



Green & Blue Futures – Steering Group Meeting

Date: 8th – 9th September 2013

Venue: Hotel Minella, Clonmel, South Tipperary

Notes from the Meeting

Attendees were;

Canal & River Trust (CRT)	UK	Chris Barnett
Canal & River Trust (CRT)	UK	Chris Bailey
Province of West Flanders	BE	Jasper Dugardeyn
Province of West Flanders	BE	Pieter Bekkaert
Province of Hainaut	BE	Stephane Ramu
Province of Hainaut	BE	Julia Bailly
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Ann Ryan
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Roisin O’Grady
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Marie Phelan
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Alan Walsh
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Sally O’Leary
South Tipperary County Council	IR	Sinead Carr
Reuissir en Sambre	FR	Thierry Herbet
Reuissir en Sambre	FR	Emma Simmons
The Waterways Trust Scotland	UK	Karen Moore
BWS	UK	Richard Millar
Canal Connections	UK	Trevor Roberts
Canal Connections	UK	Alan Bolton
Hainaut	BE	Christophe Dandrimont

No apologies were received.

Introductions

Update on activities undertaken by partners in the last six months

Canal & River Trust (CRT)

Chris Bailey presented a slideshow leading to training / accreditation, e.g. City & Guild Supervisors etc. can decide if qualified. Outputs – see figures. There were photos shown.

A question was raised as to the age range of volunteers. There is a wide range of ages, CRT uses groundwork to recruit them and there is a good core of people.

There then followed some discussions about City & Guild and how it works.

West Flanders (4 elements)

Issue of less use of volunteers and more use of large plant/machines to carry out tasks such as crop cutting. 'Social' Green element delays due to October 2012 election and new government of Roeselare.

Seeds from here – won't happen due to issues with public procurement. But may start working with volunteers e.g. on the amphibian road crossings (is handy because children and adults can do this sort of volunteer work).

Education and Accreditation will be a good thing as it extends the 'use' of the project.

A question was raised about Roeselare's budget/spend (re procurement)

Scottish Canals

A formal review has taken place after the first phase (June-September) as there have been lots of initial challenges. Volunteers have come from a mixture of places but most from Job Centres. In Edinburgh there has been a poor take up in reality and 'finishers'. This was due to the following:

- 1) There was a problem with the complexity of the task
- 2) Access to work area (planned permission etc.)
- 3) Volunteers could not cope with the academic work as well

In Falkirk there had been a much better group. 'Positive destinations' – see stats

Hainaut

Action 5 – See Presentation. Stephane Ramu to lead on Trans National group organising link between WP2 & WP4.

South Tipperary County Council (STCC)

STCC are moving in June to Tipperary.

River Suir Action Plan the basis for their work

- 1) Mapping Access to River Suir
- 2) Rowing, canoeing and kayaking – audit and promote
- 3) River Suir towpath
- 4) River Suir Youth Connect Project
- 5) River Towns Project (Tidy Town Competition)
- 6) Ash Project "Sounding Lines"

Taster of courses, taking place rather than full courses.

Took extra funding from Department of Sports and Tourism.

Sambre

Work will need to follow on from studies – activities to follow Spirulana crop production'.

Scottish Canals

Linked to a much bigger project. 40K people involved in 3rd Sector/Scot Canals Falkirk/Helix development. 15K turned up in September to see opening of 'Central Park'.

G&BF take new green space and deliver small social enterprises

Community engagement will be a big feature

Strategic Enterprise Zone – See RM slides for facts.

Day 2 - 9th September 2013

Sambre provided an update on what SIS do (it is a drop in centre for employees which helps them get people back into employment), examples of the type of projects they are investing in are Spirulene/G&BF is just one project of many. They seem to address 'clients' individually. There were discussions around the ways they access funding and the discussions continued;

French state only fund 50%. They did bid for funds every year and this leads to problems (but the same in Scotland).

Legal changes in Social Economy.

How many people will be employed in Spirulene Project? Will be 50 in the first phase.

How will the Spirulene market be developed?

First phase of exchanges have happened in West Flanders and Gerard Maton of SIS.

CBai asked if any partners would be interested in exchange visits? West Flanders has a research group looking at Green Algae research. Would SIS host a day explaining the research into Spirulene production? Yes they would.

There then followed discussions about:

- i) Resource Centre
- ii) Virtual Resource Centre
- iii) Framework

See outputs/set working groups to deliver outputs (1) to (6)

South Tipperary could lead on output (2) Kathleen suggested

Bring experts along to Scotland for Seminar workshop to help build up WP and Action.

NSR project Waterways for Growth can aid development particularly with regard to the WFG recommendations and the Framework

Resource Centre

Discussions about how to share. Key point – who is the target group? See SEEDS site for good example/template. SEEDS site is a ‘virtual resource centre’. Websites need to be sustainable and we want to make sure the work is kept live after the project ends.

Q: Who is it aimed at?

Discussions about Web and types of users, Twitter etc. and the benefits or better to use Web?

G&BF Website can host resource centres.

Future Meetings

The next meeting was set for Scotland (UK) in May 2014.

May 2014	Scotland
October 2014	Flanders
April/May 2015	Sambre

Finance, Progress Reporting and Administration update – Chris Barnett

CLAIM 1

Good 1st Claim – well received by JTS and FLC generally happy with quality of claim detail

Re-imburement underway and s/b made next week or so.

3 partners claimed, 1 missed but close. STCC FLC issues.

CLAIM 2

All but Scotland in.

Issues / Questions about the OLF?! Should turn out to be a good system – but usual teething troubles

After this Claim CB will provide a forecast / up to date Financial review so we can plan ahead (and be thinking about possible problems, budget changes needed etc)

CLAIM 3

Claim period; 1st Jan to 30th June 2013

To LP by 31st Aug 2013

To JTS by 31st Oct 2013

Reminded partners of the things to concentrate on

- Staff Rates
- Procurement
- Timesheets / Weekends & hols etc / Signatures (More detail on Timesheets)
- Exchange Rates (use of stated figs on receipts etc)
- Costs claimed Fit with Application
- T&A / set rates for Organisations
- Be careful with Budget Lines
- Remember NET costs - not inclusive of VAT

ACTIVITY REPORTING

Use the tabs on the Progress Reports and fill in your report for the period (LONG Report for April, SHORT Report for Oct)

Attach to OLF or send/e-mail additional Activity stuff (very important later on)

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE / ISSUES

Little bit behind – apologies but we'll get up to speed soon. However, we do have;

- Communications Plan
- Logo (leading to Branding)
- Newsletter templates

Need to deliver

- Website and promotion – Website needs to be external facing, so find a simple extranet to host project documentation etc (Discuss)
- Banners / Brochure (Discuss) what do partners feel will be useful?

Contact lists (and build up of this) Need to build up a circulation list from our target audiences (Discuss)

Next steps & agreed actions from the meeting