

Biosecurity Programme Board Meeting

Kew Gardens

Thursday 15th July 2010

Minutes

Present: Roger Coppock (Corporate and Forestry Support, Chair)
 Richard Siddons ([Forestry Commission Wales](#))
 Roddie Burgess (CFS)
 Laura Jones ([Forestry Commission England](#))
 Joan Webber ([Forest Research](#))
 Hugh Clayden ([Forestry Commission Scotland](#))
 Chris Inglis ([The Confederation of Forest Industries](#))
 Jon Heuch ([Arboricultural Association](#))
 David Sulman ([The United Kingdom Forest Products Association](#))
 Stewart Snape (CFS Secretariat)
 Andrew Sharkey ([Woodland Trust](#))
 Nick Boulton ([Timber Trade Federation](#))
 Nigel Taylor (Kew) afternoon only
 Tony Kirkham (Kew) afternoon only
 Sarah Redstone (Kew) afternoon only
 Peter Foord (Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course) afternoon only

Summary of Action points

Agenda Item	Action
3. Matters arising	<p>Action All: Board members to feed network mapping contacts to SS.</p> <p>Action RB: RB to apply for an exemption to the publicity freeze for Biosecurity Protocols.</p> <p>Action All: Board members to provide a list of possible event dates to SS that may be suitable for promoting Biosecurity.</p> <p>Action All: Board members to forward suggestions for reporting indicators to SS.</p>
4. Update on the European Union review of the Plant Health regime	Action SS: To send registration details to all members (discharged).
5. Tree Health Strategy	Action RC/RB: RC and RB to redraft

	and circulate by email.
6. Communications strategy	Action Communications team: Communications team will redraft. Action LJ: LJ will forward written comments.
7. Biosecurity Protocol	Action RB: To redraft
10. Pests and diseases funding	Action SS: To circulate paper. Action All: To submit written comments as soon as possible via SS.
14. Dates for future meetings	Action SS: To identify suitable dates and circulate to members.

1. Welcome and Introductions (Roger Coppock)

Roger Coppock welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from John Dye ([Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation](#)), David Slawson ([The Food and Environment Research Agency](#)), John Speirs ([Rural and Environment Directorate, Scottish Government](#)) and Martin Williams ([Plant Health and Biotechnology Branch, Welsh Assembly Government](#)).

2. Minutes of last meeting (Roger Coppock)

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Laura Jones (LJ) suggested that acronyms should not be used. The Board agreed.

3. Matters arising (Roger Coppock)

Roger Coppock (RC) updated the Board on the current freeze on publicity expenditure. He asked the board to suggest alternative mechanisms.

LJ mentioned network mapping as a priority. The Board agreed that a network mapping exercise would help us to identify opportunities.

Action All: Board members to feed network mapping contacts to Stewart Snape.

There was some discussion about exemptions. The board agreed with Roddie Burgess's (RB) suggestion to apply for an exemption from the restrictions for Biosecurity Protocols.

Action RB: RB will take this forward.

Roger welcomed the offers of support from The Confederation of Forest Industries, Arboricultural Association, The United Kingdom Forest Products Association and the Woodland Trust.

Action All: Board members to suggest event dates that may be suitable for promoting Biosecurity.

There was a discussion on how best to report on and monitor the work of the Biosecurity Programme Board. It was agreed that members would suggest suitable reporting indicators to Stewart Snape.

Action All: Board members to forward suggestions to Stewart Snape.

4. Update on the European Union review of the Plant Health regime (Roddie Burgess)

RB presented Richard Harris's (Food and Environment Research Agency) summary and conclusions. Stewart Snape asked whether members would like to be invited to the next Conference scheduled to take place in September. Members confirmed that they would like invitations.

Action SS: Stewart Snape will send registration details to all members (discharged).

5. Tree Health Strategy (Roddie Burgess)

RB introduced this item. RB reported that the Plant Health pheromone trapping programme had been cut in response to financial pressures. LJ suggested that Port Authorities could be approached to take this on.

RB reported that in light of the publication freeze much of our publication work would be cancelled. LJ commented that more use of electronic means could be made.

Hugh Clayden (HC) asked about governance arrangements when there is a cross-border threat. The Board agreed that a pragmatic approach would be taken. It is important to recognise that Country Directors are accountable. Therefore, interested stakeholders (adjacent countries' Directors) would have a say. The final decision would rest with the Forestry Commission Executive Board.

HC asked whether the Board would seek to eradicate a native species that had pest status. The Board agreed that they would not.

A discussion on the content of Strategy then ensued. Key concerns were that the strategy strayed too far into the urban arena given the low probability of us securing resources to deal with it. The Board agreed that it was right to identify the risk posed by the urban environment and highlight it as a gap in terms of governance and resources. Chris Inglis (CI) commented that in light of this debate the title of the strategy should be changed to explicitly exclude urban trees. Richard Siddons suggested that the Contingency Plan should adopt more of a project management structure. Jon Heuch (JH) commented that the arrangement of the Annexes and Appendices is confusing and should be revisited. JH observed a lack of consistency in the way pests were named in the Pest list.

The discussion moved on to the Plant Health Operating Plan. Andy Sharkey (AS) suggested including something about the plant trade. RB clarified that this was primarily the responsibility of the Food and Environment Research Agency. There was general agreement that the context needs to be expressed more clearly in terms of identifying the risks and recognising the resources gaps that need to be addressed. CI reminded members of the Board protocol that papers should have some indicator of sensitivity attached.

Action RC/RB: RC and RB to redraft and circulate by email.

6. Communications strategy (Roger Coppock)

RC tabled the Strategy prepared by the communications team and asked for comments. Consensus that there was a lack of consistency in the use of terms such as trees, forests, woodlands, pests and diseases etc. The Strategy would benefit from having a broad aim. Need to ensure that the strategy can be implemented via an action plan. LJ would submit written comments.

Action Communications team: Communications team will redraft.

Action LJ: LJ will forward written comments.

7. Biosecurity Protocol (Roddie Burgess)

RB circulated the protocol. Consensus was that although there were good messages in the protocol the delivery mechanism was not adequate. The Board's preferred approach was to get the message right (needed to integrate the message about protecting the forest within a broader positive message about enjoying forests) and then to consider a range of communication mechanisms.

Action RB: To redraft.

8. List of pests (Roddie Burgess)

RB presented the list that Stewart Snape had reformatted as requested at the last meeting. The Board accepted the new format.

9. Pests and diseases funding (Roger Coppock)

RC tabled his paper. He asked that it be treated as confidential. Following a detailed discussion the Board suggested that the production figures and associated values quoted were questionable. RC asked Stewart Snape to send an electronic version of the paper to members. Members agreed to provide written feedback.

Action SS: To circulate paper.

Action All: To submit written comments.

10. Discussion of Kew's experience with Oak Processionary Moth (Nigel Taylor, Tony Kirkham, Sarah Redstone)

The staff from Kew gave full and frank account of their experience in managing the pest. Tony reported that Deltamethrin had been 100% effective.

11. Discussion of The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Courses experience with Oak Processionary Moth (Peter Foord)

Peter Foord spoke candidly about his experience in dealing with the pest. He reported that the use of Deltamethrin has significantly reduced their costs this year compared to last when they mainly used manual control methods. He also reported that if they had acted earlier the problem would have been fairly easy to deal with. By delaying their response the number of nests found in the second year had increased from about 200 to over 1500.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Dates for future meetings

The date for the next meeting would be 4 or 5 months from now.

Action SS: To identify suitable dates and circulate to members.