



Policy Forum Meeting 15th September 2020

Present: Liz Bentley RMets, Sarah Garry BSSS, Joseph Lewis IES, Rob Massey RAS, Flo Bullough GOL, Rachel Stonehouse IOM3, Sean Edmunds IPEM.

Apologies; Arthur Nicholas IST, Bev McKenzie, IMarest

1 Organisational agenda's and cross membership collaboration.

- a) **Blue Climate Change** was a mooted topic of interest and there was those at the meeting today who would welcome the opportunity to support this agenda.

Action; **It was agreed that Jane would approach Bev MacKenzie at IMarest to establish if she would be willing to lead this agenda on behalf of those interested so that the messaging may be amplified.**

- 2) **Organisational Sustainability in Policy and Practice.** Jane informed the meeting that Dan Ward from IES had kindly offered to present the activity that the IES had delivered with respect to becoming a sustainable organisation.

Action; **Jane will invite Dan to present at the next Policy Forum meeting to be held in Nov.**

RAS are undertaking a carbon audit using an external consultant and the outcomes being published in the annual report. Organisation and our workforce and then extending this out to our members and the grants that we make that would have people traveling to other parts of the world. GHG protocol is being followed. Started with the Carbon Trust who have a toolkit, however, because of the time and resource to deliver internal an external provider was sourced.

IPEM has just launched a sustainability group – getting members involved.

IOM3 is committed to science based targets. With 50 employees spread over three buildings. There is a sustainability SIG however, the activity on sustainability for IOM3 is being led by the facilitates team.

BSSS have targets for next year looking at carbon emissions. Organising a day for the executive team to get out and plant trees to offset the carbon footprint. **Sarah is interested in others who may have examples of taking tangible action.**

IES – Dan Ward at IES, has calculated the carbon footprint for IES as an internal consultant and will be able share his experiences at our next meeting.

- c) **Netzero** – linked to the item above. What is your commitment to becoming netzero, internally and externally, suppliers etc? Technical advancements are going to be required - **RMets** are working toward their own 2030 target on the things that they can control and 2050 for those they can't and will of course be somewhat dependent

on government policy. Not convinced scientifically in offsetting and therefore the targets will avoid the inclusion of offsetting. Finalising strategic plan for November.

GeoSoc – completely reviewed their investment policy, to ensure ethical investment. Flo is happy to share this to those who may be interested.

Action; Jane agreed to consult with Charlie, Science Council Marketing Executive to ensure there is a space on the Science Council website for everyone to access information that may be shared across members and act as a resource centre. Once this is confirmed Jane will sent out the password to access this resource.

- d) **COP26** – the meeting agreed that collaboration would be welcomed leading up to COP26 and this should be established as a subgroup separate to the Policy Forum as this is an area of interest to marketing and communication, the CEO Forum etc We need to get the whole picture across the membership and not just a subset.

Action; Jane will consult with colleagues internally. Liz is attending the CEO forum next week and will raise this opportunity at this meeting for discussion as to the way forward with the COP26 collective agenda

Sharing information around all activity plans for COP26 can also be uploaded in the membership area of the website.

Science Council has a role to play in publicising, who is doing what, the messages, and get the messages out jointly. Jane to speak with Charlie and follow up with everyone independently for information with regard to what you are all doing in this regard.

RMETS is happy to share their activity calendar leading up to COP26 with a theme of education and training.

GeoSoc – have programme and events activity in the run up to COP26 – keen to have a presence at COP26 and exhibit. They are interested in working with others. Planning to have events at the University of Strathclyde

Edinburgh and Glasgow events planned around COP26 by RMets.

The vast majority of members will likely wish to engage in this agenda, however, struggle to do this on their own. For many it is not practical or feasible to attend. Collaboration is the way forward.

- e) **Investing in Science Workforce**

IOM3 -Skills shortages and impact on stem roles as a function of COVID. The workforce will naturally be changing as a function of COVID and we could have a role to play in highlighting this impact across various member groups. Collecting quantitative data is a challenge at this stage. Although this will not be unique to STEM.

IES - Investment is needed in relation to investing more in the environmental impact assessment agenda. We would like to understand how the workforce looks and the impact over the next couple of years. There is a need to help that workforce,

financially and non financially. The government is proposing changes to how planning is delivered and EIA is changing, it is not entirely clear, however changes to the workforce is likely. We need to take a vision to that over the next couple of years.

GOL- University teachers are struggling to teach applied subjects for example. Contact learning can be delivered in UK, however, offering the same course both domestically and internationally then the experience of learning is different.

- d) **Spending Review** – Jane is crafting copy for a Science Council submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review, a draft can be seen at the end of the week. Liz asked if the RAEng draft submission had been circulated. Jane will approach RAEng and establish if this can be shared. Jane will also follow up with Laura Marshall at RSB who had agreed to share the RSB response and notes from the UKRI meeting held last week.

2) **Ongoing Meetings**

The meeting agreed that the Policy Forum meets four times a year to decide on Policy area for collaboration. Sub Groups would meet in between meeting for those interested.

3) **AOB**

- **IES** is putting out a policy report in the next week relating to Land and Soil.
Action: Joseph agreed to send this to Jane who would forward this to the Forum for information.
- **GOL** working on hydrogen note on areas as it relates to geological technologies and skills.
- Jane to progress getting **GDPR agreement** across the members so that emails may be shared across forum members.
- **Terms of Reference** to be written by Jane, including the opportunity for everyone to share policy statements that the group can help to publicise.

Jane Banks, External Relationships Manager
16 September 2020