

## StAG subcommittee meeting 18 June 2013, 12:30-2:00pm

**Present:** Stuart Morrison, Hera Smith, Wendy Roe (on behalf of Tanira), Kerry Gosling, Lisa Power, Sarah Omundsen, Anna Grayling, Warren Webber, Simon Park. Apologies from Liam Dagg and Tanira Kingi.

An agenda was put by Simon as follows:

1. Chairing of StAG
2. Recap on main StAG meeting
3. Draft staff allocation paper – what next
4. Funding policy

### 1. Chairing StAG

Stuart was thanked for being the inaugural StAG chairman, and it was acknowledged this has not been an easy task. Options from here are:

- Selecting a new chair from amongst StAG members
- Finding an independent chair

For 16 July, we should continue to use Kerry and Steph to facilitate. Tanira as deputy Chairman can chair that meeting as a permanent Chairman is unlikely to be sorted before then.

**Action:** Simon to draft brief Chairman job requirements / attributes and circulate to subcommittee

Some potential candidates were suggested, noting the challenges of skills, availability and cost. The process will be via direct contact, ideally with the common set of job requirements.

### 2. Recap on main meeting

The value of Kerry and Steph was acknowledged in managing conflict and getting written output.

**Allocation:** The negative response to the draft allocation paper from some farmers was primarily due to the tough quantitative limits proposed, rather than being against grandparenting or sector approaches. This is especially so for drystock as no-one is expecting viable farming at 7.7kgN/ha/yr (selling or buying N is needed at that level). StAG still faces the task of finding the “least bad” option, based on equity and other key principles discussed at StAG.

**Parking issues during StAG:** there is scope for dealing with several issues via later rule and incentive design but this has not been made clear enough.

**WWTP issue:** this is important but diverts attention from the core allocation advice. However, RDC is obliged to follow a public process. Simon to seek update from Liam on the WWTP options and consent process. Meanwhile, see Greg Manzano's report within the June RTALSG agenda at: <http://www.boprc.govt.nz/media/285491/rotorua-te-arawa-lakes-strategy-group-agenda-friday-7-june-2013-part-a.pdf> (scroll to page 51 of the pdf document)

**RPS WL6B and 70% in 10 years:** different interpretations given at StAG

**Forestry N loss and gorse:** ROTAN used 4kgN/ha/yr as it incorporated gorse within “bush”, and bush was combined with plantation forestry. Overseer values are typically about 3 i.e. clarity is needed in allocation calculations. Similarly, how will gorse be treated given it is benchmarked as “bush”. The potential 30 tN gorse mitigation still has technical question marks and policy/incentives is still being considered within the pest management framework. Farmers want the 30tN to reduce their mitigation burden.

### **3. What next**

Don's hybrid allocation and incentive presentation got people thinking. The farmer perspective, as explained by Ollie, is around "equal effort" i.e. all farmers do what they can, then incentives buy N.

It was agreed that:

**Action:** Warren and Ollie to liaise with Sarah and develop a potential hybrid allocation model, with principles and quantitative values that can be compared with the existing grand parenting and sector approaches.

**Action:** Simon to collate Collective feedback on the allocation paper and send to Sarah.

2 July subcommittee meeting: review hybrid and Collective feedback

Agreed that some thought is needed on a possible rule to give effect to a specific allocation approach – this should clarify what is expected.

Simon noted the current parallel effort on DairyNZ's "Sustainable Milk Plans" Environmental Management System (EMS), plus that Tanira is liaising with Beef & Lamb NZ on the potential for its EMS Land Environment Programme (LEP). While these are "implementation" initiatives, they may clarify what/how incentives could apply e.g. mitigations defined within an EMS.

### **4. Funding policy**

Noted that we had insufficient time to discuss incentives at StAG, although Anna tabled her summary.

**Action:** Anna to provide Jenny some covering email text to ask StAG members for feedback on incentives.

Meeting ended 2:10pm

**Next StAG subcommittee meeting is 2 July 10:30am – 12:30pm at BOPRC**