

## Minutes – CPG Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism, 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

Meeting opened by chair Stuart McMillan MSP

**SEDURANT:** Anna Oliver, David Scott, Martin Latimer, Edith McDowall, Ronnie Rusack, Gordon Daly, Andy Carnduff, Stuart Smith, George, Hulley, James Stuart, Richard Millar, Graham Russell, Sarah Brown, David Adams McGilp, Rhona Fairgrieve, Ian Clark, Louise Vickers, Brian McLeish, Aileen McLeod MSP, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Margaret Mitchell MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP

**APOLOGIES:** Michael McLeod, Jane Campbell Morrison, Evelyn McGow, Peter Jack, Stephen Leckie, Mark Barton, Robin Cole, Jim McLachlan, Robert Hunter, James Strolland, Mike McKenzie MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP, Annabelle Ewing MSP, Renata Edge, Mike Balmforth, John Vass, Mark Crothall.

Minutes from previous meeting were adopted by acclaim. Paul Wheelhouse MSP also put in his apologies as he became a Scottish Government Minister today. Parliamentary rules mean he is no longer allowed to serve on Cross Party Groups and he will be removed from the membership.

Boating Symposium: Stuart McMillan (SM) introduced the topic of the proposed boating symposium. James Stuart and Rhona Fairgrieve updated the CPG on progress of the working group and possible issues with the similar Scottish Tourism Forum event. SM asked members of the working group to stay behind where they would discuss in private the next steps.

Report on progress by David Adams McGilp (DM) on behalf of VisitScotland:

- Malin Waters – DM discussed issues affecting Malin Waters project. Outlined framework of conditions for Malin Waters. VisitScotland can now proceed with project plan. The good news is that the project is back on track.
- DM met with SM on 04/09 to discuss plans for Malin Waters and the boating symposium.
- Visit Scotland to meet on 11/09 to discuss sailing explicitly, DM to report back to CPG with outcome of this meeting.
- Louise Vickers, Scottish Enterprise, discussed plans for business development events ahead of next sailing season.

DM Opened floor to Q's on VisitScotland activities

- Clyde Cruising were happy to offer their support to VisitScotland.
- DM indicated VisitScotland are open to receiving any information on the boating market in order to improve their knowledge base and encouraged members to do this.
- Discussion ensued on plans for renewables and how this might affect recreational boating activities.
- SM was keen to find out how Malin Waters would tie into the 'Winning Years' tourism strategy?
  - o DM will keep CPG updated on how it will tie in as the strategy develops. Re-iterated that research is key to showing how marine tourism can be maximised.
- Long discussion on the value of the cruise ship market.

ACTION POINT – Following discussion on cruise boat activity, DM indicated he would take the lead in seeking further research into the value of cruise ship market to the Scottish economy.

ACTION POINT – Cruise Scotland to be invited to the next CPG.

Martin Latimer reported on SDI's learning journey to Scandinavia in June.

- Aim of the trip was sharing info on the industry and learning how to tap into the Scandinavian market.
- Delivered presentation by Anders Svedberg on 'Economic Impact of Water Tourism'.
- ML highlighted a need to understand what info people need not what it is perceived people need.
- Noted that Scandinavian countries realise the value of research and has convinced the Govts of the importance of the boating industry through the use of stats.

James Stuart, RYA Scotland, gave an overview of the Scottish Tourism Alliance strategy.

- Discussed the key points of the strategy and the key areas of potential growth.
- Updated CPG on next steps for tourism alliance and how they aim to enact the strategy.
- Sarah Brown highlighted the importance of protecting Scotland's coastline.

Richard Millar, Scottish Canals, and James Stuart, RYA Scotland, discussed possible activities between Scottish Canals and RYA Scotland.

- Currently have plans for 3 events over the next 3 years. Cruise to Ireland in 2013, Glasgow city flotilla in 2014 and Loch Ness Monster Muster in 2015.
- Each event to be larger than its predecessor with each acting as an interest generator for its successor.
- Information has now been released for the vents and bookings have opened.

David Scott gave a talk on the lessons from the Volvo Ocean Race, Galway, on behalf of the Sea Shepard charity.

- Noted it was a great success that saw Galway packed full for the duration of the event.
- Further noted that a number of the yachts present would normally visit Scotland but did not due to this event.
- If Scotland were to host the Volvo Ocean Race its visitors would come and Scottish boats would stay, this presents a huge opportunity.
- This led to a discussion on who would be best placed to take this forward. David Scott to provide further info to DM.
- James Stuart issued a note of caution and wanted to ensure whatever is backed has a legacy for the industry and the economy.

A.O.B.

- Jamie McGrigor MSP – Oban Bay marina have recently received planning consent for a visitor pontoon. Happy to pass on any info.
- Sarah Brown, Firth of Clyde Forum – Legislation has now come into force regarding non-native invasive species and guidance has been published.
- Ian Clark, SCRA – Reported on success of Scottish Coastal Rowing
- James Stuart, RYA – RYA undertaking facilities research to inform facilities strategy.
- David Scott – Involved in the recent stranding of whales in Anstruther. Disappointed by behaviour of nearby recreational boaters and believes better

information needs to be distributed for these circumstances. Item to be discussed at next CPG.

CPG Closed – Next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> Dec