

MINUTES

Meeting of Scottish Land Fund Committee
6th March 2024
SG Office, Longman Road, Inverness and by MS Teams

Members:

Cara Gillespie	Chair of Scottish Land Fund Committee
Tom Black	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member
Malcolm Combe	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member
Alan Hobbett	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member
Bobby Macaulay	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member
Pauline Megson	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member
Janet Miles	Vice-Chair of Scottish Land Fund Committee

Staff:

Sandra Holmes	Community Assets Sector Lead, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Tony Crosbie	Operations Manager, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Rebekah Dundas	Senior Grant Making Manager
Jamie McCaw	Funding Manager, the National Lottery Community Fund
Katie Barnwell	Funding Officer, the National Lottery Community Fund
Fiona Grant	Business Support Officer (Governance), The National Lottery Fund Community Fund (minutes)

Observing:

Dave Thomson	Head of Community Land Team, Scottish Government
	Funding Officers, National Lottery Community Fund
	Highlands and Islands Enterprise SLF Case Officers

Guests:

Nick Gardner	Head of Climate Action, the National Lottery Community Fund
Angela Williams	Langholm Initiative

1. OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and staff to this Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting.

2. APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no apologies for absence.
- 2.2 The following declarations of interest were received:
 - i. Rebekah Dundas declared an indirect interest in the application from Knocknagael Limited. She did not participate in the discussion or the decision making for this application.

3. MINUTES FROM SLF MEETING HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2023

- 3.1 The minutes of the Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting held 15th November 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

4. PIPELINE REPORT

- 4.1 Tony provided an overview of the pipeline report. The Committee noted that the pipeline is healthy and the geographic split is a bit more balanced. The Committee also noted that there are a higher number of smaller projects in the pipeline and there are also likely to be several larger land acquisition projects in 2024/25.
- 4.2 The Chair thanked Tony for his helpful update.

5. OVERVIEW PAPER

- 5.1 Jamie informed Members about the budget for this meeting, financial planning for the remainder of the year, decision making by Management Group and grants in management at stage one and two.
- 5.2 The Committee noted that there has been ongoing work by the team with high frequency sellers on conditions of assets sales highlighting which conditions can and can't be accepted by the Scottish Land Fund.
- 5.2 The press embargo for this meeting is 10th April 2024.
- 5.3 The Chair thanked Jamie for the helpful information and context.

6. PRIORITISATION

- 6.1 Rebekah opened discussions with the Committee regarding the next financial year's budget and principles for prioritising funding in a competitive environment.
- 6.2 The Committee discussed several aspects of prioritisation, and made decisions regarding the practicalities of managing decision making meetings and budget for the next financial year.
- 6.3 The Committee decided that:
- i. all stage 2 decision making meetings would be held by Committee for consistency in a competitive environment.
 - ii. all Stage 1 applications would continue to be presented for a decision at Management Group meetings
 - iii. that Scottish Land Fund Committee meetings should continue to be on a quarterly basis
 - iv. that a move to an indicative budget model should be utilised in the next financial year, to allow for greater budget control and balance in a competitive environment

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Five applications were awarded funding, two applications were deferred to Chair's Action and one application was rejected.

Name of Applicant	Project	Award
Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre (Manse)	Affordable social housing	£262,188 Capital - £253,848 Revenue - £8,340
Rousay Egilsay and Wyre (Hotel)	The Taversoe Hotel	£267,948 Capital - £255,948 Revenue - £12,000

Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO	Dunvegan Community Hub	£361,096 Capital - £341,096 Revenue - £20,000
Toryglen Community Hall	Toryglen Community Hall	£171,272 Capital - £134,022 Revenue - £37,250
Cockenzie House and Gardens	The Auld Kirk	£227,400 Capital - £220,000 Revenue - £7,400
Total Awarded		Total - £1,289,904 Capital - £1,204,914 Revenue - £84,990

8. FOR DISCUSSION: LEARNING AROUND ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING AND THE OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ACHIEVED

- 8.1 Nick Gardner, TNLCF, Head of Climate Action and Angela Williams, Langholm Initiative joined the meeting and delivered presentations on their work.
- 8.2 Committee Members engaged with Nick and Angela in a broad ranging discussion about learning around environmental funding and the outcomes and impact achieved and the experience of the Langholm Initiative and their acquisition of Tarras Valley.
- 8.3 The Chair thanked Nick and Angela for joining the meeting.

9. AOCB

- 9.1 The Committee noted that the next SLF Committee meetings will be held on:

22nd May 2024

21st August 2024

13th November 2024

5th March 2025

Further details on locations and speakers for other meetings to be provided.

10. FINISH

- 10.1 The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and for attending the meeting.
- 10.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 14.30.