

MINUTE OF MEETING

Present	Alastair McNeill	West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (Chair)
	Nick Turnbull	Mull Fishermans Association
	Jim Traynor	Retired former Tobermory Harbour Master
	David Adams-McGilp	Visit Scotland (via audio link)
	Zalina Dzhatieva	Argyll and Bute Council
Apologies	Sarah Brown	C2W Consulting
	Chris Savage	Cassillis Estate
In Attendance	Elizabeth Dougall	Ayrshire LEADER - Programme Coordinator
	Ishabel Bremner	Argyll and Bute Council - FLAG Lead Administrative Partner
	Mary Louise Howat	Argyll and Bute Council - Senior Development Officer
	Mary Simpson	Argyll and Bute Council - European Support Officer
	Duncan Dewar	Argyll and Bute Council - Systems Assistant (Minutes)

1. Welcome and Introductions

In the Chair, AM welcomed those present and led a round of introductions.

2. Apologies

Noted as above.

3. Previous Minutes (17 March 2016)

Action Point 8 (CF and SH will get in touch with Marine Scotland to confirm details of the training available to FLAG members.): JT asked for an update on this.

New Action Point 1: MLH confirmed that Marine Scotland has not held training available for FLAG members, however guidance documents are available. MLH to circulate and also to circulate the available guidance document.

DM proposed that the minutes be accepted, this was seconded by AM and agreed.

4. Presentation of Combined Argyll and the Islands and Ayrshire Themes

MLH gave an introduction to this document, giving themes, priorities and objectives for the local Programme. This had been produced based on those priorities common to Argyll and the Islands, and Ayrshire as discussed at the previous FLAG meeting. It was noted that the document may be freely circulated.

ZD joined the meeting at this point.

5. Financial and Programme Timeline Update

The FLAG staff gave an update as follows:

With a full spend expected on the approved project, the four Expressions of Interest would, if all successfully developed and approved, require £1,153,500, exceeding programme budget by approximately £250K.



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Projects must be committed by December 2020, and expenditure defrayed the end of 2022, with the exact date to be confirmed. At this time, expenditure on administration and animation costs is covered until the end of 2020.

6. Expressions of Interest

Declarations of interest: NT declared that he is an ordinary member of North West Mull Community Woodland Company, and the chair of Mull Fishermen's Association. JT declared that he had been the Harbourmaster for Tobermory Harbour Association, and is still a relief staff member. These interests were noted, and it was agreed that they could both remain present during discussion of the corresponding EOIs and provide technical information as required.

• **F03 – North West Mull Community Woodland Company Breakwater**

There was a discussion about whether this EOI and EOI F04 should be considered separately or together, given their shared outcomes. NT noted that the separate EOI approach had been recommended to the applicant. It was agreed that these be discussed jointly, and therefore many of the points noted apply to both EOIs.

NT gave the following information about these EOIs: The breakwater would provide safety for fishing boats working from the Ulva side, where the slipway is exposed; protection to the pier, and allow safe overnight berthing for the ferry and fishing vessels, currently using moorings. Of the two EOIs, the work on the Mull side (F04) is of higher priority.

DAM noted a number of concerns about these EOIs as follows:

- Lack of evidence of outputs/outcomes
- Cash flow
- Amount of grant monies recently received by organisations in the area, such as Mull and Iona Community Trust, and the £4M Community Buyout.

NT was able to clarify these matters as follows: NWMWC own the pier on the Mull side. The MICT grant was for work targeted at yachts and tourism, in contrast to these proposals. The (Mull side) pier is the only deep water facility for fishermen on the west of Mull, is too small and is in poor condition. He agreed that further evidence would be required, and stressed the need for the works. It was also noted that fishing boats may use the MICT yacht pontoon for fuelling purposes, but not for landing fish. He was concerned that the other large awards in the area were being taken into consideration.

JT agreed about the condition of the pier on the Mull side, and the priority of the work on that side. He was of the view that the pontoons could be further utilised.

MLH recommended a phased approach to avoid double counting of beneficiaries. She noted that this would be a much larger award than any given so far in Scotland in this Programme, the largest to date being £160K.

MLH reminded the meeting of Action Point 11 from the previous minute: "The FLAG selected not to set a minimum and maximum limit at this stage, however they agreed that the FLAG will typically fund up to 50% of total project cost."

There was a discussion of whether this project should be permitted to apply at 100%, and/or whether projects in general should be invited to apply at 100% (about which some members had concerns).

The Chair asked about Marine Scotland funding. NT clarified that Marine Scotland had funded some repair works.

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After some discussion about types of user, DAM asked that non fisheries, e.g. tourism, benefits be counted, in line with Scotland's Marine Plan.

