



LEWIS & HARRIS DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP (LHDMG)

NOTE OF MEETING

DATE: 06 February 2018
TIME: 10.30am
VENUE: North Harris Trust Offices, Isle of Harris

Present: Sally Reynolds (Carloway Estate Trust), Iain Maciver (Stornoway Trust), Lisa Maclean (Galson Estate Trust), Donnie Whiteford (Garynahine Estate), Iain Watson (Garynahine), Russel Hird (Galson Estate Trust), Adrian Main (Aline Estate), Innes Morrison (Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate & Morsgail Estate), Fiona Stokes (Pairc Trust), Steve Jacques (Pairc 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: Graeme Taylor (Scottish Natural Heritage), Linzi Seivwright (Caorann Consulting), Iain Macleod (Aline Community Woodland & SNH)

Apologies: Simon Hunt (Uig & Hamanavay), Alison Alston, Olly Alston (both Aird Bheag)

Item	
1.	Welcome and Introductions
2.	Declaration of Interests – none declared
3.	Minute of previous meeting – 13th November 2017
3.1	The note of the previous meeting was approved for accuracy and adopted with no amendment. Proposed by Iain Macleod and seconded by Steve Woodhall.
4.	Matters Arising – no matters arising from the previous meeting
5.	Deer Management Plan
5.1	Discussion was held around the available data to underpin the plan and the lack of population data. A population estimate based on local knowledge may be the only possibility at this stage.

	<p>The practicality of foot counts was discussed, recognising the difficulty in some areas to carry this out.</p> <p>A count may take place in 2019, but SNH will let the group know in the next 2 weeks what is likely to take place regarding a count. It was recognised by all the importance of creating a baseline of data and useful information must be utilised to measure improvement. Estimating numbers is an interim step towards a full count next year.</p>
5.2	<p>A draft of the management plan will be made available on the ADMG website. It is to be recognised this is a working plan and will evolve. It was agreed that as well as being on the website, public meetings/drop ins should be established with key individuals (MSP, MP, Councillors) informed. Dates for meetings: Thursday 8th March (Lewis, an afternoon drop in session in Stornoway and evening session in Lochs) and Friday 9th March (Harris).</p> <p><u>Venues to be confirmed by Friday 7th February 2018 to allow time for advertising.</u></p>
5.3	<p>Linzi circulated a draft of deer figures based on overall average land density with numbers split proportionately. This document is a starting point and it is to be recognised this is a crude method of calculation. Those present to email with feedback on the numbers shown.</p>
5.4	<p>Linkages with Peatlands Restoration projects and feedback to be provided to Linzi as well as woodlands expansion, if applicable. These can be added into the plan.</p>
5.5	<p>Funding available for training for the group with regards to Habitat Impact Assessments. Dates to be set and try to tie these in with the March visit.</p>
6.	Membership Fees
6.1	<p>17 out of 20 groups have paid their invoices for membership. A further invoice to be raised for all members and it was agreed this would be set at £300 to cover fees for the production of the DMP, (Estates with outstanding membership invoices would have these added to the DMP invoice), and other miscellaneous items i.e. advertising for meetings etc. Invoices will be issued as a matter of priority.</p>
7.	PR
7.1	<p>Discussion around PR and interest in the group and the plan. It was agreed that any interest at a political level should include invitations to all parties.</p>
7.2	<p>Gaelic press has been in touch and consideration should be given to this also.</p> <p>An emphasis to be on encouraging as many as possible to read the plan, directing them to the ADMG website.</p>
8.	AOCB
9.	DONM – Date and venue to be confirmed