

MEETING OF THE AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM

7th March 2023

via Video Conference



Members attendance

Prof Michael Williams
David McCandless
Les Weller (Vice Chairman)
Julian Gregory
Tony Tomlinson (Chairman)
Mark Southerton
Sarah Clark
Dr Stephen Axford
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick
Tom Hooper
Samantha Davis
Pia Bateman
Joseph Moulton
Tim Dapling
Cllr. Mark Roberts (part)
Robert Clark – Chief Officer

Also in attendance

Simon Pengelly Senior Technical Officer
Tim Smith – Senior Policy Officer
Jane Harrad-Roberts, Marketing Projects (part)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Andy Guy
Prof Peter Jones
Cllr John Lamb
Dr Will Wright

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Chairman's Announcements

none

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

5. Progress Reports

Funding – the AIFCA received a written statement from Defra

“Defra is prioritising the SR payments and have submitted the section 31 grant forms to DLUHC and HMT. We expect a 3 week turn-around and will then need to work quickly to get the payments made. We plan to issue 2 grants of £50K to each IFCA, and a £25K grant to each IFCA which had a HPMA site included in the 2022 consultation. Eastern and Southern will also receive a CDEL grant for 2 IFCA vessels in the profile. Sussex will receive a grant to cover the AIFCA mNCEA secondment. We are working hard to meet an internal deadline of 21st March to make the transfers and are confident that we will achieve this. When the payments are made we will contact the Chief Officers to provide the reference number of the payments so that they can be located. We will be asking Local Authorities to acknowledge the grant by signing an acknowledgement slip. The Grant Determination Letter will go to IFCA's and a letter to IFCA Chairs will set out deliverables for the funding.”

The Chief Officer was asked to convey thanks from the AIFCA to the Defra team.

The AIFCA communications project – verbal update from the project lead

Jane Harrad-Roberts, Marketing Projects provided an update on the project.

Training

The members heard that the NLTO post had been made redundant. The members thanked Sam Dell and Dominic Bailey as the lead tutors for the recent Competent Officer course. Also thanked were Devon and Severn IFCA, for hosting and facilitating the visit to the fish quay in Brixham. Seafish were thanked for their contribution to the training delivery as well as Andrew Oliver for his ongoing support and engagement. The MMO joint working section was also welcomed.

Membership campaign

Members heard that the General Members campaign has resulted in 30 applicants, there will follow a sifting exercise prior to interviews commencing in the coming weeks.

ITEM(S) FOR DECISION

6. Budget Control Statement

After discussion the Members, by way of ordinary vote Members unanimously approved the Budget control statement and an External Project Procurement Virement meaning that the scope of the Theory of Change Project will be reprofiled and commence in the new financial year. The Chief Officer undertook to scope the project and circulate to Directors.

7. The Draft AIFCA Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24

After discussion and explanation, the Members unanimously approved, by way of ordinary vote the draft annual delivery plan and requested that any comments be sent to the Chief Officer by 24th of March, whereupon the Chairman is authorised to make any necessary amendments.

8. The AIFCA Law Group

The Chief Officer and Prof Williams gave detailed background on the role and function of the group. Cllr Roberts felt the invitation to one of the members without first reference to Southern IFCA was not appropriate. The members NOTED the creation of the Law Group and AGREED the draft terms of reference (subject to one grammatical change) and AGREED that Prof. Williams be appointed as the representative of the AIFCA on the Group. The approval was by ordinary vote with Prof Williams abstaining from the vote given his role in the group.

ITEM(S) FOR INFORMATION

9. The Cockle FMP

The Chief Officer provided information on the Cockle FMP. Members discussed the opportunity and approach, and the report was noted

10. Chief Officers Report

The Chief officers report was noted and thanked for the support in relation to the HPMA process.

11. Senior Policy Officers Report

The report was noted

12. Senior Technical Officers Report

The report was noted

13. Date of Next Meetings

Cllr Roberts suggested that meetings be held on Mondays or Fridays to avoid a clash with council business. Cllr Fitzpatrick observed that his council conducts business on those days. It was noted that the meetings are ordinarily held on Tuesdays and had been at the same time of the month since the IFCA's were formed. Cllr Roberts observed that there had been a recent meeting on a Thursday. It was however a special budget meeting. Cllr Roberts requested that there be vote on meeting dates. It was agreed that the dates of IFCA meetings be collected, and members could vote at the next meeting for any changes.

The meeting concluded at 12:52