

Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 19th March 2019

Venue: SafeWise, Weymouth

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

In attendance:

Southern IFCA	Seafish	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Native Marine Centre
Dorset County Council (Sub)	Weymouth Harbour Authority	Cefas	West Bay Fishermen's Associations
Axmouth Fishermen's Association	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	Weymouth	Weymouth Fishermen's Association

Apologies:

Purbeck District Council
Dorset Coast Forum
Dorset County Council
Quest Marine
Swanage Bay Fish
Lyme Regis Fishermen's Association

1. Welcome and Apologies

The vice-chair welcomed the FLAG board members to the meeting. There is a slight change to the agenda; as there are a large number of projects, the project discussion and scoring will go first.

2. Project discussion and scoring

There were eight 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.

If all approved, then the fund will be £27,000 overcommitted, however there is another amount of money to be released. The MMO have proposed that the Board proceeds on the basis that all are financially viable in terms of funding capability. A board member suggested that Martin will



need to manage the expectations of the applicants, in case the additional £27,000 is not available.

Martin has submitted a bid to the MMO to fund the lowest ranked 3 projects that were sent to the board out of the 11. There will be a slightly longer timescale for these projects.

- I.* **ENG 4069** – No declarations of interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board - 11 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- II.* **ENG 3398** – No declarations of interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 11 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- III.* **ENG 4035** – The Aquaculture Development Officer declared an interest.
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 10 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- IV.* **ENG 4043** – No declarations of interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 10 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- V.* **ENG 4055** – Axmouth Fishermen’s Association declared an interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 10 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- VI.* **ENG 4058** – Axmouth Fishermen’s Association declared an interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 10 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- VII.* **ENG 4059** – Axmouth Fishermen’s Association declared an interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 10 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

- VIII.* **ENG 4082** – No declarations of interest
 - **The applicant presented to the Board – 7 in favour, 1 against 3 abstained**
 - **A vote was taken to approve this project for FLAG funding**

3. Last Meeting’s Minutes

No issues raised with the minutes from the previous meeting. Actions from the last meeting:

- I. **Martin to send email out tomorrow with the remaining EOIs. Comments back as soon as possible.** Martin thanked the board for their responses.

4. FLAG Work Update

There hasn't been much time between meetings, but Martin advised the board that a bid was submitted for an extra £116,132.30 to fund three extra projects that were not selected for this board meeting. These were project Recover Reef, Project Overspill and a follow on to the supply chain mapping project.

Martin will be attending the FARNET conference in April in Ireland, raising the profile of Dorset and East Devon FLAG. Martin presented the seaweed project at the FARNET conference in France last year. The theme for this conference is Smart Coastal Systems examining how multiple users can make the most of resources and space available in coastal areas.

The marketing campaign was successful, and Martin has had ten enquiries and three EOIs. Two of the EOIs were not eligible as they were outside of the FLAG area and the third had a total project cost more than £100k and therefore was not eligible. However, Martin has advised the applicants that core funding is still available. Martin has been assured that the projects approved this evening will be approved by the MMO by March 29th.

5. Finances

The FLAG is now fully committed as of the end of this evening's meeting. The bid for the extra funding will need to be committed to those three projects by the end of June 2019 and claims submitted by December 2019. The £27,865.41 and £116,132.30 are being treated as two separate pots of money.

A board member questioned what would happen if one of the three projects in the bid for £116,132.30 was rejected by the board?

ACTION: 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.

Update 21 March 20219: 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.

6. Any other business

- Martin reminded the board of their obligations under the terms of reference of FLAG Board membership and the confidentiality of discussions that take place at board meetings.
- Martin formally thank the independent appraiser, who has put in a lot of work over the last week to ensure that the projects were appraised in time for this evening's meeting. They do



this on a voluntary basis, as does the board, but as the last project was submitted late on Friday March 15th, they have taken time out of their weekend to complete the appraisals.

- Martin also thanked the board for their time, input, and comments over the last two years. Without the board members, the FLAG would not have been able to be in such a strong position this evening.
- A board member requested that Martin produces a report on how well the project has done and start promoting this in press releases through highlighting successful projects.

ACTION: Martin to produce a report reviewing projects against the result indicators and targets set out in the Local Development Strategy.

- The Aquaculture Development Officer gave their update as detailed in the attached document.
- The Weymouth & Portland Borough Council representative raised that the councils will no longer be in operation by the time of the next meeting. This will affect several of the board members, as the new authority will need to appoint a new representative.

7. Next meeting discussion

As discussed at a previous meeting, this is the final meeting where formal decisions will be made on funding. The next meeting is likely to be more reflective. Martin proposed that the next meeting will be June 19th, 2019. Further details and an agenda will follow nearer the time.

A board member noted that if any decisions need to be made in the meantime, then the majority would prefer to meet in person rather than through teleconference. Therefore, if any extra funding is secured by the FLAG a board meeting will be arranged to assess the three proposals.