

Irish Deer Management Forum

Inaugural Meeting

Minutes

Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Tuesday, March 31st

Chair: Judith Annett.

Attendance:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| Chris Fox | Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) | Farming |
| Pat Hennessy | Irish Farmers Association (IFA) | Farming |
| Tom Short | Irish Farmers Association (IFA) | Farming |
| Sean Doris | National Association of Regional Game Councils | Hunting |
| Damian Hannigan | Wild Deer Association of Ireland | Hunting |
| John Fenton | Association of Game Shoot Operators (AGSO) | Hunting |
| Paddy Purser | Pro Silva Ireland/SIF/AIFC | Forestry |
| Barry Coad | Coillte | Forestry |
| Sean Eustace | Wicklow Forest Owners Group | Ministerial Nomination |
| Liam Nolan | Deer Alliance | Training |
| Jim Walsh | Individual | Research/Technical |
| Declan Little | Woodlands of Ireland | Conservation |
| Declan O'Neill | Wicklow Deer Management Partnership | Deer Management Group |
| Seamus Dunne | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine | Government Department |
| James O'Keeffe | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine | Government Department |
| Wesley Atkinson | Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht | Government Department |
| Tim Burkitt | Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht | Government Department |

Apologies:

Gerry Leckey, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
John O'Neill, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction by Chair

1.2 Introductions by Forum Members Introductions – As this was the inaugural meeting, each member introduced himself/herself and their relevant organisation.

2.0 Presentation of 'Deer Management in Ireland – A Framework for Action' (IDMF1/2015) to the Forum. Document IDMF1 *Deer Management in Ireland, A Framework for Action* was presented to the forum members by the Chair, and briefly discussed. The chair outlined that while she was aware that some forum members have issues with the document, there is no remit or clearance to rewrite the document. The document could be reviewed in due course, during the lifespan of the forum.

3.0 Forum Management Statement Document IDMF2/2015 'Management Statement' was presented by the Chair and discussed by the forum. A number of comments were made in relation to the document by Forum members. Some minor modifications are required. It was felt that the document contains a number of points which need to be resolved before forum members could provide unqualified support for the document. In the interim, statements of qualified support for the document were given. The forum agreed a number of edits and modifications to the core text.

The chair reiterated that the document is designed to assist consensus, as a main aspiration of the forum. Where consensus cannot be reached, reasons for disagreement and parties disagreeing will be recorded in minutes.

It was agreed that the chair would sign off on IDMF2/2015 with specified amendments, based on the qualified support of the forum members.

4.0 Action Plan (IDMF3/2015) Action Plan (paper no IDMF 3/2015) was presented to Forum members as a basis for organising the agreed forward work of the forum set out in the Framework launched by the two Ministers. Working Groups had been proposed in the paper as a way of approaching the work efficiently with each working group having an identified programme of work.

5.0 IDMF Working Groups WG1-WG5

Following discussion members felt that it was important to work initially on priorities for action with the whole forum involved in all discussions.

Solving immediate deer conflict issues was agreed to be an early priority for the forum, however members wished to take the opportunity to reflect on and present their key priorities in terms of both issues and opportunities to the forum to allow consensus to develop on a prioritised action plan.

The Chair reflected that stakeholders expected the Forum to show results as soon as possible. Members agreed that action should be taken quickly and decided to advance the next meeting to early May.

Action point - Stakeholders to prioritise key issues, opportunities and actions in writing by 30th April 2015 to the Secretariat. Secretariat to collate as a basis for consensus at the next meeting.

6.0 Members Updates

Damian Hannigan (WDAI) briefly outlined deer distribution survey work being carried out by the Wild deer Association of Ireland, in conjunction with research interests.

7.0 AOB/Next Meeting and general meeting schedule.

Date for the next meeting was set for May 5th, at 12.30pm in Dublin, location to be confirmed.