

Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Zoom on Thursday, September 29th 2022

Present; Peter Dreghorn, Andy Stott, Norma Fearn, Nic Major, Andy Tunnicliffe, Anna Griffin

Apologies: Nick Chisholm, Gareth Pedley, James Short

1. There was a technical problem with Zoom at the start, which meant the meeting was limited to 40 minutes. Apologies from the Chair whose mouse dongle was disconnected. Thanks to Andy S and Anna for rescuing it

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Andy had circulated them. The meeting accepted them. Andy would change the status from Draft and upload to the RAW website and add the link.

Action: Andy

3. Actions arising from the minutes.

- a) River Litter Pick – Postponed until better weather. Now covered by our insurance

Action: Andy

b) Insurance

Now set up and running. It cost £194 and covers all our regular activities and the tree nursery. A copy of the schedule/certificate can be requested from Andy S.

Gareth mentioned that he was producing some documentation re safety, risk assessments etc, for the EA he agreed to share. Also, the River Trusts may have some guidance on their websites.

Action: Gareth

c) Contact List/RAW Members?

We agreed we should have a contact list, subject to GDPR regs, we could ask at the Riverwood event.

Andy to sort something out

Action: Complete

4. Treasurers Report

Andy T reported that we are currently in the black allowing for further expenditure on the Tree Nursery.

Andy agreed to attach a copy of the treasurer's statement when sending out the minutes.

Action: Andy

5. Tree Nursery

We fulfilled all the requirements of the £2k loan and have received the money. We have ordered the poly tunnel and it has been delivered to Beattock House. We have also had the wood and materials delivered for the raised beds.

Next step is to agree a date to meet down at the site and erect the poly tunnel and raised beds. Andy will liaise with Peter and probably send out a Rally poll for a suitable date. Peter, James and Andy have some seedlings. Local Seed Collector Davy Cairns will collect 1 kilo each of Scottish Native Seeds from designated sites for the Tree Nursery

Action: Andy&Peter

6. FoCo Planting schedule & sites

Nic explained that FoCo is the Forestry Cooperation Grant and that there had been a special meeting and Andy S's house on the 28th September to discuss details and actions.

Andy will attach notes from that meeting when these minutes are sent out.

Action: Andy

7. South of Scotland Plantings Schedule

Nic to send out the forms.

Action: Nic

Possibly we should advertise for further sites, but only after we have submitted the ones we have already identified.

Between now and New Year all to seek small scale sites for the SoS Tree planting grant. Andy and Peter are able to advise on the form filling and processes

8. Remeander feasibility at Dark Skies distillery

This is the potential for remeandering Crosslaw Burn on the distillery site. There needs to a feasibility study done, and a 5 year plan produced, with mixed FoCo and SoS planting. But planting can be done with the remeandering in mind. Anna mentioned that she is trying to get someone from SEPA to advise on Moffat Water and this could be included.

9. Feedback from Eagle Festival and Moffat Academy

A lot of interest in RAW, and Rick Taylor who organises the festival is very supportive. Again a lot of interest from a few people. School is interested in Fly Life monitoring. And to follow up with Shara Routledge.

Action: Andy

10. Invasive Species

Peter reported that Galloway Glens have someone assigned to invasive species and Nick has offered him to help us. Peter mentioned that Birnock water maybe a potential site. Previously the RAT spent £300K over 20 years on eradicating mink, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. Anna suggested we take a strategic approach, hitting new patches but waiting on a more long-term solution for major areas on infestation.

11. River Flies

Now happening on three sites. Andy will speak to Anna about getting old data and trigger levels.

12. Action: Andy & Anna

13. National Trust Partnership

Peter suggested we invite them back in as partners, especially wrt Moffat Water and Grey Mares

Tail. We should invite Martin Lyall to join.

Action: Andy

Fund Raising for RAW

Our Operating costs estimated at £5 to £10k for insurance, expenses and up front payments for grant funded projects. We need to think about getting a operating budget, possibly by writing to businesses. Anna suggested this need careful thought, possibly getting involved with the Annan Climate Ready Town. It is worth joining up but may take some time.

Also Peter D to look into fund raising from Scottish Forestry for the Tree Nursery

Action: Peter

14. SEPA Partnership

Andy suggested we have a joint SEPA/RAW meeting.

Action: Anna

15. RiverWoods Showings

Possibly Hightae, Annan. Lockerbie. Anna will look to see if she can get it shown alongside the new Annan Climate Ready Initiative.

Action: Anna

16. AOB

The Zoom timed out but Peter suggested we hold our next meeting early November, this time face to face. Andy will send out a RALLY poll accordingly.

Action: Andy

After the Meeting

A new group over at the River Nith are requesting to work with RAW as they are doing similar campaigns and processes. Peter to meet with Jakob Kaye

Andy Stott

1/10/2022