

MINUTES: SYLNP BOARD MEETING – Tuesday 12th December 2023, 2pm-4pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom

Board Members present: Liz Ballard (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust) – Chair, Anthony Downing (EA), Catherine Hammond (SHU), Laurie Heykoop (SYMCA), Alison Holt (Natural Capital Solutions), Gemma Longman (PDNPA), Melissa Massarella (DMBC), Daniel Hartley (SCC), Ruth Brearley (NE), Erika Phoenix (DCRT), Nick Sellwood (WT), Crispin Thorn (FC), Paula Tweed (Barnsley MBC), Hazel Earnshaw, Tom Wild (University of Sheffield)

Also present: Ian Cracknell (SRWT) – Secretariat, Rowan Longhurst (SCC), Jackie Lowe lw(EA), Helen Markland (DMBC, Matthew North (SRWT), Claire Wilson (BMBC).

Apologies: Michael Johnson (SCC), Mike Winstanley (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)

(N.B. first names may be used in the minutes to differentiate attendees with matching initials)

2. Minutes of last meeting, actions and matters arising

Crispin noted some amends to the previous minutes

Liz had not got the BNG report as yet

Liz briefly summarised LNRS workshop and report.

Erika - to check re: Don project report, did IC get info, has it been circulated? **IC checked - we did not receive the report to circulate.**

3. SY LNRS

LH gave a presentation on updates on LNRS governance. LNRS pilots showed stakeholder engagement really important. Strategy more about what rather than how - consensus around priorities, clear link between LNRS and BNG. Flow link diagram from Defra - what responsible authority should be doing and process re: strategy. Step 1 - mapping layers re: LNRS, LWS etc - legal definition, baseline of what's there. Step 2 local initiatives. Step 3 is describing strategy area and its biodiversity. Agreed mapping portal solution, building on Natural Capital Solutions work and Defra seedcorn fund work. Do not have enough capacity in group, but do have funding through burden payments from Defra, bringing in contractors to draft certain parts of strategy from evidence and work already undertaken.

NS - asked re: Step 3 describe strategy area - is whole of SY in scope, urban areas etc? Laurie confirmed this is his understanding.

SYMCA is commissioning stakeholder engagement, working group proposal to do 20 facilitated thematic workshops between Feb-June 2024, seeking to engage on LNRS, have a number of ideas and haven't been specific. Will speak with us and others re: what that should look like. 12 community events, probably in person and online, across region - 3 in each LA, mix of urban and rural communities, different types of habitat, flood risk, air

quality etc strategically, and a public survey. Dedicated webpage, mailbox and mailing list, comms launch of advisory panel happened on 11 Dec. Have been doing stakeholder mapping, who they are and how they can best engage them from their needs,

Delivery group has less reference to work to in guidance. Obvious for LNRS is BNG and interaction in planning system and that LNRS need regard to planning strategy - advisory group will look at links. How can we deliver nature through funding pots, ELMS etc, investment through peatland code, community and voluntary sector - what can people do, charities etc.

Overarching governance - all groups have met except Advisory Panel. Want challenge, not usual suspects and good range of sectors. Has been a robust process, opportunity to apply was launched 11th Dec, advertised for panel of 12, encouraging other groups to apply. Will meet for first time in February. Hoping Mayor could chair but not yet confirmed. Invites applications from members of LNP, colleagues, boards etc. Membership - ToR for each group, membership question was limiting attendance to supporting and responsible auth and engage stakeholders through advisory panel, activities and ad hoc events on a particular topic but realised this is quite restrictive. Looking at again and consensus was that membership should be widened, 2 Wildlife Trusts in SY, FC and DCRT as more inclusive group, may be more inclusive approach through advisory panel.

LB invited questions or thoughts from the group.

TW - university representation, Jasmine Knight put out call yesterday. Laurie - is happening through centre link in to Unis, will pass invitation on.

