

Minutes of the East Loch Sheil DMG held at Conaglen House on 13th March 2017

Present:

Steve Fox, Carnoch (Chairman)
Ewen Maclean, Ardgour/Glenscaddie (Secretary)
David Mosgrove, Conaglen
Ross Maclean, Conaglen
David Mckenzie, Conaglen
Robin Maclean, Ardgour
Shaun Corrigan, Ardgour
Peter Sinclair, Resipole
Rory Sinclair, Resipole
Harvey Philip, Inversanda
Colin Lavin, FCS
Alistair Gibson, ADMG

Apologies:

John MacDonald
Graeme Taylor, SNH
John Jackson, FCS

Matters Arising:

Hind Reports/ Cull Returns:

Members of the group reported the condition of the hinds was generally positive, further correspondence from John Macdonald has indicated that it wasn't the case on Sunart Estate, with the condition of the hinds being of average to poor quality. Cull returns were passed to DM, DM to chase Ariundle and Drimnatorrin via email.

DMP Review:

DM reported on the progress of the DMP, the final document is nearly ready for publication, subject to some issues being ironed out, mainly regarding the problems with deer breaking through poor fences at the Glenhurich end of the group. As these issues are concurrent with the FC, SF suggested a subgroup should be formed at the end of the meeting in which it is hoped these issues can be resolved. SF, CL and DM agreed to form the subcommittee and once the resolution has been achieved, it is hoped that the DMP can be submitted to the group for final comments within a very short timeframe, enabling it to be published in the near future.

SF updated the group on the progress of other group's DMP's across Scotland, having attended the ADMG AGM.

AG on behalf of ADMG repeated the mantra that 'we will be judged on the speed of the slowest', with the SNH review due to be completed in 2019.

DM suggested actions within the DMP should be assigned individually to members, to ensure as many actions were carried out correctly as possible, EM to facilitate.

Habitat Impact Assessment

A discussion on HIA's began, with the progress throughout the group on this matter being minimal, only SF has completed any plots within the group.

EM reported that the sheer scale and location of plots on Ardgour would prevent him from completing the assessments as they currently stand, DM confirmed that Conaglen would not be inclined to assign manpower on such a large scale to carry out the amount of plots selected by SNH.

AG informed the group that the West Lochaber group had employed an ecologist to carry out the HIA's within their group, he was unable to provide the group with costings, but it was felt that such a solution would be unpalatable within the ELSDMG, with members disinclined to spend large amounts of money on providing data which could be subject to different interpretations, depending on the person carrying out the surveying.

DM raised the point that with Conaglen having a number of SSSI's which are subject to mandatory assessments by SNH, would these count towards data received by SNH towards the HIA goals. EM to discuss separately with GT. DM to provide map of Conaglen SSSI's.

EM to propose to GT that the group will select a number of sites on each property palatable to each individual member's time and resources and submit these to SNH, EM to report on discussions.

Constitution

The new constitution has been prepared by DM, the group was able to view the document and all members are happy with the changes.

ADMG payments

The issue within the group of ADMG not being able to produce individual invoices for members and the group having no central bank account once again was discussed, with no progress on this matter SF offered to use a dormant bank account of his own for the purposes of the group. DM was concerned about potential HMRC implications with this proposal and raised the point as to why ADMG could not produce self billing invoices for each member in order to facilitate payment.

AG suggested DM provide him with all the details and he would progress the matter with ADMG directly, DM to email AG and the group will be updated with information.

Yorkshire Game Liquidation

Discussion was had on the ensuing liquidation of YG, with many members being owed sums of money which had to date not been paid by the company.

DM in the process of pricing different game dealers and will update the group with findings. Suggestions made to join forces and price new dealers as a whole group, or to approach Yorkshire Game 17 and offer business of the group in return for monies owed by the original YG. SF to progress discussions with YG 17.

Sporting Rates

To date no members had further information on the re-introduction of sporting rates, with many members having not received any form of correspondence from the DV office.

It was felt that following the shambolic business rates review that has taken place recently that a similar process would ensue with sporting rates, with members being allocated rates without consultation.

SF highlighted that members should appeal any rates decisions, as without appeals, the rateable value would apply and after six months there will be no further chance of appeal.

Date of next Meeting:

Late July, early August