

EIGHTY EIGHTH SNH BOARD MEETING, 1 JULY 2003, BATTLEBY

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Members Present

John Markland, Chairman
Michael Scott, Deputy Chairman
Peter Chapman
Keith Geddes, Chairman, Audit and Risk Management Committee
Isabel Glasgow, Chairwoman, West Areas Board
Nick Kempe
Alice Lambert
Jeremy Rowan Robinson, Chairman, East Areas Board
Janet Sprent, Chairwoman, Scientific Advisory Committee
Sue Walker

In Attendance

Ian Jardine, Chief Executive
Andrew Bachell, Director
Colin Galbraith, Director
John Thomson, Director
Jeff Watson, Director
Jane Clark, Head of National Strategy
Alan Mowle, Head of Corporate Services
Iain Rennick, Head of Secretariat, Press and PR
George Anderson, Head of Press and Public Relations
Pam Gaiter, Board Secretary
Chris Miles (for item 5)
Reuben Singleton (for item 6 open session and item 5 closed session)
Greg Mudge (for item 7)
Murray Ferguson (for item 4, closed session)
Hamish Reid (for item 5, closed session)

Apologies

Simon Fraser, Chairman, North Areas Board
Ian Edgeler, Director

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

ITEM 1: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

1. Susan Walker declared an interest as a member of the Cairngorms National Park Authority in relation to item 3, NNR Review: Cairngorms NNR. Sue did not consider this association to constitute a conflict of interests.

ITEM 2: MINUTES (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

2. The minutes of the closed session of the 87th SNH Board meeting, held on 10 June 2003, were agreed as a true record.

**ITEM 3: THE REVIEW OF NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES:
CAIRNGORMS NNR (SNH/03/5/4) (RESTRICTED)**

3. The paper reviewed the degree to which the existing Cairngorms National Nature Reserve fits with SNH's policy for NNRs and outlined the work that would be required to complete the review process before decisions could be made on the future of the NNR. The Board discussed the following points:
 - the decision on the NNR should be made in the context of its role within the National Park. It was not yet clear what the zoning system in the Park would look like or the extent to which the aims of the Park Authority would reflect those of SNH;
 - in the case of Glenfeshie it was likely that primacy of nature would not be met. The problem could not necessarily be addressed through the NNR mechanism. However, discussions with the landowner were at an early stage and the Board was keen that more time was allowed for further discussions to take place. Mechanisms to ensure protection of the geological features of the site should be included in these discussions.
4. The Board:
 - noted the context of the NNR within the Cairngorms National Park, the previous statements made by SNH about NNRs and National Parks and the views expressed by the Cairngorms NNR Working Group;
 - noted the assessments for the component parts of the existing NNR and their implications;

- agreed that staff should take longer to consult more extensively over the review of the Cairngorms NNR, but negotiations with landowners should take no longer than December 2003. Wider consultation should then be completed in time for a paper to come to the Board in September 2004.

ITEM 4: RELOCATION (SNH/03/5/5) (RESTRICTED)

5. The paper outlined some of the issues which the Board may have wished to consider on receipt of a letter from Mr Finnie on the requirement for SNH to relocate all Edinburgh based functions/posts to Inverness. However, the letter had not been received and the Board agreed that it was not possible to move forward at this stage.
6. The Board expressed its concern about the length of time it had waited for the letter from Ross Finnie and agreed that a letter, expressing its concern should now be sent to the Minister. Management had drawn up some estimated short term costs for the move to Inverness and it was agreed that these costs should be included with the letter so that Ministers were made fully aware of the additional funding which would be required.
7. A further meeting was provisionally arranged for 15 July 2003. This would be confirmed as soon as the letter from Ross Finnie had been received.

ITEM 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Representations from the public

8. The West Areas Board was of the view that there should be a facility for members of the public to make representations at SNH Board and Areas Board meetings. It believed that people who were protesting against the actions of SNH, especially in relation to SSSI designation, should have access to its Boards in person and in the formal setting of a meeting.
9. The Board agreed that a sub-group should be formed to consider the issue of public representations at Board meetings. The group would consist of Michael Scott and/or John Markland, the three Areas Board Chairmen or their representatives and Janet Sprent. The group would be supported by Jeff Watson, John Burlison, Iain Rennick and a representative from the DSUs.

John Markland
Chairman