



## SWHLI RAP

### MINUTES

<b>Time:</b>	10am	<b>Chairman:</b>	Richard Stanbury
<b>Place:</b>	Taunton NFU Building	<b>Co-ordinator:</b>	Annabelle Priest
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	<b>Tel:</b>	01392 878 337

**Attending:** Richard Stanbury (Chairman) (RS), Christine Marshall (SWFD) (CM), Nick Bell (BVS)(NB), Tim Dart (SWRDA) (TD), Julie Edwards (NFU) (JE), Phil Hadley (Eblex) (PH), Annabelle Priest (SWHLI) (AP), Dick Sibley (Private Vet/EIG) (DS), Richard Soffe (Duchy College) (RSo), Helen Thoday (BPEX) (HT), Peter Baber (Farmer/Meat SW) (PB), Duncan Forbes (Kingshay Farming Trust) (DF), Tim McKendrick (The Dairy Group) (TM), Brian Preece (VLA) (BP), Ben Bennett (Animal Health) (BB).

**Apologies:** Charles Bourns (Poultry Farmer) (CB), Gillian Collins (Project Manager) (GC)

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

RS Thank you for the 11<sup>th</sup> March event.

GC has sent apologies. Introduction: CM as Operations Manager, South West Food and Drink.

CM GC is off sick. After a meeting with her, Gillian indicated her intentions and it is anticipated she will return on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March to work out four weeks notice, but this is to be confirmed by Gillian upon return to the office. Important to note that regardless of GC's decision SWFD as a team will continue to effectively support the Chair and RAP with SWHLI and will ensure that the sector workshops and interim report are completed to schedule.

RS One amendment to minutes for the SWHLI RAP meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February page 3. This should read "Capital grants should be put into demonstration farms or exempt finishing units, opening to all would only benefit 120 farms at £10k per farm". After this has been changed, approved.

#### 2. Market Research

NB Focus groups in January/February need assessment on a sector by sector basis, to identify the required sources of training. The Market Research questionnaires are at present being tested by ADAS so this is a priority action.

The conclusion from the focus groups was that there is no single source of trusted information and advice on Animal Health but that a variety of sources is actively valued. Farmers are requesting training. Farmers highly value being able to trust in the source of training, information and advice however and this needs to be borne in mind. The focus groups were recorded and the minutes are available.

RS CM and RS finalised producer questionnaires in GC's absence yesterday. Market Research is beginning next week, and the questionnaire surveys will be complete by early May.

CM 50 producers from each sector will be surveyed, 250 in total.

PH Question the use by ADAS of the Hill Taylor Partnership as the supplier of the database for the Market Research.

### 3. **Data Collation by BVS**

NB The results of this show that there are a huge array of databases available, with poultry and sheep looking the weakest represented sectors and dairy looking the strongest. A lack of a population denominator has been the biggest limitation in collating the data. Request RAP consult the list when it is provided and send back omission or comments, to be received by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April using track changes.

### 4. **Cross Sectoral Workshop**

RS Day was a success, task sheets have been collated but not edited or analysed. Receipt of letters since, these are available from the SWHLI office on request. The most vociferous was that from John Hore, NFU livestock board, putting their official view.

### 5. **Sector Workshops**

RS/  
CM There has been no decision from the RDA or the RAP on the split of SWHLI funds for each sector. There is an approximate amount allocated to each sector but the final allocation will be demand led. As sector representatives the RDA will look to the RAP to give a clear indication of the priorities for each sector. Following today's meeting the research document will be completed and it will be clearer what is required for each sector.

The sector workshops accordingly still need to be organised. It was agreed that objectives, what needs to be achieved, the important areas and a matrix to rank the main ideas would be useful. They may be arranged to coincide with pre-existing meetings so as to reduce the amount of time farmers are asked to leave the farm, but some felt it was too important to be watered down (decisions on each sector to be arranged by the sector leaders). AP would provide services for admin./support on the day if needed. RS to attend in a formal capacity along with GC/new project manager. Sector leads appointed as: HT- pigs, PB-sheep (with input from PH), PH- beef, DF and TM- dairy, CB- poultry. Each sector lead to ensure that sufficient delegates of the appropriate calibre attend. SWFD/SWHLI office to collate NB ideas for facilitation and ensure the structure for each workshop in all sectors are similar.

