



Scottish Consortium
for Rural Research

MINUTE OF THE 131ST MEETING OF THE SCRR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 19TH JUNE 2017. MOREDUN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PENTLANDS SCIENCE PARK, PENICUIK EH260PZ

Present:

Prof Steve Yearley (Chair)
Prof Stuart K Monro (Scientific Director)
Prof Willie Donachie (Secretary/Treasurer)
Dr Sonja Rueckart (Edinburgh Napier University, for Dr Kathy Velander)
Prof Lee Innes (MRI)
Prof David Miller (JHI)

Apologies:

Prof Pete Hollingsworth (RBGE)
Prof Martin Price (Centre for Mountain Studies, (UHI)
Prof Alistair Stott (SRUC)
Ruth Wolstenholme (Sniffer)
Dr Kathy Velander (Edinburgh Napier University)
Dr Nick Fraser (NMS)

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** SY welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes and matters arising from 130th Executive meeting:**
Agreed with minor changes.
3. **Centres of Excellence and Networks: update on all networks**
 - 3.1. **Edinburgh Napier University:** (SR) Nothing to Report
 - 3.2. **MRI (LI)** MRI will be present at the Royal Highland Show with Biosecurity being the main focus for presentations.
 - 3.3. **Social Sciences (SY)** Geoff Simm now heads up the Academy for Global Agriculture and Food Security. SY has been working closely with Prof Simm to fill new posts and develop new degree courses jointly with SRUC. These courses include policy science, agriculture and development, innovation. The research resources will be strengthened through a new jointly funded post in science policy and innovation. Research funding through the Global Challenge Fund has also been secured.
 - 3.4. **SSAC (SKM)** The SSAC website has now been updated to contain information on the new workstreams which include:
 - Implications for health and social care, including availability of 'free' care through family members and friends

- Rising demand for adaptable kinds of housing, suitable for older people with a variety of support needs, a significant proportion of whom live alone
- Rural areas ageing faster than cities, with related implications for infrastructure and services
- Effect on the economy of the disconnect between the number of job vacancies and the number of young people leaving schools and colleges
- The SSAC is looking at Cyber Resilience as a piece of work to help inform the SG Cyber Resilience Team's future activity. This was agreed at the December meeting following a presentation from the SG Cyber Resilience Team.

It was suggested that more engagement between the SSAC and SCRR could be encouraged by inviting members of the SSAC to Directors' Lunches. SKM and WD to look into this.

- 3.5. JHI (BF) Eligibility for UK Research Council Funding** is a major issue for JHI and the Institute is awaiting a decision on its application for this status. The UK general election 2017 got in the way.
Changes in the Board membership have now been effected to reflect a better gender balance and the introduction of more industry and business expertise.

4. Events

4.1 Annual Peter Wilson Lecture 2018. Roger Crofts, Chair of RSGS, has been confirmed as the speaker for the 2018 lecture. The working title "What went wrong with Land Use Scotland" is likely to be a very individual and possibly controversial view. The possibility of using a moderator was aired and will be considered.

4.2 Workshops:

4.2.1 Biological Collections: This is still at early stages. The feeling from the meeting was that it would be better to arrange a small workshop in the first instance to make recommendations for anything further in the future.

4.2.2 SCRR STEM Strategy Workshop: This took place on February 24th at Dynamic Earth. SCRR Members amongst others discussed the Government's paper on the STEM Strategy. The report is now available.

4.2.3: Coastal Event Workshop: A number of SCRR members have interests in this environment and an SCRR workshop on this topic will be organised. ST Andrews, SAMS, Napier Edinburgh, St Abbs Head will be contacted. This is a priority. A meeting of interested parties will be organised.

4.2.4: Extremophiles: This is on hold at present.

4.2.5: Scotia/SCRR Essay Competition and Lecture: The details for this are nearly complete. It is still the intention to launch this in 2017 for award in 2018.

4.2.6. Social Science Event: As a number of members now have social science activities an event to bring together the various flavours of SCRR would be beneficial for networking and sharing experiences. SY, SKM and WD to meet and discuss.

4.3 Directors' Lunches

- Monday 25 September 2017: Directors' Lunch and Executive Committee meeting, IASH, Edinburgh
- Friday 17 November: AGM and 56th Main Board Meeting, RBGE, Edinburgh.

5. Membership

5.1 Consortium: The National Trust are still not signed up due to reorganisation issues. WD to contact the NTS again. The Rowett Institute will be approached about membership.

5.2 Executive Committee: As the Executive does not have a member who attends CAMERAS meetings it would be good to fix this. WD to contact individuals who could fill this position on the Executive.

6. Finances:

WD reported that the Finances remain healthy. A number of subscriptions are still due. Those organisations will be contacted again.

7. Publicity and Communications

7.1 SCRR Website: The website has been updated and new material is now being added..

7.2 SCRR Newsletter: The next newsletter will be Summer 2017 in time for The Royal Highland Show.

8. Any other business:

No other business

9. Date and place of next Executive meeting

Monday 25th September at IASH, Edinburgh.

KEY

Prof Steve Yearly	SY	Prof L Innes	LI
Prof Stuart K Monro	SKM	Prof David Miller	DM
Prof Willie Donachie	WD	Dr Sonja Rueckart	SR

Abbreviations:

CAMERAS - Coordinated Agenda for Marine, Environment and Rural Affairs Scotland
IASH - Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.