

# Moray DMB

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Present:**

**DMB Members**

Paul Timms (SNH) **Chair**  
Alistair Kennedy (Joint Community Councils of Moray)  
Bridget Oatridge (Moray Businesswomen)  
Cllr John Russell (The Moray Council)  
Matthew Young (Forestry Commission)  
Rosella Smith (MFCHA)

**In attendance**

David Watson (Moray LEADER programme Manager)  
Lindsay Grant (Moray LEADER programme Co-ordinator)  
Pierre Masson (The Moray Council)

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1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted, proposed by AK, seconded by RS. It was agreed that JR will speak to IT department regarding the website.

3. Applications

There were no applications to discuss.

4. Ideas for other schemes

- **Rural Moray Business Grant Scheme** - PM circulated a discussion paper proposing a Rural Moray Business Grant Scheme which would allow small businesses to apply for funding. Highland, Aberdeenshire and Cairngorms regions all give grants to small businesses and so there is a gap in Moray for funding for small businesses. It was proposed that the surplus from Moray Council's contribution to LEADER could be used as match funding. It was discussed how this scheme would be run, with the suggestion of Highland Opportunity administering it as they already provide Business Gateway for Moray. Other possible funders would be sought which would be matched by LEADER funding. It was also discussed that the LAG would need to build criteria for who can apply and intervention rates. This scheme would allow Moray LEADER to achieve some of their objectives by targeting areas identified in the LEADER business plan. Job creation was seen as a very positive outcome of such a scheme and therefore was seen as having great potential to develop it further.
- **SAC agricultural apprenticeship scheme** - The idea of developing a pilot apprenticeship scheme in Moray with the Scottish Agricultural College was discussed, as it is apparent there is a lack of labour and in particular young people in the agriculture profession. RS stated there is an overlap with Skills

Development Scotland who already fund for Modern Apprenticeships. It was suggested that a feasibility study could be considered.

- **Audit of unused public/community premises** - It was suggested that it may be of interest to do an audit of empty or underused buildings to see if community groups could use them in some way. This had support from the DMB and there was a suggestion of turning it into a scheme where funding was available for bringing community facilities back into use.
- **Any other ideas** - Woodland education, projects in the natural heritage - such as church grounds or village greens (which are often underused), an interpretation scheme and empty buildings in rural areas which could be used to generate income were all discussed as possible ideas.

## 5. Budget Update

There have been no claims from any of the projects, although it was discussed that there is a technical issue with a claim from the Burn O'Fochabers Woodland Trust which will be dealt with by LEADER staff. It was decided that the Chair of the LAG is informed of this issue.

## 6. Proposed times and venues of future meetings (DMB and LAG)

It was discussed that the Cairngorm LAG have their DMB meetings a month before their LAG meetings, which makes the LAG meeting run more smoothly and takes less time. It was suggested there is a risk of 2 similar discussions if done this way, and should be brought up at the next LAG for discussion on the timings of DMB meetings.

## 7. Any other business

- I. NGR Foundation job advert - It was discussed that the applicant produced a job advertisement, which was published in the local press, which did not meet with LEADER publicity requirements. The applicant did not consult with LEADER staff prior to doing this. The DMB would like a formal letter to be sent to the applicant reminding them of their obligations to comply with the conditions placed upon them.
- II. BRNs - The LEADER application form has now changed slightly to allow SGRIPD to issue applicants with Business Reference Numbers which the Scottish Government now requires.
- III. DMB membership - The Business Plan states that the DMB should have 8 members, currently there are only 6. It was suggested that 8 is needed as there may be times in which members cannot make the meetings. Therefore, it was suggested RS and AM become two separate members and therefore only one more public sector member is needed. This will be discussed at the next LAG meeting.
- IV. Processing 'exceptional' applications - It was decided that the way applications which are genuine exceptional cases will be handled will be decided by LEADER staff and the Chair of the DMB.
- V. Review of Scottish Government LEADER plans - Members were given a discussion paper detailing the Scottish Gov's plans for LEADER.
- VI. Review of Business Plan - The review of the business plan is due for November/December; a full LAG meeting will need to be arranged.
- VII. Ideas for LAG presentations - Members were asked to think about possible people/organisations who could give presentations to the LAG.

## 8. Meeting Ended

Actions:

- a. Formal letter to be sent to NGR Foundation by LEADER staff
- b. One public member of the LAG to be appointed to DMB
- c. LEADER staff to arrange a LAG meeting for review of the business plan