the work.

DM stated that designated sites are already being monitored.

PS questioned the need for deer counts if HIA has taken place.

#### **AOB**

LC gave an ADMG update, mentioning the work being done to try to help groups perform and meet the standards set by the benchmark. Dates of interest: ADMG regional meeting, Braemar 29th June.

Ross Maclean talked about the high mortality rates of hinds and calves, and the falling stag numbers needing to be addressed.

SF stated the group should discuss hind cull numbers at next meeting.

DM informed the group of the group area cull total, whether it needed to change, it was agreed that the total could be +10% or -15% of the current total, Ross Maclean stressed the need for a deer count to assess the group total.

EM to chase Graeme Taylor regarding a formal date for a deer count in early 2016, which SNH have agreed to fund to the tune of 50%.

**Date of next meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in November, exact date to be confirmed nearer the time.