CT - wanted to check re: connection to LNP? Laurie - think this is what we talk about next? Liz clarified next item is on ToR in response to LNRS governance.

NS - representation in working groups - no rep to community at large or business, may be hard at SY level but does seem bit of a gap not to rep in those groups.

LH - fair question, these stakeholders would be welcome on the advisory panel and want to engage them in other ways, will take away to review that to ensure we have it right and best place for them.

JL - also landowners and farmers. Laurie noted this.

CT - advisory panel call for applications, refs list of stakeholder groups but wonder if Laurie has particular views re: any particular targets? Laurie - advisory panel would be for more high level discussions.

AH left the meeting.

LH introduced a discussion exercise re: stakeholder engagement programme on how should we think about deciding on themes. 20 facilitated workshops - all themes, speakers etc up for grabs - how should we divide up? Potential principles for how to do that. Has to agree priorities for nature, come out with some consensus building, place-based - habitats also practical to engage stakeholders, online/in-person mix advantages for both, pilots id'd 4 themes - species, habitat type, NBS, stakeholder groups.

TW - LNP has always strived to maintain a democratic approach with reps from all 4 LAs etc. Laurie - MCA board reps all 4 LA leaders and SYMCA chair

NS - re LNRS is there a time period for outcome? Think more short term timeframe but not specific time aimed for. Where are we now, what is baseline, if looking 20-30 yrs ahead what is ambition for SY and how do we get there. Important not to just focus on core conservation elements.

RB - not really looking at short term, BNG secures for 30 yrs for example, renewal of LNRS is 3-10 year time frame, looking at what have achieved, decided by Secretary of State.

CT there should be long term vision supported by review period of approx 5 yrs, monitoring progress and adjust accordingly. Key issue will be agreeing what success looks like and how we measure progress.

TW - agree with Nick on sense of trajectory as important part of process, don't see why can't do place-based as well. Will be 'horse trading', seems wise to embrace place based and genuine theme based - 10 placed based and some other frame, funds will be linked with prioritisation of key places and will have discussions with LAs, catchment basis etc. Laurie - would you want farmers/landowners alongside conservationists and NGOs in same groups?

MM - National Character Areas?

TW - necessary to engage people from across the catchment

LB - re: vision and aims, Yorks leaders all signed up to 30/30 as has UK govt, emerging info about this and national parks/reserves context, different geographies, biodiversity uplift across areas, how LNRS connect across and interrelate with this - could be quite useful.

LH - seeking more info from people after meeting, contract for stakeholder engagement provider will kick off end January, feedback from group will make stronger and help us run with it so any feedback very useful. Would welcome comments between now and next meeting early Jan - if people interested in coming to an engagement group session on this they would be very welcome.

NS - milestones - lining up workshops so they connect with that will be really important.

LH - 2 specs want to work together, stakeholder eng supported by robust eco info - have asked evidence provider to join the sessions and provide materials, is how we get from here to Mar 2025 which is when asked to publish, need draft strategy by summer 2024, lines up well with other auths, not great guidance on how auths should be approving docs. Need consultation doc and final version to be published - process unclear, how long will take and how realistic timescales are. 9 months of approvals and consultation.

NS asked for programme to be shared if possible - LH happy to do this. Send to IC and he can share with LNP.

Web page for advisory panel recruitment is: southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/lhrs-advisory-panel-recruitment

4. ToR of SYLNP

LB introduced subject as result from LNRS workshop - general polling highlighted preferred option was to retain LNP but revise and update ToR, highlight SYMCA and LNRS work and how interrelated. Although we don't yet know the detail of the appointments, we did identify in the workshop it would be helpful to know more about these, but LB thinks it is worth going into conversation on this now to get some options we'd like to take forward.

LB presented the current draft ToR.

