

Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 11th June 2019

Time: 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Location: Safe Wise Weymouth, Radipole Lane.

In Attendance:

Dorset Coast Forum	Fisherman's College	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Native Marine Centre Ltd
Dorset Council	Weymouth Harbour Authority	Cefas	West Bay Fishermen's Associations
Axmouth Fishermen's Association	Swanage Fishermen's Association	Weymouth Fishermen's Association	

Apologies:

West Bay Fishermen's Association (sub)
Aquaculture Development Officer
Seafish
Natural England
Quest Marine Ltd
Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)
Swanage Bay Fish

1. Welcome and apologies

- Martin welcomed the board members to the meeting.

2. FLAG Chair and Vice Chair Election results

- No nominations other than the existing Chair and Vice Chair were received, therefore, as there were no objections, both the Chair and Vice Chair will continue in their roles until the end of the current programme in March 2020.

3. Project discussions and scoring

Three projects were 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.

- i. **ENG4234**
 - a. **The applicant presented to the Board. A vote was taken to recommend to approve this project for FLAG funding.**
- ii. **ENG4316** – Dorset Council declared an interest
 - a. **The applicant presented to the Board. A vote was taken to recommend to approve this project for FLAG funding.**
- iii. **ENG4341**
 - a. **The applicant presented to the Board. A vote was taken to recommend to approve this project for FLAG funding.**

4. Last meeting's minutes

There were two actions from last meeting:

- i. **Martin to ask the MMO what would happen if any of the three projects in the £116,132.30 was rejected by the board and whether this money would be open to other applications.** Martin has spoken to the MMO and if any of the extra projects were not approved the funding could be made available for other projects, but this would be on a case by case basis and would be dependent upon having projects ready to go.
- ii. **Martin to produce a report reviewing projects against the result indicators and targets set out in the Local Development Strategy.** This is in progress and will be circulated to the board in due course. Headlines are: 36 projects supported so far (plus 3 more tonight). P1 5 projects, P2 7 projects, P3 16 projects, p4 9 projects and p5 2 projects. The core fund remains open, but all FLAG money is now spent. There is no money left in the extra money or in the main FLAG programme.
 - The Chair congratulated the board on approving projects for funding and hoped other organisations will also recognise the success of the FLAG. The Chair also commented that the FLAG has funded projects that seem to be very appropriate to the Local Development Strategy.
 - Martin advised the board that, including Management and Administration costs, the total spend of the FLAG will be £954,000 at the end of the programme.
 - A board member asked if there was any further clarification from the MMO about the continued availability of EMFF core funding – are there any deadlines or figures relating to money left?
 - Martin advised the board that the MMO are starting to close certain Articles of the core fund and some have been closed for some time. However, he would speak to the European Grants team to get up to date information.

ACTION: Martin to contact MMO about deadline for core fund and figures on remaining funds.

5. FLAG work update

- **ENG2385 – Dorset Coastal Stories.** This project was funded through the FLAG in October 2017. Three of the four films can be viewed on the Dorset Coast Forum website and the final film, focusing on careers in the aquaculture sector will be released at the planned premier event later this year. The first film in the series – “*Young and Fishing*” – was shown to the board and received general good feedback.
- The focus of Martin’s work will be claims, but he will also be focusing on making sure post project reports are submitted. One-year post project a report is required by the FLAG and the MMO. Its very similar to the report immediate post project and again, there is a template to help applicants meet the requirements. If the board know of anyone who is getting towards this point, post project, please ask them to contact Martin.
- Work is now starting to look beyond FLAG and Martin will be attending a stakeholder engagement workshop at DEFRA later this month on June 24th. The aim of this is to help shape the national replacement for EMFF. All amateurs from English FLAG’s have been invited to feedback on this. Martin advised the board that it would be useful to get some feedback from board members and applicants in writing to further emphasise the good impact the FLAG has had here and to highlight the issues with the existing funding framework and application process.

ACTION: Board members send their feedback on the programme to Martin by 20th June.

6. Presentation - Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)

- DEFRA commissioned the CCRI to talk to people about engaging with fisheries management and fisheries science. The Institute is one of the largest social science institutes and is interested in sea anglers and commercial fishers for this project. Previous work with DEFRA has focused on fisheries and social sciences. A report was made available at the meeting to give the board an idea of the Institutes previous work. The new project will focus on working with the industry to understand how to work with fishermen and their families, this report will be publicly available in time.
- The institute will focus on relationships between individual fishermen and anglers and how they have previously connected with fisheries management and scientists. An online survey will shortly available for sea anglers. The second focus of this work is to visit five areas across the UK with ports that have fishermen, sea anglers and charter boats. In that respect Weymouth is key. The institute asked the board if they are aware of people in the area then they would be happy to speak to them face to

face over the next week. Any comments recorded would be confidential and anonymous and would take about 30/45 minutes. The institute reminded the board that no information is passed to DEFRA that will let them work out where the comments came from. The researchers are looking for both negative as well as positive interactions between fishers and management and scientists and they will be happy to return to a board meeting as the project progresses to report back to the FLAG.

7. FLAG Finance

- There is obviously a big emphasis on claims now and ensuring that projects receive the funding back. £130,000 has now been paid back to projects and there are currently a further six claims in the pipeline with the MMO.
- Currently, the FLAG remains closed to new applications.
- Martin is still available to help people apply to the core EMFF fund. An extra £1.4m funding has been secured for projects in the area through offering this service.
- Martin has assisted with a wide range of smaller projects mainly focused on health and safety along with some larger infrastructure projects.

8. AOB

- With Local Government Reorganisation and the changes to local government across the county, the new Dorset Council has assigned two officers to the FLAG board.
- The LEADER LAG programme will be holding a final celebration in October 2019 and has invited the FLAG board to be a part of this. More information will be sent to the board when its available.
- The Chair thanked the board for all their input on each of the projects which have been presented to the board over the last two years and congratulated them on the overall success of the FLAG.

9. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for 17th September 2019. The venue is to be confirmed as it would be beneficial to the FLAG board to perhaps see some of the projects the FLAG has funded. Martin will send out a Doodle poll to decide where this will be held.

ACTION: Martin to send a Doodle Poll to the Board for the next board meeting location.