



**Steering Group Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday 2nd Sept 2008
GOWM, St Philips Place, Birmingham**

Present:	Mike Kinghan (WTs) (Chair) Nicky Davies (Herefordshire) Justin Milward (WoT) Gina Rowe (WWT) Leo Smith (Shropshire) Amanda Smith (NE) Bill Heselgrave (FC) Sarah Faulkner (NFU) Dave Haslam (LBAPs rep) Paul Cobbing (GOWM) Kate Warburton (NT) Audrey McGrath (NE) (Mins)
Apologies	Jeff Edwards (WMBP) Colin Wilkinson (RSPB) Dave Howatson (GOWM) Andrew Heaton (EA) Simon West (AWM) Chris Blakeley (WMRA/LGA) Sue Redfern (WWT) Charlotte Morgan (NE)
1.Minutes of last meeting and action points	Action 1 – AGM-MW has resigned as Vice Chair as he now has a new role for NE outside the region. MK suggested that he would prefer to retain Vice Chair position with representative from NE or, failing that other Statutory Agency. This was agreed. AP will attend meetings as NE representative in the interim Action 2 – Budget – Forestry Commission (FC) £3,000 - BH advised FC are in a position to prepare/receive bids any time through out the year. Usually some money becomes available and he will be willing to consider for specific projects. Action: WMBP to come up with some suitable activity and apply for funding against. National Trust £1,000 - KW requested but is still waiting for a response Action: KW to follow up Woodland Trust – expect to be able to contribute £1k this year Action: JM to confirm Wildlife Trusts - £1k contribution for this year confirmed

<p>2. Regional Assembly RSS Phase 3 Habitat Targets</p>	<p>MK led on discussion. JE had circulated paper outlining the proposed review this is required to ensure that the West Midlands RSS includes targets for the restoration and re-creation of priority habitats and the recovery of priority species populations linked to national goals. Some questions raised following discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New UKCIP projection coming out later this autumn is it going to use those? • How can this material be presented to the RSS in the right way? • Will it affect how the LBAPs are working and is this something the local Partnership is expected to contribute to? • How will it relate to LfL regional Vision map? <p>Action: MK to raise these questions when he has his telephone conferencing on Friday with the Steering Group and consultancy team</p>
<p>3. Full Partnership Meeting</p>	<p>It was agreed that the meeting on 22nd October should be devoted to a workshop on the Regional Targets study</p>
<p>4. Work with Local Authorities</p>	<p>AP circulated briefing paper – Current Biodiversity issues in relation to Local Authorities in the West Midlands discussion as follows:</p> <p>1. <u>Biodiversity Pledge</u> – MK advised he and Roger Clarke of NE presented the Pledge to Local Authority's (LA's) at the LGA meeting in July after which there was a press photo call, Subsequently written to Local Authorities that haven't signed. MK suggested it would be helpful if LBAPs could sound out LA's which haven't responded to date.</p> <p>Action: LBAPs to contact Local LA's and feed back to WMBP</p> <p>A number of actions were proposed for building on the Pledge and to help support LBAPs in their NERC work. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop to highlight 'best practice' in implementing NERC/Pledge for officers and members • Possible related publication on best practice examples • Regional award scheme <p>Action: MK to discuss feasibility of the above with JE</p> <p>2. <u>Local Area Agreement Indicator '197' – Local Sites</u> PC advised the 4 LA's which have taken on the Biodiversity indicator as a priority are: Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Solihull and Herefordshire. National workshop in due course. Possible need for regional meeting. Current focus is on 4 LAs, other LAs will have to report. Action: PC/AP</p> <p>3. <u>PSA Targets</u> - PC advised GOWM role to PSA 28 is to strive to encourage regional delivery– by asking the right questions. Essentially PSA 28 forms an additional justification for biodiversity enhancement Action: All to note and use as appropriate</p>
<p>5.WMBP sub-group Review</p>	<p>Sub-group review work – Paper circulated - discussion and feedback as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data & Monitoring – Meeting regularly, looking for new Chair • Trees Woods & Forests – Action: JW to highlight at next

	<p>meeting on Friday and feedback outcome to group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LfL – Meeting due shortly to review remit. Colin would like to stand down as chair • Climate Change – Leaflet now from print – Guidance for LA's on CC. Work on Shropshire Hills Pilot is going to report/launch in Oct – will be a need to review how the lessons learnt from it will apply to the Region • SITA group – continuing to function well
6. EBS Delivery Framework	<p>A New Framework for the Delivery of priority Habitats and Species in England – Paper from JE circulated. PC led on discussion, Page 8 (IV) Regional and local delivery as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protocol – national agencies not reporting on local outputs, so local monitoring undermined - should be a protocol Action: PC to raise via L&RSIG 2. We do not have representation of AONB to Partnership. Should this be addressed? 3. Ensure targets are fully reflected in appropriate policy instruments and strategies - we are looking at that 4. Taking account of any existing 'vision' maps, agree delivery priorities - We have done work on that list of priority which we may need to come back to 5. Develop a regional delivery plan for high priority action and agreed accountabilities - We have got some existing delivery plan, suggestion is that we should focus on the gaps rather than trying to write a comprehensive review. Gaps relate to regional target, places are Lowland Heathland, Lowland Meadows, and Woodland Restorations. Response to this should concentrate on how we are going to tackle these gaps Action: JE to prepare outline on the delivery plan for comment 6. Report actions and their outcomes using the Biodiversity Action reporting system - Continue to press for improvement and some resolution
7. HLS Update	HLS update, paper circulated. - MK re emphasised that consultation process needed to be improved.
8. Budget	Budget is on course. No issues raised
9. WMBP Work Plan Progress Report	<p>Progress report for WMBP Delivery Plan paper circulated action as follows:</p> <p>Re widening partner involvement MK has a follow-up letter in draft to go to AWM re their participation in WMBP</p> <p>Action: BH to speak to Ciaran re their take on it Action: All to forward text to KW so she can update the website if they haven't done so already</p>
10. LBAPs progress report	Paper circulated by DH
11. Regional consultations - Sub National Review - Health and Wellbeing - Economic Strategy - Regional Spatial Strategy	<p>Sub National Review – All consultation taken place and we are awaiting a result of how we fit.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing – Awaiting information on delivery plan</p> <p>RSS: Biodiversity Sub-group developing options for Phase 3 review</p>
12. Feedback from National & Regional Meetings	Deferred
13. AOB	AP confirmed to all she was at last WMBP
	<p>Dates of next Meeting November 25th 2008 @ GOWM, Room GB</p>

