

IFCI Steering Committee Meeting, 2nd August, 2005, ENFO

Present: Barbara Maguire, Tony Mannion, Alistair Pfeifer, Declan Little, Ruth McGrath and Caroline Lewis.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were ratified after a minor amendment re the representation of Woodland Owners to the Steering Committee under 'Matters arising'. Woodland Owners cannot be guaranteed a place on the SC *per se* as all members are subject to nomination and voting. However, they can be represented on the SC by agreement with the other members of the Economic Chamber and the SC unanimously agreed that this should be the case.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Website

It is now considered as a matter of urgency that the Company has a website constructed, especially with a view to informing stakeholders of our activities and to provide access to the Draft Standard for analyses and comment.

Action: It was agreed that Declan Little and Caroline Lewis would obtain three quotes for same and distribute them to the SC by e-mail for consideration.

(b) Work Plan

All matters in the Work Plan drafted in June have been addressed. Notification of the AGM on Aug 28th next will go out later this week in advance of the SC election process.

3. Finances

The accounts for 2004 were distributed to the SC having been audited by Coggins & Co. at the behest of the SC. They were signed off by two Directors as is required under Company Law, i.e. Mr. George McCarthy and Mr. Tony Mannion. The accounts show that there is currently €7,083 in credit.

Action: The Accounts as presented were agreed and signed off by the SC. **Proposed:** Declan Little **Seconded:** Barbara Maguire

4. Secretarial Support

The SC agreed in principle that funding should be provided for secretarial support.

Proposed: Tony Mannion **Seconded:** Barbara Maguire

5. Correspondence

IFCI discussed a letter received from the Woodland League dated July 8th in which it is stated that the organisation wishes to re-engage with IFCI under certain conditions. To this end the Woodland League wishes to meet with IFCI.

Action: It was agreed that Ruth McGrath would write to the Secretary of the Woodland League, Mr. Ciaran Hughes, stating that the SC has considered his letter and have agreed to meet a delegation from the Woodland League at an SC meeting in the near future, convenient to both parties.

A letter of complaint was received from an IFCI Environmental chamber member, Mr. Tony Lowes in which issues relating to the draft standard and the slow pace of progress were detailed.

Action: It was agreed that Declan Little and Ruth McGrath would draft a response as soon as possible. If Mr. Lowes is not happy with the response from the Chair, the Grievance Committee will meet to discuss the complaint.

It was agreed that in view of the upcoming AGM, an update on accreditation from FSC would be appropriate.

Action: Declan Little and Ruth McGrath will attempt to get a response from FSC on the matter via Liviu Amariei, FSC Europe.

6. Chamber Affiliation

The Legal sub group have revised all members re affiliation. Most of the Woodland Owners are now in the Economic Chamber. A number of members whose affiliations were undecided were written to with respect to their status and requested to provide their constitutions or M&AoA to determine principal objectives.

Action: It was agreed that Prosylnva should be also written to by Ruth McGrath and asked to provide M&AoA or constitution to determine which chamber is most suitable re membership.

Applications for membership, whether received on or before AGM will be considered subsequently by the SC taking into account chamber affiliation. Prospective members of IFCI that turn up to the AGM on Aug 28th will have observer status at the meeting.

7. Memorandum and Articles of Association

It was agreed that future nominations for SC elections should only require the signatures of the proposers and nominee and that this change be made to the M&AoA if necessary.

Any minor changes to the M&AoA that are recommended by the Legal sub group can be dealt with at an EGM in future.

8. Draft Standard

A number of issues were dealt with at a recent TWG meeting held in Mallow, Co. Cork. These included inserting agreed changes to Principles 6 and 10 that were discussed by environmental stakeholders during the past 8 months or so. It was noted that inclusion of SLIMF guidelines was not possible until the relevant documents were obtained from FSC. Economic appraisal of altering clearfell size – as provided by Coillte – was discussed at length. The economic implications of altering species mixes (Principle 10) are an issue for a number of Economic stakeholders.

Action: Alistair Pfeifer will address the economic implications of species mix alternatives and locate the relevant FSC SLIMF guideline documents.

A meeting of the TWG to discuss these and any other outstanding matters will occur once the above are addressed.

10. Officer positions

This matter will arise after the AGM at which elections to vacant positions on the SC will occur. All positions on the SC, except Treasurer (Barbara Maguire) will become vacant after the AGM.

AOB

No issues were brought up under AOB.