



Scottish Consortium
for Rural Research

MINUTE OF THE 125TH MEETING OF THE SCRR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2016 AT THE ROSLIN INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Present:

Prof Steve Yearley (Chair)
Prof Stuart K Monro (Scientific Director)
Prof Willie Donachie (Secretary/Treasurer)
Dr Kathy Velandar (Edinburgh Napier University)
Prof Lee Innes (MRI)
Dr Nick Fraser (NMS)
Prof Martin Price (Centre for Mountain Studies, UHI)

Apologies:

Prof David Miller (JHI)
Prof Pete Hollingsworth (RBGE)
Ruth Wolstenholme (SNIFFER)
Prof Geoff Simm (SRUC)

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** Prof Yearley welcomed those present. Prof W Donachie was congratulated on the award of his OBE in the New Years Honours List.
- 2. Minutes and matters arising from 124th Executive meeting:** The minute was approved and all matters arising were covered in other agenda items.
- 3. Centres of Excellence and Networks: update on all networks**

3.1 Moredun: (LI) The arrangements for the new centre for Knowledge Exchange in the Scottish Government Research Programme for 2016-21 have been progressing positively. This aims to be a virtual centre based in one of the member organisations providing a one-stop shop for KE coming out of the Research Programme. This would be a good connection for SCRR, especially on science policy and large interdisciplinary events. Due to the outcome of the recent Spending Review there are likely to be cuts in the submitted budgets.

3.2 Sniffer - knowledge brokers for a resilient Scotland: Unfortunately RW could not attend the meeting following an accident. Nothing to report.

3.3 SRUC: The recruitment process for the new Director is proceeding well.

3.4 CAMERAS: No update on this Committee.

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3.5 Social Sciences: (SY) There are a number of developments within Social Sciences

3.5.1 Faculty member Miguel Sanchez, Social dimensions Science and Technology, has just won a large PRC grant to research history of genomic enterprises to investigate the impact of this technology on medicine and veterinary medicine. This is a contemporary history project and will be of interest to SCRR members.

3.5.2 A new project has been applied for on the policies surrounding antibiotic use and resistance. This will look at questions such as "What are the policy options, what are the obstacles?". An individual with industry experience has been selected to lead this.

3.5.3 Ann Bruce is working on the Green Cow initiative looking at views and options for farmers around the issues of such things as methane emissions. She is now looking at farmers involvement in controlling Liver Fluke She is especially interested in how farmers link in with the translation of industry research. LI indicated that a Moredun scientist Philip Skuce has been looking at Liver Fluke control issues for Moredun Foundation farmer members and it might be useful for Ann to make contact

3.5.4 Citizen Science and Crowd Source Data. This is based in Social Sciences but is reaching out across the University. There was a recent event at the National Museum with Geographers to discuss Citizen Science projects such as community based mapping for soil nematodes.. The next one is on CS in social history projects.

3.6 Other

3.6.1 SSAC (SM) A new Science Advisory Council with a Chair has been appointed. The positions have offered to the successful candidates but their names have not yet been made public. The advert for a Chief Scientist for Scotland has been released.

3.6.2 National Biodiversity Network: (NF) The NBN is hoping to recruit a new Director. The NMS and RBGE are very keen to see this progressed quickly as the production of Atlas of Living Scotland is dependent on this.

4. Events

4.1 Annual Lecture 2016: The Peter Wilson lecture 2016 will be given by Prof A.L Glover at the RSE on Thursday 25th February 2016. The Winter 2015 issue of the SCRR Newsletter will be distributed at the RSE venue.

4.2 Workshops:

4.2.1 Land Use Reform, 15 January, Perth. Seventeen attendees had a very useful discussion. WD and SM will produce a report. MP suggested that as one finding from the meeting was that because so many people develop frameworks and indicators for land use sustainability that this might be the subject of a Round Table in its own right.. Another area was conversations about the futures of land in Scotland. Scottish Land and Estates are funding conversations in collaboration with UHI but if SCRR wished to fund as well these could be progressed more quickly. LI felt this subject presented an opportunity for linking up with the new Programme KE centre.

4.2.2 Edinburgh International Science Festival. An SCRR sponsored public seminar on Life in the Extremes will be held at the National Museum at 3.00pm on Sunday 10th April 2016. Contributions from University of Edinburgh on astrobiology, JHI on soil lichens and from St Andrews on early archean life. The format will be 20 minute talks with discussion after each.

MP is having his book on Mountains highlighted by a talk at the Festival on 29th April 2016

4.2.3 Follow up workshop on Land Reform: Needs to be planned for later in 2016. This could be another Round Table

4.2.4. Follow up on Life in the Extremes: A more scientific meeting will be held bringing together scientists from across Scotland in the different disciplines relevant to this topic.

4.2.5 Scotia Agricultural Club: We have had an approach from Prof John Oldham about holding a joint seminar on a topic of mutual interest. WD and SM to meet John and discuss possible subjects.

4.2.6 Living Collections: A good number of the SCRR members have living collections. This shared responsibility and the issues that arise for making the data available may be the basis of a very interesting meeting.

4.3 Directors' Lunches

- Monday 14 March 2016: Executive Committee and Directors' Lunch; BioSS, JHI Invergowrie
- Monday 16th May 2016: Executive Committee and Directors' Lunch, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh, Assembly Room in ECCI.

5. Membership

5.1 Consortium: The National Trust for Scotland and the University of St Andrews having indicated strong interest in joining SCRR have still not signed up. SM and WD will follow up on this.

5.2 Executive Committee: We do not have a CAMERAS representative on the Committee since Ian Bainbridge left. SM to look into possible replacements.

6. Finances: WD reported that the Finances are healthy and the invoices for the 2015-16 subscriptions have been issued.

7. Publicity and Communications

7.1 SCRR Website: The website is being updated regularly. SM and WD will arrange training for editing authority.

7.2 SCRR Newsletter: There is a tight deadline for the Spring 2016 edition at the end of February . It will be ready for distribution at the Edinburgh International Science Festival event.

8. Any other business: No other business.

9. Date and place of next Executive meeting

March 14th, BioSS, Invergowrie.

KEY	Prof Steve Yearley	SY
	Prof Stuart K Monro	SM
	Prof Willie Donachie	WD
	Dr Kathy Velander	KV
	Prof Lee Innes	LI
	Dr Nick Fraser	NF
	Prof Martin Price	MP