



**MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION TRADE UNIONS'
SCOTLAND AREA MEETING
HELD ON 26th February 2009 at Inver**

Present:

Malcolm Crosby	Chair, PCS
Gordon Donaldson	PCS
Hazel MacLean	PCS
Gordon Kennedy	PCS
Robert Beaney	FCTU Chair, Unite
Alastair Gillies	GMB

Minute Secretary: Peter Fullarton PCS

Apologies:

1. Introduction

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

3. Matters Arising From Last Meeting

a. Climate Change Bill

b. Heading

c. Heading

4. Climate Change Bill

Malcolm Crosby and Gordon Donaldson gave updates on the latest developments regarding the proposed Climate Change Bill and its serious implications for Forestry Commission Scotland, particularly the proposal to offer up a substantial area of forest (up to 25% of the total Scottish area) for a long-term lease. It was felt that the recent change in Environment Minister (from Michael Russell to Roseanna Cunningham) may allow for a change of stance.

Malcolm reported significant campaigning by the unions in South West Scotland including lobbying politicians from various parties. The timber trade had been very positive towards existing arrangements with FCS.

Robert Beaney said that in West Argyll, a meeting could not accommodate all those wanting to attend so a second had to be arranged. The local SNP branch discussion on the Climate Change Bill had unanimously rejected it and there

were reports of second thoughts on it elsewhere in the SNP Parliamentary group.

Overall, much activity had resulted in a lot of politicians of all parties being briefed on the downsides of leasing and the significantly lower impact of the main alternative of repositioning- the sale of low value/low importance forests.

Malcolm said that the Climate Change Committee was due to meet soon and that the Forestry Unions had submitted a paper on leasing. It was hoped that Allan MacKenzie might be invited to attend.

5. Business Units Staff Council

Alistair Gillies gave an update from the recent MES Scotland Review meeting where it had some radical changes had been proposed (close Chapelhall, close Inver, transfer work to Longman) but felt by FCS to be too swathing and any rationalisation should be done without compulsory redundancies. Further meetings to be held soon.

Alistair also reported concern at the possible outcomes of the working group set up on travelling time and overtime in Business Units.

6. Forest Districts and Administration Reviews

Discussion took place on Forest District amalgamations and the effects so far.

Regarding the admin Review, Gordon Donaldson said there were still points to be negotiated but that it would be better to try it out, let it bed in then negotiate after it has been tested.

7. SRDP Review

Hazel MacLean had attended the Staff Council the previous week (deputising for Liz Stewart but will continue to attend since no National Office representative on the Council- endorsed by the meeting).

Minutes of the meeting at:

<http://alpacorn.forestry.gov.uk:7777/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ECONNECT/FC%20SCOTLAND/FCSMEETINGS/STAFFCOUNCILMINUTES/STAFF%20COUNCIL%20MINUTES%20OF%20MEETING%20ON%2019%20FEBRUARY%202009%20.DOC>

8. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting proposed for May 7th, in the Glenbranter area.