All agree on two workshops for each sector, with a wide geographic spread, to avoid SWHLI becoming to Exeter-centric. There was initially approximately £2.5k budgeted for each sector lead to cover expenses for the workshop but as the pig sector do not require funding and as there are to be two meetings for the remaining sectors CM to confirm budget early week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> March. Farmers not eligible to claim expenses. 12-15 delegates per workshop ideal and manageable quantity. Workshops to be completed by the end of May and reports back by beginning of June. NB to attend each workshop as vet representative and to act as SWHLI facilitator, each workshop should have at least one sector specific vet in attendance as well. The vet and SWHLI presence will provide realistic input on the practical implications of priorities as they are discussed. BP has offered VLA representatives at no cost as neutral sector specific vet representatives.

JE NFU offices available for meetings if useful.

HT Pigs and Poultry should be completing theirs by end of April. HT: Just Pigs – don't know what Poultry are up to.

PB Sheep will be unable to hold any this month due to lambing. Suggest putting the workshops in the press detailing the objectives and stipulating that they are consultative only. Also invite those who attended the March 11<sup>th</sup> event.

CM The workshops can inform on the long and short term priorities for each sector which will form vital documents for that sector whether or not SWHLI can support all of them.

RS0 VTS have at least three meetings a week, on average one a day at the moment, which could be used for sector specific workshops. The delegates have already shown interest in

- attending courses and are likely to be sector specific.
- DS Suggest ranking/scoring the original matrix of sector priorities which was devised by the RAP last March. The results of the March 11<sup>th</sup> event at the sector specific workshops could be worked into the structure of the workshops to provide continuity and a basis for the discussion. Must ensure they are inclusive events.
- RS The priorities of the workshops should in theory match the priorities outlined by the March 11<sup>th</sup> event and the Market Research. If this is not the case it is the role of the RAP to develop solutions.
- DF The workshops should extend what the focus groups started.
- HT
- BP Workshops can be about eradication, even though SWHLI as a whole is not.
- Priorities to be funded by SWHLI should be achievable with the restraints of time and funding that SWHLI has available to it. With the longer term projects that SWHLI could not fund or complete in the given time, pilots would be a sensible and realistic undertaking. If the pilots were successful they could then be taken on by national. BP will provide top 5 clinical diseases for each sector for workshops.
- RS Following March 11<sup>th</sup> a document had been received that involved a bTB proposal. It covers aspects of bTB that are not already in place nationally, such as one to one support for the farmer following a breakdown. It's emphasis is on working with the disease rather than attempting to eradicate it ( This must be a national policy). Nationally bTB is being tackled in attempts to eradicate the disease, this is a regional attempt to manage the disease. This will come out of the funding allocation for bovine sectors.
- BB Animal Health VO's go out to farmers on a one to one basis for support following a breakdown, but AH do not do the financial support or the longer term support which this appears to offer. It would be beneficial for the bTB officer to liaise with the AH VO's. AH will attend meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
- JE This is the next stage on from the AH VO's officer's visit and is provided after the initial shock of the breakdown has hit the farmer.
- RSo Two questions on the paper- is it to be under the name of SWHLI, and does this conflict with the letter from John Hore sent as a result of March 11<sup>th</sup>?
- RS Supported by RAP but not delivered by them.
- JE These are ideas supported by the Livestock board, which John Hore chairs. It is driven by the NFU and it's members but the NFU is not the name on the project, the project is bigger than the NFU, being open to non NFU members. The ideas behind it come from feedback from farmers.
- PB After the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- TM Supportive of need for project but concerned whether this falls under the remit of the RAP?
- SWHLI is meant to improve the health of livestock in the South West. How does this project fit with our objectives?
- DS We would be creating a bTB 'Czar', much like the South East have done- it helps control bTB, uplift the health of our livestock by considering biosecurity and preventative and management issues.

