



SWHLI RAP

MINUTES

Time:	14.00	Chairman:	Richard Stanbury
Place:	Taunton NFU	Co-ordinator:	Annabelle Priest
Meeting Date:	10 th December 2008	Tel:	01392 878334

Attendees: Richard Stanbury (RS)(Chairman), Derek Armstrong (DA)(BPEX), Fran Baird (FB)(George Vet Group), Nick Bell (NB)(BVS), Mick Cranwell (MC)(VLA), Tim Dart (TD)(SWRDA), Mervyn Davies (MD) (ADAS), Julie Edwards (JE)(NFU), Phil Hadley (PH)(Eblex), Rob Hatt (RH)(SWRDA), Mike Howe (MH)((NADIS), Gavin Iles (GI)(Blade Farming), Ian Ohnstad (IO)(The Dairy Group), Annabelle Priest (AP) (SW CoRE), Dick Sibley (DS) (Private Vet/EIG), Richard Simpson (R Simpson)(Kingshay Farming Trust), Richard Soffe (R Soffe)(Duchy College), Helen Thoday (HT)(BPEX), Martyn Whitehead (MW)(NADIS).

Apologies: Peter Baber (Farmer/Meat SW/EIG), Duncan Forbes (Kingshay Farming Trust), Brian Lindsay (Dairy Co (Formerly Milk Development Council), Tim McKendrick (The Dairy Group), Mark Williams (British Egg Industry Council), Gillian Collins (SW CoRE)

1. Welcome and introductions

Richard Stanbury introduced himself as Chairman of SWHLI RAP. He applied, because as a farmer he wanted to ensure the SWHLI programme benefits those on farms. SWHLI blazing the trail for other regions. He requested that those present contact him with ideas, comments and concerns. Hopes not everything needs to go along official paths.

2. Requirements of the contract and the SW RAP

TD: SW CoRE was awarded a 12 month RDPE contract on 24th October, the aim is to establish a framework and priorities to shape the SWHLI programme. To make SW CoRE's contract eligible for RDPE funding under measure 111 (vocational training and information), there is a necessity to have 100 training days. These will be in part be covered in a workshop on 11th March, to gain the views of the cross sectoral industries. Following this will be sector specific workshops. The market research element is hoped to be finished by the March workshop so that it can feed into the event.

3. Terms of Reference

RS Defra's Animal Health Agency will have a seat on the Regional Advisory Panel as a special requirement of the RDPE funding. There is a need to reduce the numbers of representatives on the new RAP with regret, however it is hoped that all will continue to input ideas and remain actively interested in the programme. Representative sectors have been agreed on by RS, GC and TD and are in the Terms of Reference (paper 1).

No one wished to not be on the list provided as a representative on the RAP. BPEX will be represented officially by Helen Thoday, but if she is unavailable FB/DA will be an alternative for her. Peter Baber as representative for sheep sector and for Meat SW. PH put forward to represent Beef and Sheep. NFU and ADAS both want to be represented on the RAP.

TD: Request for feedback on the Terms of Reference, as it is a clear plan for SWHLI's intended path forward.

TD: Delivery might come down to a Management board, but has not yet been decided.

TD: SWHLI is not a heavily resourced programme and therefore the RAP's time is requested on a voluntary basis, members will not be remunerated unless asked to go beyond and above the call of duty. The Chairman only one to have remuneration.

4. Cross-sectoral Workshop

- 4.1 TD: A small planning group will be convened for 19th December 2008 to work up the programme.
Action- AP to email all attending to confirm those invited to the planning meeting.

5. Market Research

DS, NB, and JE gave a contextual explanation of the visit to Wales in the summer to explore the project there as a model for SWHLI. Market Research will investigate whether the farmers and vets in the South West will see the project as valuable. NB has funding to compile a questionnaire for focus groups from each sector to determine the questionnaires to be used in the Market Research. SWHLI will fund the Market Research element.

GC is compiling a list of the companies to approach with the tender for the Market Research. It is anticipated that the Market Research will be conducted in February so that the interim results are available for the March workshop.

- 5.1 Focus Groups and Private Sector Funding
NB requested help finding focus groups- Eblex, NFU, BPEX volunteered.

6. SWHLI Work Programme

- 6.1 SWHLI Programme Part 1 – disease monitoring
(to be discussed in conjunction with VLA response)

TD: Disease surveillance is integral to project and complementary to the existing and future work of the VLA. It is necessary for knowledge transfer that prevalence and priorities of disease be identified. This would then inform the continuation of the programme. Agreed Disease surveillance should be put to open tender. DS: The successful organisation must be inclusive, concern raised over the exclusivity of NADIS and its commercial element. TD: The disease surveillance planned to be a twelve month trial, which if found useful after the twelve months can be included in the umbrella SWHLI project. All: Uncertainty expressed as to the value of funding the project if it is potentially going to be discarded after one year. TD: Time frame for applications will likely be 4-6 weeks to submit bids, which would be appraised by RDA. Therefore could be completed by 1st April.

TD: There may be other options which give added value to the farmer, however the concept is aimed at being an academic data management system rather than a delivery interface, which can be delivered to farmers through vets and other intermediaries. DS: It was agreed that if vets had up to date data it would be used, but at the moment unless a practice is in NADIS the vets are reliant on magazines which are generally one or two months out of date and therefore unhelpful and not used.

DA: BPEX already undertaking regular and detailed disease surveillance. They have a pig health scheme and a salmonella scheme, which are not included in the proposed disease surveillance paper. For BPEX mapping units and the disease status of units would be useful from the disease surveillance project.

