

Minutes of 8th European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) UK Node meeting – 13th November 2015 – telephone conference call

Present:

Ian Johnston – University of St Andrews
Nick Pade - Marine Biological Association
Colin Moffat – Marine Scotland
Mark James - MASTS
Martyn Cox - Marine Scotland

Colin Brownlee – Marine Biological Association
Alistair Main – University of St Andrews
Beatrix Schlarb-Ridley – British Antarctic Survey

Apologies:

Axel Miller – SAMS
Gavin Grewar - Marine Scotland
Melody Clark – British Antarctic Survey

Minutes and review actions of last meeting

1. Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting subject to a small change at paragraph 2a (clarification of JDA to JRA). The Actions were all complete or were underway and would be covered as part of the agenda. Mark confirmed that:
 - a. MASTS (Action 7.4) was able to pass necessary funds to EMBRC Paris HQ once all monies collected within the UK.
 - b. Next T&S claim date will be 14th December.
 - c. He will front the 'Technology Transfer Officer' function for MASTS and will inform the necessary EMBRC Work Package leader.

ACTION 8.1: MC to upload minutes of 7th meeting to web site.

ACTION 8.2: all – necessary T&S claims to submit by 14th December.

Feedback from 14th October Implementation Board meeting (Paris) and looking ahead to next 16th November (Bilbao)

2. The Paris meeting had focused, *inter alia*, on the key area of the financial contribution model. A full Business Plan, with strategy and funding approach has yet to be developed and there had been much debate about the makeup of the contribution with views ranging from a 'flat rate', 'based on GDP' to 'GDP per capita'. The UK has asserted that a budget proportional to the level of EMBRC activities was needed and that anything in excess of about €100k did not represent good value for money. It was agreed that the UK should push for a GVFM approach with the intention to review the EMBRC budget once it was established and a Business plan developed further.
3. It was agreed that there was an urgency to agree the contribution model (to cover the 2016/17 budget), the on-going ERIC budget and the ERIC statute so that the future ASSEMBLE+ / INFRAIA application could be made. The Bilbao meeting and the subsequent meeting in Eilat (in January) were key to the future progress in agreeing a business plan with a vision, strategic context, priorities, targets and a general analysis of the opportunities and risks for EMBRC.

4. The Nagoya protocol was also discussed in Paris. Defra was developing a practical implementation for the UK due in late 2015 (the EU 2014 legislation needed to be transposed). It was noted that EMBRC had a budget in preparatory phase 2 and EMBRIC to cover work on Nagoya and this was probably sufficient for the time being whilst member states and the European Parliament worked out details of implementation.
5. It was agreed that the priorities for EMBRC were to define what EMBRC would deliver; market the community to generate business and income for the various partners; sorting out the e-infrastructure; agreeing a data management plan. It was understood that Belgium was drafting an e-infrastructure strategy.
6. Ian reported that the Bilbao meeting agenda was to focus on an update on governance, the search for a new chair and then parallel sessions attended by (i) government representatives looking at governance and (ii) science representatives and the ERIC team looking at priorities.

ACTION 8.3: Ian and Colin attend next EIB meeting

ASSEMBLE+ / INFRAIA Application

7. The ASSEMBLE + / INFRAIA call was published in October. The EMBRC Board saw this as the way to secure funding for the ERIC. The EMBRC partners were each submitting brief details (1 page text with 1 page budget) by 19th November. A meeting in Lisbon would bring the various threads together with a further meeting planned for Naples to write the application. It was anticipated that the Bilbao meeting might discuss the process as it would be preferable for a single evaluation phase.
8. There was an initial discussion being held with the MARS network of marine stations as to how to integrate MARS into the EMBRC work and the ASSEMBLE+ application. It was necessary to identify the key facilities that should be used in the application so that there was a single application from the marine community. There was a concern that two applications might result in neither being successful.

ACTION 8.4: Nick to draft initial response to MARS to assist IJ at Bilbao.

9. A spread sheet was being completed to identify the UK facilities that would contribute to the application. The deadline had passed due to late circulation so it was quite urgent to complete and return.

ACTION 8.5: all UK partners to complete spread sheet ASAP.

EMBRC Statutes and UK Node MoU

10. Gavin had circulated a short update prior to the meeting. Alistair updated the meeting. A new version of the ERIC statute had been circulated (quite late) for the Bilbao meeting, at which it would be discussed. This version will be checked to see what new provisions, if any, need to be incorporated into the UK Node Agreement which was almost ready to finalise.

ACTION 8.6 Gavin to monitor latest ERIC statute for any changes to UK Node Agreement

AOB

11. Nick said that there was an agreement with the University of Plymouth to join the Plymouth EMBRC Cluster and contribute electron microscopy expertise.

12. Next meeting

ACTION 8.7: MC arrange Doodle Poll for a meeting pre EMBRC EIB meeting in late January, just prior to Eilat EIB meeting.

Martyn Cox
Marine Scotland
November 2015

EMBRC Web page available on the Marine Scotland web site
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science/EMBRC> includes a flyer that could be used to promote EMBRC.