



## **LEWIS & HARRIS DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP (LHDMG)**

### **NOTE OF MEETING**

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
**TIME:** 11.00am  
**VENUE:** North Harris Trust Offices, Isle of Harris

**Present:** Sabrina Morice-Broom (Aline Community Woodland), Calum Mackay (North Harris Trust), Scott Dixon (Aline Estate), Michael Wilson (Morsgail Estate) Sally Reynolds (Carloway Estate Trust), Lisa Maclean (Galson Estate Trust), Jason Laing (Grimersta Estate), Ivan Brown (Barvas Estate Trust), Chris Macrae (Eishken Estate), Steve Woodhall (Borve Lodge Estate), Gordon Cumming (North Harris Trust).

**In attendance:** Mark Macdonald (Scottish Natural Heritage)

**Apologies:** Simon Hunt (Uig & Hamanavay), Alison Alston, Olly Alston (both Aird Bheag), Iain Maciver (Stornoway Trust), Donnie Whiteford (Garynahine Estate), Iain Watson (Garynahine), Innes Morrison (Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate & Morsgail Estate), Fiona Stokes (Pairc Trust), Cree Mackenzie (Scaliscro Estate), Linda Armstrong (West Harris Trust), Philip Bertin (Police Scotland), Angus Macleod (Barvas Estate).

Item	
<b>1a</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
<b>1b</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests – none declared</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minute of previous meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The note of the previous meeting was approved for accuracy and adopted with no amendment. Proposed by Steve Woodhall and seconded by Sally Reynolds.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising – no matters arising from the previous meeting</b>
<b>3.1</b>	SNH Update – none available at present

<b>4.</b>	<b>Chairman's update and selection of new chair</b>
4.1	Steve Woodhall has resigned from the chair. Thanks was extended to Steve by the group for the work undertaken to progress the group to the current stage.
4.2	Discussion was undertaken around the HIA training. All those who took part in training sessions felt it was excellent and thanks was given to SNH for providing funding support to allow these sessions to take place and for their general support with the development and implementation of the DMP.
4.3	It was agreed a new chair should be selected and would remain in place until at least the AGM, which is scheduled for Autumn 2018. Steve Woodhall proposed Jason Laing and all present agreed. Jason accepted this role and will take up the chair with immediate effect.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Treasurer's update</b>
5.1	<p>Gordon Cumming, treasurer, provided an update on the current financial situation of the group. A listing of members and fees due was circulated. The current balance of the account is £1274.50 with income accrued from SNH grants and fees obtained from members.</p> <p>The DMP and HIA funds have been allocated, therefore the remaining balance in the account is unrestricted. £1000.00 has been earmarked for further HIA training.</p> <p>It was agreed that clarity should be sought on what ADMG fees will be required moving forward.  <b>ACTION REQ'D – Gordon</b></p> <p>Outstanding fees not yet paid by members needs to be followed up and this will be carried out asap. All included in the plan should been issued with an invoice. Dalmore Estate to be included.  <b>ACTION REQ'D – Lisa/Gordon/Jason</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Deer Management Plan – Adoption and Implementation</b>
6.1	Discussion around inclusion of all estates, including those that have not paid dues, in the plan. General consensus that for now all estates should be included to support the overall planning process and implementation. It was noted that some work may need to be undertaken to ensure the group remain compliant with GDPR. <b>ACTION REQ'D - Lisa</b>
6.2	It was agreed that all parts of the plan would be circulated to all members. Gordon led those present through the group operations actions in part 3 of the plan. It was re-iterated that the plan is a working document.
6.3	There is a requirement to formally adopt the plan as a group, with the knowledge it is a working document. All present agreed to adopt the plan. The plan will be circulated to all members outlining the process to adopt the plan and seeking approval of adoption. <b>ACTION REQ'D – ALL MEMBERS</b>

6.4	<p>Discussion was held around crofting representation on the group. It was agreed the local Scottish Crofting Federation rep would be invited to attend meetings. <b>ACTION REQ'D – Jason/Lisa</b></p> <p>Viv Halcro (Woodlands Trust) might be a useful contact to update on the uptake of grants to support woodlands in Lewis and Harris.</p> <p>Mark confirmed that Q1 is the end of June, therefore it would be useful if the group have adopted the plan in advance of this period ending.</p>
6.5	
6.6	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Review of Deer Management Groups, 2019 SNH Assessment</b>
7.1	More training should be undertaken if necessary and proceed through the assessment process – later in 2018.
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>
8.1	<p>Cull Data – it was agreed this was best collated centrally and should be sent to Linzi.</p> <p>With regards to the HIA data, discussion was held around seeking Linzi's services to collate this data centrally. A price should be sought for this work. <b>ACTION REQ'D – Gordon</b></p> <p>It was suggested that the documents required for the HIAs could perhaps be on the ADMG website, to allow for ease of access to the correct documents. Joint equipment might also be useful and/or creation of a couple of kits at an additional training session.</p> <p>It was suggested that if anyone can attend any of the ADMG meetings/events then that would be very useful for the group.</p> <p>Response to email received – it was agreed a response would be issued by Jason in relation to correspondence received regarding some issues relating to deer. <b>ACTION REQ'D – Jason/Gordon</b></p>
8.2	
8.3	
8.4	
<b>9.</b>	<b>DONM – Date and venue to be confirmed.</b>