

## **Minutes of IFCI Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005, 11 am, 9 Upper Mount St, Dublin 2**

**Present:** Declan Little (Soc C), Ken Gill (Env C), Ruth McGrath (Env C), Tony Mannion (Ec C), Alistair Pfeifer (Ec C).

**Apologies:** Liam Lysaght, Donal Whelan, Barbara Maguire, and Caroline Lewis.

The Steering Committee welcomed Ken Gill as the new representative on the Environmental Chamber.

### **1. Minutes of last SC meeting and AGM**

The draft minutes of the last SC meeting and the AGM were read and minor amendments made.

### **2. Matters arising**

#### Steering Committee Officers

The matter of Steering Committee officers was discussed and it was agreed to defer the appointment of officers, as several committee members were not present. However, it was agreed that committee members could be co-opted in the meantime. Declan Little reported that he had written to some potential Social Chamber members. It was suggested that Forest Link (contact Geraldine O'Sullivan) and the Wicklow Upland Council (previously written to) should be contacted as a network of all involved in forestry in the Northwest with a view to applying for membership of the Social Chamber.

#### FSC accreditation

FSC had sought information on the date of incorporation of IFCI, so the indications are that FSC were working on the accreditation of IFCI, and it was noted that the accreditation of IFCI had been raised at the National Initiatives meeting, as reported by Gerry Egan.

The SC agreed that a progress report should be written for FSC noting that arrangements were being put in place for a meeting with the WL, with an independent chair, that the meeting would be on a Saturday as requested by the WL.

#### Meeting with Woodland League

The correspondence from the Woodland League was read out. It was noted that the WL had been provided with membership forms in advance of the AGM, and it had been agreed that prospective members could attend as observers, but the WL had neither applied for membership nor attended in the capacity of observers. It was also noted that the WL had been written to on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with respect to meeting with the Steering Committee. It was agreed to re-arrange a meeting with the Woodland League for 26<sup>th</sup> November. The WL are to be written with regard to meeting with the SC on 26<sup>th</sup> November, and requested to confirm attendance or otherwise.

The subject matter of the proposed meeting was discussed. With regard to allegations made by some members of the WL against the Steering Committee, individually and collectively, it was pointed that these had never been substantiated or withdrawn. The Steering Committee members present agreed that, as these allegations had never been withdrawn, that the individuals who had made the allegations could not be accepted as IFCI members. However, this does not preclude the WL being a member of IFCI.

Issues for discussion with the WL included the draft standard, the public consultation process, and any previous correspondence. All SC members are to re-read the letter of 8<sup>th</sup> July from the WL in advance of meeting with the WL.

#### Chamber Affiliations

Several members had been written to with respect to their chamber allocation. The NARGC and the Irish Deer Society had replied and provided a copy of their constitutions. No response had been received from Pro Sylva.

The Legal Sub-Committee, which consists of Tony Mannion (Ec C), Declan Little (Soc C) and Liam Lysaght (Env C), is to examine the constitutions of the NARGC and the Irish Deer Society, and make a recommendation on affiliations to the next SC meeting. If possible the Legal Sub-Committee will liaise by email.

The Western Forestry Co-operative is to be asked to forward a copy of its constitution, in order that the Legal Sub-Committee can make a recommendation on chamber affiliation to the SC.

The matter of the chamber affiliations of Co-operatives was discussed generally, and it was agreed that this is probably best dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

### **3. Correspondence**

Tony Lowes had been replied to with respect to his letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> July and had been provided with a copy of the grievance procedure.

An email had been received from CELT, which had been responded to providing CELT with a membership form.

Following the AGM, the NARGC had been written to with a copy of the draft standard.

### **4. Update on Draft Standard/next TWG meeting**

It was reported from the TWG that there are potentially five outstanding issues to be agreed in the draft standard, i.e. the use of chemicals, species mix, clearfell/coupe size, the acid sensitive protocol, and the SLMF guidelines.

It was agreed that the TWG be asked to bring forward the draft standard for review to the next SC meeting, to be circulated to the SC in advance of the SC meeting.

### **5. Stakeholder participation**

It was agreed that a time frame needs to be set to get the draft standard out to public consultation.

It was estimated that 1-2 TWG meetings and 1-2 SC meetings would be needed prior to public consultation to allow for the draft standard to be finalised, either with full agreement or with reservations on certain issues.

Funding will be needed for the public participation process. A budget for approximately four public meetings, with a facilitator, is to be drafted.

The rough format of the meetings was discussed. FSC and the certification process will need to be outlined. Participants at the meetings will be asked to have read the draft standard in advance of the meetings, which will be available from the website or in hard copy, upon request.

### **6. Website**

The Possible website content was discussed and the following suggested:

- A brief overview of IFCI (to include the Steering Committee, TWG, Legal WG, etc), and FSC.
- The draft standard
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Relevant links, e.g., UKWAS, FNN, ICF, Heritage Council, Coford and other relevant organisations.

### **7 AOB**

The reference in FNN to IFCI was discussed. It was agreed that FNN should be written to and pointed out that the apology sought from the Woodland League was specifically in relation to personal abuse and libel, and not to do with issues around forestry.