DS- The England Implementation Group (EIG) would like to see baseline indicators included in the project. They are investigating headline indicators by asking each sector for their top three. Final report should take these headline indicators into account. EIG have also spent three years looking at the reliability and scope of data already available. They have a £500m budget and they will want to know where to focus that money.

DS: Data collected must be used and efforts must be targeted. There is a need to reduce duplication by collating already extant data. R Simpson: Priorities should be achievable, showing action and benefits. It is important to have disease surveillance continually to see new emerging diseases and level of endemic diseases.

MC explained that VLA aimed to facilitate herd health planning by offering, via private veterinary surgeons, a service of testing and consultancy for a number of diseases, including BVD, along with other initiatives, including some farmer education. The service would provide ongoing assessment of disease status linked to advice geared towards controlling disease, with a view to maximising productivity.

DS: All the data collected by various organisations is being collated but is not helping either EIG nationally or the SW. There is a need to pull the data together from the various sources. Data should be available and willingly provided in the most part. Abattoirs have useful data that is not used. British Cattle Movement has data available to the public. Poultry sector very divided and this sector may be more difficult to carry out disease surveillance on than others. DA: Ensure data is collected from a representative population. Look to vets and their relationship with farmers to help this process. Need to give producers a reason to change behaviours on farms. Need to demonstrate the economic value of change. Farm health plans help this but not all vets do them. Pig Health Scheme available on a per farm basis-excellent scheme.

IO- feels uncomfortable with a new surveillance scheme when all round the table there is already abundant surveillance data available. Agreed that a three month data analysis project be set up to collect data, Malta have already done a very successfully. Any results should available to be delivered on March 11th. A project proposal for this will be constructed by PH, MH, DS, DA. Request for separate data collection proposal for pigs.

6.2 Vision Paper for SW of E Health Promotion Partnership

NB: BVS are looking at Knowledge Transfer, which they are happy to contribute plus clinical help. BVS strength is access to a range of experts to plug in gaps across the cross sectoral projects. NADIS provide all their Knowledge Transfer electronically which enables quick learning on sector specifics on diseases. They want to do this for the South West.

The difference between this and the surveillance project discussed in 6.1, is that this project concentrates on how you use the data collected and on implementing the Knowledge Transfer. It is the next step for data surveillance. This will give a full range of diseases and is a concept note at present. R SoffeThere are six more pages of the project proposal which are available as a presentation, but this was not shared in this forum out of concern for commercially valuable information being related.

DS: There is a big difference between perception and reality with farmers and vets. Hence the need for more information than just Market Research. Indicators chosen must be achievable.

6.3 Pig Sector

DA: Yorkshire project. Stage 1 planning. Stage 2 implementation. Emphasis on involving vets heavily as buy-in from the producers is key to the project being successful. Yorkshire is going ahead before funding is secured from the RDA because they recognise its value and importance. The SW should have healthier stock as the herds are more widely spread out.. Legislation is not possible, instead work with vets and producers to get their views on the priorities. DA: Stage 2 beyond the scope of the SWHLI RDPE funding, but stage 1 is within scope. TD looking into this further.

DA: The paper represents the project accurately but would need to be adapted for use by the SW. It would need a full time person for 12 months to be done as it is in the paper. Stage 1 proposal to be put in with outline of funding needed for it. Budget capabilities will then be assessed. This project might be an opportunity for SW to be *the* supplier of the indicator diseases free meat.

TD: Match funding is a minimum of 70% RDPE funding to 30% of match funding from industry. The match funding does not have to be cash but must be cash equivalent, including salaries. Need to talk with RDA's nationally, if something is applicable nationally the benefits should be extended to other regions/counties. The project proposal will aim to be a national project delivered regionally.

7 PR/Communication – Website

AP: Update on progress of SWHLI website- links extended, blog created, national projects updated.
TD: Appointed Chair press release to be on Monday 15th December.

8 Any other business/Actions

RH: Do we have a plan for managing expectations in the planning phase of the SWHLI programme?

R Soffe: Ensure all organisations that are links on SWHLI website, link to us from their websites.

TD: Projects will be evaluated by an appraisal panel in the RDA. This should be clearly explained in the terms of reference. The Terms of Reference would be on the SWHLI website.

R Soffe: Updated on bluetongue project - will have a website soon. The vaccination database is using NFU, there will be training events late in February and publications. Reminder to ensure all are receiving RDA updates. Contact AP/GC/TD if help needed.

VTS is a way of getting people together outside of these meetings/SWHLI.

HT: The Marketing Research database is to be used may be more problematic than anticipated. BPEX have a database but they are not allowed to know who their levy payers are. There is concern over how broad brushed the database used will be. It will be difficult for the organisation given the tender to find a suitable database. BPEX would welcome any additions to their database, if it is larger than their current one.

RH wanted to make clear that the [RDAs ambition was to explore and see delivery on the ground as soon as sensibly possible](#)

Action Table

Item No	Detail	Owner	Due Date
1	A plan to manage expectations in the planning phase of the SWHLI programme	RAP	End Jan 09
2	Ensure all links on SWHLI website, link to SWHLI from their websites	AP	End Jan 09
3	Terms of Reference on the SWHLI website	AP	Jan 09
4	Press Release re Appointed Chair	GC/TD	Jan 09
5	Look into whether Stage 2 of Yorkshire sentinel project within RDA funding scope	TD	End Jan 09
6	Stage 1 proposal for Pig Sector to be submitted with outline of funding required	DA	End Jan 09
7	Data Analysis project proposal	PH, MH, DS, DA	End of Jan 09
8	Focus group establishment	Eblex, NFU, Bpex, NB	Jan 09
9	SWHLI Steering Group to be confirmed	R.Stanbury	Jan 09
10	Email AP with important dates from individual organisations for 2009	All	Jan 09

Chairman.....

Date: