

THE MORAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP
("the Partnership")



Company Number: SC196042

**MINUTE of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Partnership held at Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, on
12th November 2010 at 1.30pm**

Present

Maureen Macmillan	(Chair)
George Hogg	(Vice Chair)
Mike Comerford	(Director)
George Dobbie	(Director)
Clive Goodman	(Director)
Sinclair Young	(Director)
Gordon Mackie	(Director)

and other members of the Partnership as shown in the AGM Attendance List (Annex A)

Apologies

Apologies were intimated from other members (see Annex B).

Notice and Quorum

Notice of the meeting, copied to members, was taken as read. More than 10 members being present, or duly represented, the meeting was declared quorate and proceeded to business.

1. Chair's Report

Maureen Macmillan gave a brief overview of the Partnership and its objectives followed by a review of the activities and achievements over the last year, and outlined the Partnership's plans for the forthcoming year. The Chair reported that the Partnership work at the local firth level has included working with schools and communities; at a regional level with councils and other partners - an example being the recent Bottlenose Dolphin Economic Survey; at Scotland and UK level, Partnership work has included assisting the national marine planning initiative, specifically core work on ICZM, and at European level taking part in wider European research and projects, such as the North Sea Trail project.

Bottlenose Dolphin Economic Survey

The Partnership had commissioned this report through University of Aberdeen's Centre for Environmental Sustainability. The study focused on the role of the East Coast bottlenose dolphin population in generating income and employment within different regions of Scotland where the dolphins are known to occur. The estimated extra income generated by visitors for whom the dolphins were the main attraction was at least £4million per annum, providing approximately 202 full time jobs. An estimated 52,200 overnight visitors to the east coast in 2009 cited dolphin watching as a significant attraction and 17,100 of these visitors considered seeing dolphins to be the main reason for their trip.

The chair thanked the funders from around the coast for their help in making this research and subsequent report possible. A list of funders was displayed.

Future work

As a direct result of the economic report and networks created through this, the Partnership is now developing a follow on project, covering the East Coast of Scotland bottlenose dolphin population and wider marine tourism initiatives. Objectives include extending the scope and range of the Dolphin Space Programme, promoting responsible shore- based watching, forging links to coastal trails and tourism, integrating projects- contributing to ICZM and sharing knowledge with industrial developers. Anyone interested in finding out more were advised to contact Kathryn Logan directly.

The Chair provided an update on the progress of the Sustainable Marine Recreation and Tourism Project, the Gansey Project and the ongoing Partnership Programme incorporating an online Moray Firth Directory which will be available soon on the newly structured Partnership website.

Talisman Energy / Engaging with Young People and Businesses.

This project will include a range of activities involving young people, and promoting wider business engagement in helping to look after the spectacular Moray Firth coast. Members were invited to make suggestions for activities and work in their area of coastline which would be suitable for inclusion in the MFP "catalogue" of activities that organisations could choose from when planning Corporate Responsibility, team building and other local liaison projects.

Along with these projects and other work in hand, the MFP and the other coastal Partnerships will be assisting with the preparation of Scotland's first National Marine Plan and future marine and coastal planning. In particular, the MFP had been asked by Marine Scotland to gather information for a matrix of the interactions of different sectors and interests across the marine and coastal environment of the Firth. The matrix is based on the pilot developed by the Clyde SSMEI project. The Partnership will work with members, partners and a wide range of stakeholders, to develop this matrix and tailor it to reflect the unique situation in the Moray Firth. Forms were provided for members to submit suggestions.

Formal thanks were expressed to all Members of the Partnership, Staff, Directors and to Sponsors for their valued support. The list of core and project sponsors was displayed.

2. Accounts & Reports

Kathryn Logan, the Partnership Manager, gave a brief overview of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2010. In 2009/10 the Partnership raised £63,911 in direct core funding and £88,000 in projects, giving a total of £151, 919 compared to £114,000 in the previous year. This is due to increased project funds. The main core expenditure for the year - £65,607 is inclusive of 2 full time staff plus ongoing management costs such as office costs, accounting and company secretarial fees.

Core funding for long-term ongoing work is much more difficult to source, and the Partnership relies to a great extent on the continuing support of a few core funders who recognise the important role that coastal Partnerships can play at the local and Scotland level. This is especially true now that the Marine Scotland Act has been passed, there had been an expectation that the role and funding of the coastal Partnerships would have been formalised within that Act, which is not yet the case.

The majority of our core funding has come in the past from Scottish Natural Heritage, set at a constant rate of £32,000 . As from 2009/10, this same £32,000 was provided through Marine Scotland instead

and the same funding has recently been confirmed for 2010/11. At present, the Partnership does not yet know what the position will be for next year.