CT - vision still feels relevant, purpose - would add recognising importance of nature recovery, challenge of climate change

TW - doesn't seem urgent enough - biodiversity crisis, climate - re: mission and purpose

EP - recognise value of green finance in private sector, how will link into that, Nature North

RB - Blue env as well as green network

JL - Mission - enabling delivery of work on the ground? Providing training, knowledge transfer, green skills gap

NS - ref to NBS in Vision etc

LB asked re: priorities for LNP 2024-2025

CT - connection to LNRS, needs thinking about how will work in practice but clear connection is key - to influence its development and monitor its success, hold SYMCA to its delivery - challenge and champion the work

NS - LNP rep to feed back would be helpful, some issues needing a deeper dive - can we have some knowledge sharing from people re: potential and opps for PFI in SY. Site visits, e.g. Humberhead Levels to learn from habitats, species

LH - responsible to emerging events and opps, e.g. moorland burning and air quality - being asked at SYMCA about this - suddenly on agenda, demand for proper advising which don't have at SYMCA so supporting each other, sharing of advice and expertise

MM - LNRS process and engagement, workshops and process - thinking about how delivery will be facilitate and mobilised

TW - would be keen to be involved in any talks re: finance

CT - should look to review and refresh membership of LNP, annual forums, voting for chair etc

LB - highlighted distinction between board and wider partnership, when took up the chair were clear would be ad hoc approach and no resource to undertake formal forums etc

CT - operating more as a partnership now with strategic/governance probably now moved to LNRS, still needs to be representative with right people around table

LB - LNPs were listed in Duty to Cooperate in formal planning, quite challenging as LAs on LNP, if was collective unhappiness about planning issue the LNP would be difficult forum to press the issue re: LPA reps in partnership, formal voting has been irrelevant because of this

CH - Duty to Cooperate no longer in Levelling Up Act

MM - open up membership or advice to wider groups, looser and more welcome network rather than a board, approach works well for DCRT.

LB - process is challenging constraint, would love to bring in farmers and community groups etc but don't have space or resources to run different groups etc

TW - board was there to rep partnership and not other way around, constituent should be focus, so we have resources to do full partnership, venues, catering etc?

LH - I support extending membership to these kind of stakeholders, LNRS Advisory Panel

MM - asked about comms, resources needed etc

LB - would be good to put ask out on hosting events, help organising etc, efficiency of minutes could be looked at - support from network to share comms

PT - never felt Duty to Cooperate was a problem with our Local Plan. Is going but not sure we know what the new alignment test is going to be.

EP - happy to do more and help with comms for the LNP through DCRT network, have membership but all info goes out through mailing list, annual networking day, is looser membership, have steering group and formal board.

LB - if you have any thoughts or comments, EP - anything you have for DCRT network would be good - for draft document for discussion and comment with aim of having something to look at and adopt at next meeting

Actions:

LB/IC – plan focus of next meeting to be future options or governance of LNRS

EP - to share DCRT network terms of reference with LB and idea of resourcing needed

5. Partner Updates, Regional Climate Forum

CH - Will circ summary re RCF. Had a presentation on BNG, key discussion around how regionally we could support each other with progressing LNRS, had presentation on Nature North on linking public and private funding, should be looking at wider matters through LNRS - are there any opps for supporting on wider level, wider ecosystem services of LNRS going forward.

LB - SRWT have been successful in raising all the £1.2m to purchase Ughill Farm for a nature-friendly test and learn model, working with farming, food production, carbon, nature under ELMs and private finance models.

Actions:

CH to forward RCF summary to IC for circulation to board

6. AOB, next meeting date

MM - Planning Advisory Service will be releasing a nature recovery toolkit, recommendation for workshops - testing Feb launching March, will be some useful resources. Recommendation is to run in-house facilitated sessions having regard to LNRS.

Next meeting will be in Feb/Mar 2024.

Doodle Polls for next dates to be circulated by Lynn Campbell at SRWT.

8. AOB/future agenda items

Future agenda items:

BNG

NRN & LNRS

SYWP report

Farmer/landowner mapping update

Partner updates