Natural Resources Wales
Board Meeting – Tuesday 15th October (Closed Session)

Confirmed Minutes

Present:

Board Members	**Executive Team Members**
Mike Brooker	Liz Davis
Hywel Davies	Ceri Davies
Ruth Hall	Clive Thomas
Madeleine Havard	Kevin Ingram
Harry Legge-Bourke	Trefor Owen
Peter Matthews (Chair)	Graham Hillier
Andy Middleton	Niall Reynolds
Nigel Reader	Tim Jones
Emyr Roberts (Chief Executive)	
Lynda Warren	
Paul Williams	

Secretariat: Geralene Mills

Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed all to the Board Meeting.

Safety Issues

2. Secretariat confirmed arrangements.

Apologies

3. Apologies for absence received from Morgan Parry

Declaration of Interests

4. No additional declarations made.

Corporate Plan Update

5. The Chief Executive welcomed John Hogg, Sue Ginley and Mark Hughes who presented the draft Corporate Plan consultation document to the Board.

6. The Board reviewed the document and made a number of comments, which were recorded and will be included in the final version.

7. In summarising, the Chair endorsed the draft consultation document subject to the amendments discussed and the development of a communication plan for launching the consultation.

Action Point: Ceri to develop Communications Plan to support the launch of the Consultation Document.

Minutes

8. The Minutes of the closed session held on 3rd September were approved with minor amendments.

Action Log

9. Reviewed and noted by the Board. **Matters Arising** 10. The Chair welcomed feedback from Board Members on the recent event in the Senedd. Board members made the following observations; • A positive event, with useful messages • The format however only gave a limited opportunity for engagement with stakeholders • An approach could be developed for future events which supported Board members to engage with specific groups of stakeholders, possibly in workshops after the event.	**Action Point: Communications team to note comments for planning future events.**
Finance Update Paper 2013/14 (NRW B C 37.13) 18. The paper was presented to the Board and the ongoing discussions with the Welsh Government (WG) sponsorship team was explained. 19. It was confirmed that the WG draft budget had recently been released and a summary had been circulated to Board Members;final budget figures would be received at final budget stage. 20. The Board discussed Charging Schemes 2014-15 in respect of water abstraction. A Charges review group had been formed to examine NRWS's policies towards regulatory charging. The Board highlighted the need for an NRW Charging policy to be developed.	**Action Point: Board to receive draft Charging Policy in due course.**
***Phytophthora ramorum* Update (NRW C 38.13)** 21. It was confirmed that Welsh Government had not yet confirmed a position on the additional funding request for dealing with *Phytophthora ramorum.* 22. The Board discussed the need to build in resilience in replanting species and requested a briefing on the international concept of sustainable forest management and its application in Wales. 23. It was confirmed that NRW is maintaining a partnership with the Forest Commission Research Agency in order to support our understanding of the spread and impact of tree diseases.	**Action Point: Board to receive briefing on sustainable forest management.**
Partnership Funding (NRW C 39.13) 24. Maggie Hill joined the meeting and provided a briefing; the Board noted the ongoing partnership funding review and discussed the implications for 2014-15. 25. In conclusion the Chair requested that the Communities Board Group remain involved in supporting the Executive on the full review. The Executive Team would deal with the specific issues for 2014/15.	**Action Point: Ceri to liaise with Communities Board Group on the wider review**
Fisheries Strategy (Verbal) 26. A verbal update was provided confirming that work is underway identifying areas to cover on fisheries policy. Briefing note to come back to Board.	**Action Point: Ceri to present Briefing note to the Board**

Science Committee Proposals (Verbal) 26. The Knowledge Board Group had discussed the proposal, expressing little support for a Committee approach. It was suggested that the Group meet with the Natural England Director to discuss proposals further and provide feedback to the Board.	**Action Point: Knowledge Board Group to meet Natural England to discuss options.**
Any Other Business 27. The Chair confirmed that the Secretariat team had notified the Board of Development/Contingency dates for 2014; however, the November date now clashed with a JNCC date. Secretariat to canvass for a further November date.	**Action Point: Secretariat to canvass for an alternative November date and confirm to Board members.**
Meeting Closed	

Closed Session – Wednesday 16th October **Present** **Board Members** / **Executive Team Members** Mike Brooker / Liz Davis Hywel Davies / Ceri Davies Ruth Hall / Clive Thomas Madeleine Havard / Kevin Ingram Peter Matthews (Chair) / Trefor Owen Andy Middleton / Graham Hillier Nigel Reader / Niall Reynolds Emyr Roberts (Chief Executive) Lynda Warren Paul Williams Tim Jones NRW Staff members joined the meeting Joanne Sherwood Adam Cole-King 28.The Board were joined by Andy Fraser and Rhodri Asby from Welsh Government who gave a presentation on the Welsh Government Environment Bill White Paper. 29. The Board noted the presentation and concluded a need to work with the Environment Group to draft a detailed response on the consultation for presentation to the December Board meeting.	**Action Point: Ceri to work with the Environment Group to draft a response for consideration at the December Board meeting.**
Meeting Closed	