The balance sheet showed that core reserves for the year 2009/2010 totalled £94,479. This includes project funds of £54,292 which are restricted funds for specific projects. The core reserves (unrestricted funds) total £40,187, which is £1696 less than last year. This deficit was met through draw down on core reserves. These core reserves were built up slowly over the previous ten years, mainly from bank interest received. The Partnership received no bank interest last year, compared to over £1800 the previous year, which makes the MFP more reliant in future on finding new funds.

For 2010/11 the MFP will continue to seek new sources of funds from a wide range of stakeholders. The current cash reserves of £40,187 would cover approximately five months operational costs to provide a short term buffer until a longer term picture is clear.

Resolution 1 - To receive the statement of accounts of the Partnership for the period ended 31 March 2010 and the balance sheet as at that date, with the reports of the Board of Directors and Independent Financial examiners thereon.

Resolution 1 was passed unanimously.

Proposed by Richard Jenner Seconded by John Cox

3. Election of Directors

The Partnership can have a maximum of 7 directors in terms of its Articles of Association. Each year, one third of the directors must retire by rotation. George Hogg and Sinclair Young were due to retire by rotation, and while George Hogg had indicated that he wished to stand again, Sinclair Young had announced that he was formally retiring.

Maureen Macmillan thanked Sinclair Young for his contribution and unwavering support of the Partnership since its formation 14 years ago, presented him with a gift on behalf of the staff and Directors and wished Sinclair all the best for his retirement.

One formal nomination to join the Board had been received from George Hogg.

Resolution 2 – To elect up to two directors to the Board

George Hogg – Proposed by Brigitte Geddes Seconded by Shona Turnbull

George Hogg was elected unanimously.

Composition of Board following the election:-

Maureen Macmillan, Mike Comerford, George Dobbie, Clive Goodman, George Hogg, and Gordon Mackie.

Appointment of Chairman

In terms of the Articles of Association, the Chair is elected annually by the Board at its first meeting following the AGM which would be later that afternoon. The current Chair of the Partnership was Maureen Macmillan. Any current director is eligible to stand. Members would be advised who had been appointed Chair in the following MFP newsletter.

4. Appointment of independent financial examiners

Resolution 3 - "to authorise the Board to appoint independent financial examiners to the Partnership and to fix their remuneration" was approved unanimously.

Proposed by George Hogg Seconded by Sinclair Young

There being no further business the official part of the meeting was concluded and members were then invited to remain and participate in the Open Speaker Session.

Open Speaker Session

In the Open Speaker Session the AGM heard from four speakers covering a number of Firth related subjects.

Dr Nick Lake from Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group delivered a presentation into the background and progress of the Inshore Fisheries Group.

Dr David Worthington, Lecturer from the UHI Centre for History discussed 'The Moray Firth - a region for historical study'.

Richard Jenner of the Chanonry Sailing Club combined past with present with an ideally named presentation entitled 'Harbouring Heritage'.

Captain Ken Gray from the Cromarty Firth Port Authority spoke about their work with the Environment.

Maureen Macmillan on behalf of the Moray Firth Partnership thanked all the speakers for their time and effort in providing the AGM with a very interesting range of talks.

Any Other Business

Tom Inglis of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) complimented the Cromarty Firth Port Authority on their exemplary environmental performance across all its activities and projects.

There being no further items raised for discussion, the meeting closed.

Annex A – Attendees included:-

Sinclair Young	Moray Firth Partnership (Chair)
George Hogg	Moray Firth Partnership (Vice Chair)
Mike Comerford	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
George Dobbie	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
Maureen Macmillan	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
Gordon Mackie	Moray Firth Partnership (Director)
Kathryn Logan	Moray Firth Partnership (Manager)
Vanessa McLennan	Moray Firth Partnership (Administrator)
Capt Ken Gray	Cromarty Firth Port Authority
Capt Ken MacLean	Inverness Harbour Trust
Jenny Sleeman	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Scotland
Richard Jenner	Chanonry Sailing Club
Donald Muir	British Association for Shooting & Conservation
Nick Reiter	Crofters Commission
John Cox	Aberdeenshire Council & Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group (Chair)
Nick Lake	Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group
Shona Turnbull	Highland Council
Ben Leyshon	Scottish Natural Heritage
David Worthington	University of the Highlands & Islands Millennium Institute
Gregg Mudge	
Liz Fraser	Quiet Storm Marketing
Tom Inglis	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Michael MacMillan	University of the Highlands & Islands Millennium Institute
Anne Crawford	Invergordon Off the Wall
Noreen Kelman	Invergordon Off the Wall
Brigitte Geddes	

Annex B – Apologies included:

Roger Goodyear	Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
Mike Balmforth	Scottish Boating Alliance
Paul Bancks	The Crown Estate
Lord Burton	Ness District Fishery Board

