

Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 26th February 2019
Venue: Colliton Club, Dorchester
Time: 18:00 – 20:00

In attendance:

Weymouth Harbour Authority	Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	West Bay Fishermen's Association	Dorset Coast Forum
Dorset County Council	CEFAS	Axmouth Fishermen's Association	
Quest Marine	Lyme Regis Fisherman's Association	Weymouth Fishermen's Association	

Apologies:

Natural England
Purbeck District Council
SEAFISH
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Swanage Bay Fish

1. Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed the FLAG board members to the meeting.

2. Last Meeting's Minutes

Actions from the last meeting:

- I. **Martin to go through EOIs that were not completed or rejected at some stage to see whether there is any interest in applying again.** Martin has been through the EOIs on file and sent e-mails to Seafood Cannery and Cargo under Sail. He has received no responses yet. All other EOIs were either not eligible, the applicant withdrew it, or the project has progressed to full application.
- II. **Martin to arrange a marketing campaign for an open call across the LDS.** In progress. It started Monday 18th Feb and will run for four weeks. The deadline for submitting



projects is March 15th at 5pm and this message is echoed in the marketing information. There has already been lots of interest particularly in projects under P4 and P1. The board should have received some of the EOI's that have been submitted and there will be further EOIs sent out this week. It is worth noting that timescales for comments on upcoming EOI's will be shorter than usual, so Martin can get the project turned around as quickly as possible.

- III. **Martin to speak to the low carbon team at Dorset County Council regarding energy saving alternative to solar panels.** Martin spoke with the team shortly after the last meeting. They have advised that as the energy requirements of a chiller unit/ice machine are relatively small, solar panels are the only real alternative energy supply that would be suitable. They did mention wind turbines, but it is likely that this would run into similar issues as solar panels regarding planning or residents' complaints. They did suggest that panels could be mounted on the side of existing buildings but would need to consider vandalism and security risks. They also recommended that any future installations consider solar panels from the outset.
- IV. **Martin to send the MPA Community Planning Workshops report to the board.** Complete. The report is also available on the FLAG website.

3. FLAG Work Update

- **Aquaculture Development Officer work update**
 - A board member queried whether the aquaculture mapping project was going to consult with the fishermen. This will happen, though the project isn't at that stage at the moment. A survey has been sent out regarding the seaweed feasibility study, which is a separate project. It was suggested that Cefas contact the sailing academy regarding concerns about an oyster farm development in one of the sailing areas.
 - A board member questioned the relevance of national meetings attended by the ADO, as the position is to develop aquaculture in Dorset. Attendance at the ALG meetings is helping to develop where future aquaculture funding will be allocated and allows local voices to be heard by the Minister which in turn will hopefully streamline regulations and processes. Viable areas are being investigated by the Aquaculture Mapping Project and training will be given at the new Kingston Maurward course. Once test areas are in place, there will be more opportunity for more local work to take place. The availability of sides is a bottleneck to the industry; there has been local and national interest in the existing zones, there have been approaches that will result in significant increases in aquaculture in the area.
- Martin's main focus over the coming weeks will be commitment of the remaining funds.
- Martin attended the BLUE Marine Small-Scale Fisheries exchange workshops this weekend. This saw SCCF from Turkey, Italy, Cyprus and Lyme Bay come together to talk about the common problems they all face and work on proposals for solutions. It also gave BLUE Marine the chance to highlight the project they are running in Lyme Bay.

4. Finances

- **M&A claim status**

The third M&A Claim is under way and will soon be submitted to the MMO for approval. Natalie is waiting for a few extra pieces of information from DCC HR department and once she has this the claim can be submitted.

- **Spend commitments**

- Since the last meeting there has been significant interest in the FLAG fund. The marketing campaign will hopefully help push the final bit of funding out. If the pipeline and EOIs come to full application and they are approved, there will be an over spend of roughly £145,000. Martin has spoken with the MMO about the implications of over spend, and they suggested that funding is given out on a first come first served basis and that the FLAG is very clear about this to applicants.
- Two EOIs have been sent to the board already, there are nine more to be sent out.
- A board member raised the issue that going on a first come first served basis disregards the quality and scoring of the projects. It was suggested that a deadline is set so that all of these EOIs can be sent out at the same time. Send the applications out to appraiser, if all have sufficiently high scores to go forward then there will be a number of projects to decide on.
- If all 9 current EOIs were approved, it would be almost 60% over.
- It was questioned whether there would be any underspend in other FLAGs, however all FLAGs are in the same situation that they don't know how much is left over.
- It was suggested that a deadline is placed for full applications, however the turnaround period is very tight, especially because the MMO are dealing with all applications from across the country. The remaining EOIs need to progress by Friday 8th March. Until heard otherwise, Martin is working to the March 29th deadline. The other option is making a bid to the MMO for extra money. If applications go through by 8th March, those could be the ones that go in for the extra funding the MMO have released for English FLAGs.
- It was suggested that all remaining EOIs are sent to the board at the same time, then ask the board to prioritise. EOIs need to go around the board first before they can be approved.

ACTION: Martin to send email out tomorrow with the remaining EOIs. Comments back as soon as possible.

- The dates would mean the next board meeting will be held on 12th March.

- **Local Development Strategy Review update**

Most projects that have come forward will fit well under P4, with a couple of exceptions. Once the projects are formally submitted and approved by the Board Martin will contact the MMO and request the relevant funds to be moved across the LDS. The MMO have confirmed that with projects ready to go, an LDS review should be straight-forward.

- **Project Claims**

Martin's priority is committing the final funds to projects, but a number of claims have been submitted and he is processing them as quickly as possible. Martin asked the board to let him know of any projects that require the process speeding up and he will process these

claims sooner. Martin has also been asked by the MMO to push claims on projects that are ready to make claims as we are coming toward the end of the financial year. Once Brexit is passed, Martin will be able to focus a lot more of my time ensuring claims are submitted.

When projects come in, that money is ringfenced assigned to projects and claims can progress through to December this year.

5. Project discussion and scoring

There were two projects presented for review by the Board at this meeting. These projects were independently appraised prior to the meeting and were circulated to the Board for review. The scoring and Board discussion for the projects are documented in the individual FLAG Application Appraisal form. Project details will be made public once they are approved for funding by the MMO.

Martin apologised for an error on the ENG2830 appraisal form.

- I. ENG 3828 –**
 - **The applicant presented to the Board - 10 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**
- II. ENG 3830 –**
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 10 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

6. Any other business

- **Project reports**

Each project needs to submit a project report at the end of the project and then a further report one year after completion. Again, once Brexit is out of the way, Martin will be working with applicants to ensure all project reports are submitted in line with the MMO and FLAG requirements but if the board know of any applicants that are not aware of this requirement or need help with completing the reports please let Martin know.
- **Permissions**

The importance of having permissions in place should be highlighted to applicants and the appraiser, so that the board is aware of any issues prior to board meetings. The applicant is responsible for knowing what permissions are needed, however it has become apparent that in some cases the applicants aren't aware. This process needs strengthening and the board is available to help in this process. As there is one meeting left, which is likely to be busy, this can be a natural filtration of the projects. Martin will circulate the regulatory toolbox to any aquaculture proposals where relevant.
- The board thanked Martin for his hard work between meetings.

7. Next meeting discussion

Date of next meeting: **19th March 2019**

Martin will assess whether this needs to be a longer meeting than usual closer to the time. It is likely to be at Safewise again next time.