

Agenda

Highland Invasive Species sub-group.

2-4pm. Tuesday 22nd October 2013

SEPA Office, Dingwall.

1. Welcome

John Parrott	Coille Alba (Chairman)
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council
Barbara Macritchie	NTS – Balmacara
Corinna Mertens	SNH
Judi McDonald	SEPA

2. Apologies

Kiera McKnight	Network Rail
Julie Bhatti	SEPA – River Basin Management Coordinator A&B
David O'Brien	HBRG
Lucy Ballantyne	Lochaber Fishery Trust
Simon McKelvey	Cromarty Fisheries Trust
Rob Dewar	NTS

3. Approval of minutes, matters arising

Minutes approved.

Action Points 27/8/12

AP5. JW to submit the updated 2013-16 Highland INNS Strategy to the next meeting. **Discharged.**

AP6. JW to submit Japanese Knotweed Threat Assessment paper to the next meeting. **Discharged.**

Action Points 4/3/13

AP2. Possible SRDP Application made by Network Rail. BMcR to find out the details. **Discharged. No application made due to the SRDP for Rhoddie control shutting.**

Action Points 24/6/13

AP1. CM mentioned the Rhoddy problem in Glen Beasdale and the need for control of the infestation on the railway side. CM and KMcK to meet regarding this issue. **Not happened yet.**

AP2. KMcK to facilitate meetings with INNS sub-group members and the relevant project managers. **Not happened yet.**

AP3. KMcK to investigate NR INNS Standards. **Ongoing?**

AP4. JW to ask Niall at GBINNS about any contact they have had with Network Rail. **Discharged, very little communication at the GB level.**

HIS Forum 2013

AP6. JW to confirm venue. **Discharged.**

AP7. JW to confirm the speakers and an agenda. **Discharged. But JW to chase Stan Whitaker SNH for a national update on INNS progress.**

This meetings' APs.

AP1. JW to find out Transport Scotland's and Scottish Canals INNS policy.

4. Standing Item Questions/ Comments

5. Crayfish.

No Crayfish were caught this year as part of the ongoing monitoring programme.

6. HIS Forum 2013

The consensus was that it went very well. The venue was good and the discussion both formal and informally on the field visits were very good. Talk turned to 2014 and where an event may be held. It was thought that Ullapool or the Fort Augustus/ Drumnadrochit would be good locations for the next forum. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

AP2. JW to circulate the feedback summary sheet and notes from HISF5.

7. Japanese Knotweed Threat Assessment/ INNS Policy Highland Council

This was circulated round the group and a few suggestions for changes were made namely adding designated sites and the coast within 5m of a JK stand as high risk sites.

8. AOCB

A project proposal for research into Buttonweed *Cotula alpina* in Coigach has been received and is being considered by Highland Council for funding.

CM asked that video/ teleconferencing should be considered for the next meeting as it would save a great deal of travelling.

AP3. JW to arrange this with JMcD

9. DONM

Tuesday 4th March 2014. SEPA Dingwall.

Standing Items – Organisation Updates.

1. Mink Project

No Update.

2. Rhododendron Project

No SRDP funding available, control projects on hold due to this. Meeting with FC planned for the 30th October to discuss any possible progress with interim measures.

3. Cromarty Catchment

No update.

4. Lower Ness INNS Project

Work is continuing and JK has almost been eradicated from the Enrick and Coiltie. However complete eradication is probably impossible due to the difficulty in finding those last few plants. Work continuing up in Inverness. There is no funding for next year and this perennial problem isn't getting better and doesn't fit in with the national initiatives to control INNS. Lots of policy, no delivery mechanism. This problem probably needs to be addressed with a separate fund to bid into for the control of INNS.

5. GB INNS Local Area Group Update

No meeting since January.

6. Nairn

Update provided at the Forum.

7. Giant Hogweed

Work continuing on all known infestations. Some issues with certain landowners seeming not to spray this year, but only in one isolated spot. Himalayan Balsam starting to spread into the Auldearn Burn after removal of the GH, so further work required there.

8. Network Rail

No update.

9. RBPM

No update.

10. TCV

No update.

11. Scotland Transerv

No update.

The aims of the Highland Invasive Species Group were agreed as follows:

- To bring together the key players and take stock of the situation regarding invasive non-native species in Highland;
- To raise awareness and spread good practice;
- To identify any major gaps and prioritise key areas for future work; and
- To work together to secure new resources and funding.

Sub Group Remit.

The Forum agreed that biosecurity issues and the securing of funding for the projects discussed at this meeting are of key importance. It also agreed that the sub-group should continue and seek to secure funding to deliver the projects it has detailed.