It was agreed that these EOIs could proceed to full application stage, with 100% intervention rate available, further evidence of outputs to be supplied, and the question of a single or split application to be discussed between MLH and the applicant.

- **F04 – North West Mull Community Woodland Company Main Works**

Included in discussion and decision above.

- **Tobermory Harbour Association (tabled today)**

MLH introduced the EOI, with JT providing additional explanation as follows:

The new large vessel arm would provide a fuelling facility, as the exiting one, run by a local garage, has a low capacity pump intended for small vessels such as yachts, which is too slow for larger fishing vessels.

The innovative conveyor system would allow fish landing next to the pontoon, where a steep ramp prevents this at present. Currently, landing must take place at the tidal pier.

The increasingly prevalent south-easterly winds has caused damage to the existing hammerhead, which would be replaced with a more suitable defence.

The Chair noted that this funding request is at 50%, and asked if match funding had been secured. JT was fairly confident it had.

MS pointed out that the project could exceed the 25% public funding limit, so may require a split, with EMFF funding a larger proportion of some elements, and the other funder the other elements. Advice on this would be needed from the Scottish Government.

IB noted an ambiguous abbreviated funder name in the EOI, which would require to be clarified.

The Chair asked if all costs are eligible, and MLH indicated that further work would be required to answer this, especially as the Scottish Government has not yet had sight of the proposals.

Members were supportive of the proposal, subject to all needed clarifications, and it was agreed that it can proceed to a full application.

- **SCO2056 Clyde Fishermen's Association (expected)**

MLH gave some information about this application which had been in the system for some time. MH had been back in touch with the applicant who were still interested in submitting the application. This was for a post.

This led to a discussion over whether applications should be dealt with on a first come first served basis, or whether there should be an application deadline.

The chair thanked DAM, who had to leave the call at this point.

It was agreed that the Programme remain open for EOIs, and that EOIs and applications be dealt with on a rolling basis as they are received.

- **F06 ART Source to Sea**

This EOI was received and had been forwarded to North Ayrshire Council for consideration as the applicant and project activity were Ayrshire based. After consideration by the Responsible Officer and the sole Ayrshire FLAG member, the EOI was deemed to not to fit the Local Development Strategy.

- **F07 ART Sediment**

This EOI was from the same applicant as F06 and the same process was used. This EOI was also deemed not to fit with the aims of the Local Development Strategy.

Following on from the presentation of the EOIs to the FLAG, MLH sought clarity on how to proceed with publicising the programme. This point was raised as the pipeline projects in terms of EOIs received and approved to proceed to a full application, exceeded the amount left in the budget.

The FLAG agreed that no further programme publicity was required and that EOIs would remain to be accepted on a rolling basis. Likewise, the FLAG agreed not to set deadlines for the submission of full application forms but that these would be dealt with on a first come, first served basis.

7. Accountable Body Update

IB took the meeting through the circulated report, and apologised for the lack of progress with the EMFF programme, due to staff turnover and shortages, which combined with challenging delivery of the LEADER programme, led to delays.

As far as the Accountable Body was aware, nothing had been decided at a national level on future funding, largely due to Brexit. A Scottish Government consultation on EU structural fund replacements is ongoing, seeking consultation responses by the 12th February 2020. Staff will update the FLAG with any relevant information received at meetings they attend.

The Chair had attended a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Chair's Group meeting, where concerns had been noted about loss of experienced staff and structures, and transition funding advocated. He would continue to press for this.

IB noted that upcoming budgetary pressures could affect core staff.

8. Communication & Future meetings

There was a discussion about whether to deal with the forthcoming applications by electronic communications, or at a meeting. It was noted that telephone/conferencing links can be used for meetings, allowing a split location. It was agreed to leave arrangements flexible.

The Chair noted that scoring can be carried out by the FLAG collectively or individually, and that in some areas the Chair does not participate in scoring. MLH noted that it was her understanding that the Chair would participate in scoring.

JT requested that FLAG members be given regular updates by email.

Action Point 2: MLH to provide monthly FLAG updates by email.

Further advertising of the fact that the programme was open for applications was discussed. It was agreed not to advertise at this point due to the applications already being developed at EOI stage.

9. AOCB

ZD informed the group that the Seaweed Farming Feasibility Study report (funded as the first project) will be launched officially at the Scottish Seaweed Industry Association Annual Conference in the Corran Halls, Oban on 18th February 2020.

Action Point 3: ZD to keep the FLAG informed about this meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Arrangements for the next meeting were left flexible as noted above.

The meeting was reminded that, unless advised otherwise, papers are to be treated as confidential.

The Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

Signed _____ date _____