

**Wales Wetlands Ecosystem Group – draft notes of third meeting, 12 November 2010**

**Present:** Peter Jones (Chair, CCW), Kathryn Birch (CCW), Emma Broad (Wrexham CBC / LBAPs), Chris Dyson (CCW), Sarah Mellor (National Trust), Charles Morgan (PONT), Rob Lowe (Consultant Hydrologist), Jim Latham (CCW) & by phone, Chris Utley (CCW, Member of WBP Policy Group)

**Apologies:** Bryan Jones (Environment Agency), Stephen Bladwell (RSPB Cymru), Julie Bowes (WAG, Dept of Rural Affairs), Helen Buckingham (National Trust, Chair of Grasslands & Heathlands Ecosystem Group), Justin Hanson (Anglesey & Lleyn Fens LIFE project manager) & Rob Jones-Parry (Wildlife Trusts),

**Actions points from meeting of 12 November 2010.**

<i>Action / discussion point</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Immediate action</i>	<i>Progress by 4<sup>th</sup> meeting</i>
<b><i>West Wales Grazing Animals Scheme (WWGAS) Overview of progress to-date and role of group members in its further development.</i></b>			
Charles gave an update on the project.			
Jan Sherry (CCW) is submitting a WREN funding bid to extend the Anglesey Grazing project for the next 3 years.	Current project is a success and worth extending. Require sites and costs to be included in the bid. Anywhere on Anglesey can be included.	Let Hilary Kehoe (or Pete Jones) know of any sites and costs. Deadline 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010.  PJ & SM to submit sites.	
Potential of LIFE projects to achieve wetland conservation.	Possible LIFE project for transition mire & quaking bog.	PJ to keep WWEG updated on progress.	
Powys Peatland Network		PJ e-mail review around WWEG.	
5 year Defra project on the Migneint: Investigation of Peatland Restoration (Grip Blocking) Techniques to Achieve Best Outcomes for Methane and Greenhouse Gas Emissions / Balance.		PJ to keep WWEG updated on progress.	
<b><i>Developing a Group Response to the NEF</i></b>			

NEF: Natural Environment Framework; WAG: Welsh Assembly Government; WWEG: Wales Wetland Ecosystem Group.

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Chris Utley led a discussion via phone and PowerPoint.	Deadline: 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2010 for comments on NEF.	KB e-mail presentation around WWEG. CM email PONT response to NEF around WWEG. PJ to draft a WWEG (focusing on wetlands) response by 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010.	Response sent to WAG before 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2010 deadline.
<b><i>Priority mapping work</i></b>			
Jim gave an outline to this piece of work, followed by a group discussion on the priority areas for wetland in Wales based on Pete's PowerPoint.	CCW lead on Lowland Raised Bog & Fens – maps of priority areas are largely complete with minor tweaking. EA lead on Grazing Marsh RSPB lead on Reedbed.	PJ to produce draft priority area maps for Grazing Marsh & Reedbed for EA & RSPB to comment on.	
CCW is currently undertaking a Lowland Peatland Survey, creating detailed vegetation maps of lowland peatland sites.		KB sent EB spreadsheet of known peatland sites to be forwarded to LBAPs for comment – gaps, priorities etc.	
<b><i>Draft action plans</i></b>			
Draft action plans for 4 wetland habitats are still on-going.	Fen – done Lowland raised Bog – done Grazing Marsh – EA to write Reedbed – RSPB to write.	SB to send Reedbed action plan to PJ. BJ to send Grazing Marsh action plan to PJ.	Draft action plan for lowland raised bog in now on the WBP website for comments.
<b><i>Update from Policy Group Meeting</i></b>			
		Postponed until next meeting.	
<b><i>LBAP engagement - outcome of LBAP workshops and recent Anglesey LBAP pilot</i></b>			

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PJ gave feedback about an Anglesey LBAP workshop.	Good opportunity to raise the profile and advice on priority wetland sites on Anglesey.	PJ & KB to attend a similar event in Gwynedd LBAP in Jan 2011.	
<b><i>Minutes and matters arising from last meeting</i></b>			
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<b><i>AOB</i></b>			
Rob Lowe mentioned a peat cutting display at St Fagans			
Rob Lowe is giving a talk at the Welsh geological society, Cardiff in March 2011.			
<b><i>Date of next meeting</i></b>			
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Newtown.</b>			

Peter Jones & Kathryn Birch  
January 2011