

MINUTES OF THE GRAMPIAN TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP (GTTG)



Date: Thursday 7th May 2009

Location: Grampian Conservancy Office, Ordiquhill, Portsoy Road, Huntly

Present: Matt Young - MY (Forestry Commission Scotland) (Chair)
Malcolm Christie - MC (Aberdeenshire Council)
Keith Stratton - KS (Moray Council)
Bob Main - BM (Forestry Commission Engineering)
Claire Glaister - CG (Rural Development Initiatives)

Apologies: John Risby - JR (Forestry Commission Scotland)
Douglas Hyslop - DHY (Scottish Woodlands)
Jamie Farquhar - JF (ConFor)
Ralph Singleton - RS (Aberdeenshire Council)
Emily Maclean - EM (Rural Development Initiatives)

1. Notes of last meeting on 7th January 2009

These were accepted by those present with no comments made. Matters arising taken in conjunction with subsequent agenda items

2. Introduction of Timber Transport Project Officer (TTPO)

MY confirmed that RDI had been the successful tenderer and would be fulfilling the TTPO role for both the GTTG and S&TTTG until 25 February 2011. He also explained that this support was being provided through approximately 270 days input.

CG gave an outline of the role of the TTPO, explaining that it would most likely be EM who would be the main contact for both groups and that whilst the overall GTTG:S&TTTG split would be 40:60, this could vary according to group requirements and activities.

CG then explained the specific GTTG tasks identified and those covering both RTTGs (see attached *Tasks for GTTG RTTPO*) and also provided an indication of the timescales for activities (see attached Proposed Activity *GANTT Chart & Action Plan*). She highlighted a number of key areas to be investigated and explained how these could build on work already completed by either the S&TTTG (Strategic Assessment & Action Plan (see attached S&TTTG *Strategic Assessment & Action Plan*)) or the HTTG (promotion of CTi (TPCS) and potential TPCS usage matrix (see attached *Minute of HTTG TPCS meeting*)) and ensuring an input into any review of future public sector requirements for a Strategic Timber Transport Fund (see attached *Second Draft STTF and Public Roads*)).

With regard to the development of a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for the GTTG, CG requested that all GTTG members review the document produced for the S&TTTG and confirm whether a similar format was acceptable for the GTTG. She also confirmed that the development of a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for the GTTG was scheduled to take place during Jan - September 2010.

Action Point: All

With regard to ensuring an input into discussions surrounding the future role of the STTF for public sector requirements, GTTG members were asked to review the draft letter circulated by HTTG and either submit a similar letter on behalf of the GTTG or make individual comments.

KS suggested that submitting individual comments might give a stronger message as it would involve a higher number of contributors.

Action Point: All

3. STTS bids

One bid from the GTTG area, the Aberdeenshire Haul Route, had been submitted into Round 10 of the STTS. CG read out an update from Russ Collins, Policy Advisor for Forestry Commission Scotland, following the STTS Advisory Panel meeting on 30 May 2009 which stated that whilst a final ranking had yet to be applied to each bid submitted into the 10th STTS round, initial indications were that the Aberdeenshire Haul Route application would be unlikely to be awarded funding.

CG was asked to circulate a copy of Russ's update to all GTTG members, following approval from FCS to do so.

Action Point: CG/EM

4. Draft ARM leaflet feedback and ARM updates

ARM Information Leaflet: Members were happy with the overall layout and content of the draft ARM Information Leaflet but made the following suggestions:

KS - that we include a short statement to clarify that the consultation route procedure should only apply if tonnages were over 1000 tonnes and that consultation should always be encouraged, regardless of volumes or agreed route status

Action Point: CG/EM

BM - that we clearly define our target audience. It was agreed that this leaflet was primarily a general information leaflet for use by hauliers, forest managers and council representatives and would therefore be circulated via GTTG members, as appropriate

Action Point: All

MY - as Tilhill do not currently send any representative to the GTTG, that their logo be removed from the final leaflet

Action Point: CG/EM

ARM Update: CG confirmed that a data collection exercise, similar to that completed during 2006, was to be repeated during Jan - September 2010 and that as well as updating the ARM process, the information would also be used in the development of the GTTG Strategic Assessment & Action Plan.

KS stressed the usefulness of annual data as this is increasingly important for justifying roading infrastructure expenditure requests.

KS also highlighted the need to promote the benefits to owners of supplying timber production data and that these benefits should be publicised.

CG suggested that case studies be made of the successful Aberdeenshire and Moray Council schemes and that these be posted onto the GTTG website, with reference to these also included on the ARM Information Leaflet. Members agreed that these would be a useful addition to the leaflet. MC and KS to provide before and after photos (where available) for RDI to use in the development of case studies

Action Point: MC, KS & RDI

CG confirmed that RDI had received the email from Moray Council highlighting incorrect classification of two roads on ARM website¹ and that they would contact FC CGIS to request this be updated prior to annual update

Action Point: CG/EM

Picking up an action from the 7th January 2009 meeting, CG confirmed that, subject to data protection requirements, the exit point spreadsheet could be circulated to Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils for reference. KS & MC asked if, rather than having this spreadsheet, a map showing exit points and direction of travel could be produced instead. RDI to discuss with FC CGIS to discuss options

Action Point: CG/EM

5. AOCB

CG highlighted a new website, Freight Best Practice², on which a 12 page case study involving the use of TPCS (CTi) was now available (see attached **FBP1098 Case Study**). Members were asked to review this and circulate to those who may be interested in this technology.

Action Point: All

MC discussed that Aberdeenshire Council would like to progress with the community consultation for the development of the C road (Whiteley to Muir of Fowlis) near Alford (currently used by some timber hauliers, even though it is not an Agreed Route) and asked if EM would be able to assist. CG confirmed that this would be possible and suggested that MC make contact once actual tasks required had been highlighted.

Action Point: MC

6. Date of next meeting

No specific date/venue set, although a meeting in September was suggested as this tied in with the proposed quarterly meeting schedule. A request that all GTTG members confirm possible dates during September is to be circulated with the minutes of this meeting

¹ <http://maps.forestry.gov.uk/imf/imf.jsp?site=TTAR>

² <http://www.freightbestpractice.org.uk/>