



**NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE
ENGLAND
24TH NOVEMBER 2004
TGWU, 51-53 NUNNERY LANE, YORK**

Present:

Tim Gill	Chair - TGWU
Mick Hoban	PCS
Jon Bates	PCS
John Broatch	H&S - TGWU
Paul Cody	Prospect
John Winterbourne	PCS
Edward Shephard	TUS Secretary

Minute Secretary: Julie Saunders PCS

Apologies:

Martin Johnston	PCS
Crispin Thorn	Prospect

1. Introduction

Introductions were made as this was the inaugural meeting of the NOC.

2. Composition of NOC

It is proposed that each NOC will be comprised of 4 TGWU, 4 PCS, 2 Prospect and 2 GMB members. However, it is believed that there are no GMB members on the FC side (E Shephard to check). Each local TUS Branch will elect members onto the NOC ensuring that all parts of the Forestry Commission are represented. Edward Shephard is in the process of drafting the Constitution Election Process document which will be shown to the main council meeting next week. This was thought to be a positive step as it will make the Council more open and accessible to all members. This may also provide an opportunity to review the effectiveness of the existing Branch Structures.

It was agreed until the time of Branch Elections that the members present today would represent the NOC England. It is hoped that with the representatives coming from Branch that this may generate more interest from members. If expertise is need in particular area for a meeting it is proposed to co-op members on to Committee. This could also be a way of interesting people in Union activities.

3. Relationship with Regional Staff Councils

The NOC will be the main co-ordinating body with the current Regional Staff Councils forming standing Sub Committees. The NOC will meet before the Councils and will determine the appropriate mechanism for dealing with any issues (eg refer to FE or FC Regional Staff Council as required). Trawls will still be passed straight to Councils for approval.

The responsibility lies with both the Official Side and the TUS to decide how this new structure will work. It is anticipated it will take at least 18 months for the new structure to be fully operational. The composition of the existing Staff Councils is as follows :-

RSC FE Current Members

Tim Gill
Tim Medlock
Martin Johnston
Oliver Lucas
Steve Smith
Simon James
Jeremy Gissop
Julie Saunders
Tom Grimwood

RSC FC Current Members

Mick Hoban
Dick Gosling
Josie Wragg
Stuart Granger
Maria Henderson
John Winterbourne
Crispin Thorn
Ron Mellville

4. Direction of NOC

It is important that the NOC acts as a way forward for the TUS structure within the FC. Being a joint FC/FE as well as a joint union body represents the first major step in that direction. It is also proposed to have a nominated Country Representative for each Union on the Committee. It is important to get the correct mix of members to ensure a wide knowledge base so all issues are covered.

It was agreed that Tim Gill would send a letter to Paul Hill-Tout and Rod Leslie to arrange a meeting to discuss with them the direction they see the NOC going. It is hoped that this meeting will be arranged for early January 05.

ACTION – T Gill to send letter and copy to members

5. AOB

Facility Time- Edward Shepherd is drafting a Facility Time Agreement which will make this area clearer to all concerned. If managers have any queries over Facility Time then they should contact Iain Miller and Union Members should contact Edward or Robert Beany. It is important that time is allocated in peoples FJP and this area is discussed with Line Managers to ensure that the correct time is allocated for each representative.

Haskins – No primary legislation for 2 years. FC Policy is now linked in with Defra. Monitored by Mick Hoban and Edward Shephard who attend meetings.

6. Date of Next Meeting

It is proposed to hold the next meeting end April beginning of May after the Branch elections