RS Further discussions on the feasibility of the bTB paper will be held at a meeting at Exeter NFU at 3pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. All are welcome. When there is agreement the project will go out under the SWHLI banner.

**6. Pig Sector Proposal**

HT The people who attend our sector specific workshops will form the steering group for the pig sector specific project, and from them will be chosen a chair. Of these three will be pig sector specialist vets.

Yorkshire have agreed to the use of their project for the South West. The project proposal will be in by the end of April. The summer is ideal for eradication for the pig sector, what is the likelihood of receiving funding for the pig project by this summer?

TD There is a twelve week appraisal period, likely to take the twelve weeks as the project is over £1million.

HT As Cornwall are very keen to begin, the project could be split and the application from the pig sector for this year would then be under £1million.

**7. RDPE update/PR**

TD RDPE co-ordinator is Pat Murray at the SW RDA. SWARM is due to be released on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**8. Future Meeting Dates**

6<sup>th</sup> June at Taunton NFU at 10am

**9. AOB**

RSo The VTS funding comes to an end in December this year. Farmers are keen for the courses to continue. If SWHLI would like to support the continuation of VTS it would need to submit a proposal to the RDA soon, bearing in mind there is a three month appraisal period. Any gap in ability to hold courses risks loss of staff and services which then further hold up continuation when the funding is available. Funding provides 30-70% of the costs, the farmers pay for the remainder. 39% of the courses run could be on Animal Health and Welfare.

DS Need to be aware the results of March 11<sup>th</sup> showed farmers value training highly. It also showed that they feel there is adequate quantity and quality of training available to them. This is only the case because of VTS, so this result would no longer apply if VTS were no longer performing.

TD Of the £12.17m SWHLI has, £1.17m is capital and £11m is for use under measure 111-training. Training would be taken from each sector's allocation proportionately according to what that sector can achieve from the training.

CM Responsibility of SWFD, Chair and NB to link 11<sup>th</sup> with MR and sector specific workshops.

**Chairman.....**

**Date: .....**

Action	Owner	Date to be Completed	Details
SW Livestock Project final report to be forwarded to GC	JE	ASAP	
Re write Demonstration Farms in outline summary to clarify that they will be required to hold events a certain amount of times per year.	GC/CM/RS	April 3rd	

Budget allocations for whole of outline summary to be considered	RAP		
EOI for Knowledge HUB to be released	GC/CM/RS/TD		
Amend minutes from 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	AP	Completed	
send out minutes from focus groups to RAP	AP	Completed	
ask GC where the Hill Taylor Partnership data base is from and then inform RAP	AP	completed	
send RAP database list compiled from data collation research	NB	ASAP	
RAP send back omission or comments on database list compiled from data collation research using track changes	RAP	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	
discuss structure of Sector specific meetings with GC and RS and coordinate with NB to create a facilitation document for the events	CM	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	
confirm budget early week commencing 30 <sup>th</sup> March for sector specific workshops	CM	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	
provide matrix of sector priorities drawn up at RAP meeting March 2008	DS	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	
give AP, CM, TD, GC a list of the VTS meetings already arranged so they can determine appropriate ones to use for sector specific meetings	R Soffe	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	I don't think this should proceed they would not count towards training hours for SWHLI project
provide top 5 clinical diseases for each sector for workshops	BP	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	
provide to sector leads and SWHLI office the format for the focus groups to help with the structure of the sector specific workshops	NB	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	
rework bTB paper and send RS/CM	JE	By Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April meeting	
bTB paper to be emailed to RAP for approval after the meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup>	JE		

provide SWHLI training proposal to carry on a VTS type arrangement at next RAP meeting	R Soffe	6 <sup>th</sup> June	
Précis March 11 <sup>th</sup> task sheets with project manager of SWHLI. AP to upload shortened version sheets on website when approved. RS and project manager to analyse and put to RAP All sectors to alert their members that they may be contacted to answer the questionnaire and why.	RS/AP/GC/ CM  RAP		
Each sector group to inform project manager of possible dates, venues and geographical region of 2x sector specific workshops	Sector representatives		