

**MINUTE OF MEETING**

<b>Present</b>	Simon R Macdonald Jim Traynor James Paterson Clive Fox Nick Turnbull	West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (Chair) Retired former Tobermory Harbour Master Argyll and Bute Council Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Mull Fishermans Association
<b>Apologies</b>	David Adams-McGilp Sarah Brown Elizabeth Dougall	Visit Scotland C2W Consulting Ayrshire LEADER - Programme Coordinator
<b>In Attendance</b>	Ishabel Bremner Mary Louise Howat Mary Simpson Duncan Dewar	Argyll and Bute Council - FLAG Lead Administrative Partner Argyll and Bute Council - Senior Development Officer Argyll and Bute Council - European Support Officer Argyll and Bute Council - Systems Assistant (Minutes)

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

The apologies were noted as above.

**3. Previous Minutes (20 November 2020)**

It was agreed that Mary Louise Howat would re-circulate the previous Minute by email for formal agreement, to ensure involvement of a quorate number of the members present at that meeting.

**4. Programme Update**

An update report in spreadsheet format had been previously circulated by email.

Mary Louise Howat took the meeting through the contents, focusing on the developmental stage of applications. There are two approved applications, four applications being developed at Stage 2 after approval of Expressions of Interest, and one further expected Expression of Interest (Skipness Seaweed).

Mary Simpson covered the financial aspects, highlighting that, if all expected applications were successful, demand would exceed the FLAG's budget by £336,870, or by £161,870 without the application from Skipness Seaweed.

There was a full discussion over how the expected applications should be considered in light of this potential over-demand; key points and decisions are noted as follows:

- The previous meeting (as minuted) had adopted a first come, first served approach to prioritising applications, and the members present made the decision that this approach should continue.
- A suggestion was made that Marine Scotland be approached regarding the possibility of additional funds relating to under-commitments in other FLAG areas. Both the Chair and

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officers noted that there is likely to be a full commitment/over situation demand Scotland wide, with the Scottish Government keen to identify any under-commitments. The possibility of early availability of funds from a successor programme to EMFF was also mentioned, although no-one had heard of any recent progress on this fund. Mary Louise Howat will follow this up with Marine Scotland.

- It was noted that a deadline of the end of August had been intimated to potential applicants, for the submission of completed Expressions of Interest.
- Particular focus was given to the second North West Mull Community Woodland Company application, relating to piers and slips improvements for Ulva. Their Expressions of Interest which was the first to be submitted of those in the pipeline, had led to two applications. The first one, which concerns tender preparation, and licences and permission, is approved. It was necessary to split the application to enable essential costings information such to enable the full second (works) application to be submitted. Members highlighted the importance of this project to the local and wider community. Ring fencing of monies to this project was suggested, but this was not adopted as it would be unfair to other applicants.
- The stages of the other applications, with respect to their position regarding the required detailed costings, was also covered.
- It was noted that concerns of local fishermen about siting of the South West Mull and Iona Development Seaweed Cultivation and Processing application had been addressed to the satisfaction of those fishermen.
- In relation to a suggestion of a lower intervention rate, members were concerned that applicants would not have the necessary match funding available and this suggestion was rejected.
- Officers asked the FLAG at which point in the application process first-come-first served would be applied and indicated that this could be quite a difficult process. There was a consensus that this should be on fully complete applications with all documents in place. It was, however, noted that few applications manage this on their first attempt.
- To ensure fairness, officers will determine a reasonable timescale in which a submitted application can be checked, and any deficiencies notified to the applicant for rectification.
- In response to a question about deadline dates, Mary Louise Howat clarified that application approvals would need to be processed through Marine Scotland by the end of December. The cut-off date for project expenditure is not yet confirmed, but expected in mid-2022.

*The FLAG agreed the following:*

1. Expressions of Interest must be received by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.
2. Thereafter, Stage Two applications must be received by the end of November 2020.
3. In the event that the Stage 2 applications exceed the budget, they will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

Ishabel Bremner thanked the FLAG for clarifying and confirming the process and timescales.

## **5. AOCB**

There was no further business.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 11am, by tele/videoconference.

Technical problems experienced by some members with the Skype platform were noted, and alternatives are to be explored.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_