

## **Joint meeting of Woodland & Forest Industries & Wood Energy Task Groups**

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**4pm – 6pm, Forestry Commission Worcester**

**In Attendance:** Andy Grundy, Sara Roberts, Graham Taylor, Wayne Barnes, Paul Webster, Hannah Cockerill, Stewart Scull, Jamie Inglis

**Apologies:** Mike Bradbury, John Davis, Amanda Pearce, Mike Kelly, Helen Woodman

### **1. Progress on funding**

- SW gave a brief update on 4 elements of RDPE funding for forestry: Heartwoods; REG; SIG; LandskillsWM
- GT asked about potential for funding apprenticeships and JI noted that in general they were not eligible under RDPE
- JI gave an overview of SIG and RDPE background: improving economic value of forests (122); marketing of forestry products (123)
- 122 – plan required – could be EWGS or funded via 122
- 123 – micro-SMEs (could include owners), generally not chainsaws, plus equipment training
- needs strategic fit (strategies); public benefit/good; local
- processing/storage of agricultural or forestry products = annex 1 (chips ok, pellets not)
- SIG on farm diversification (50%) – could also cover forestry work = post-harvesting generation of agricultural diversification -
- Collaboration needs eg MOU and should be along supply chain as well as eg between suppliers
- 

### **2. Heartwoods Development Role**

- SS outlined role and initial results after 6 weeks
- Wider development role to widen scope of Heartwoods and produce a strategy for the next 3 years
- Some themes emerging – sectoral interests eg woodfuel operators see woodfuel, greenwood workers see greenwood etc and issue of small businesses not knowing where to go for info, advice etc
- SR asked about link with SWA and beyond region and looking at other initiatives from around UK (Angela Pollard)
- SC noted planned meetings with regional initiatives and invited comments on future role and perceptions of Heartwoods
- [JI joined the meeting]

### **3. Training**

- SW gave a brief introduction to LandskillsWM and noted the recently issued (10/7) call for bids ([www.landskillswm.co.uk](http://www.landskillswm.co.uk))

- JI noted that RDPE couldn't fund basic (ie H&S) skills training but would fund 'employee development' training (this might not include funding certification or assessment)

#### **4. RFF refresh**

- SR outlined approach to RFF refresh

#### **5. Training**

- GT and Judy Walker have been working with Small Woods Association on Woodfuel Apprenticeships. – premise to increase the number of new people entering forestry. Training aspects may need to be submitted separately to this bid, rather than being part of the Woodfuel Supply Chain project, or as a separate fund within this under a different measure.

#### **6. Any other Business**

- FC Woodfuel pages (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7S3DCE>) co-ordinated by Wayne Barnes and Gaynor Abel – any comments on structure, content etc to Wayne ([wayne.barnes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.barnes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)) or Gaynor ([gaynor.abel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gaynor.abel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)) by end July if possible
- Paul Webster ([paul.webster@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.webster@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)) who recently joined the team as Woodland Officer covering Warwickshire, Birmingham & Black Country and Forest of Mercia has a background in woodfuel and will be bringing technical skills to support the development of woodfuel in the WM