

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting
13th February 2019, The Goods Shed, Wadebridge

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick (CC), Tony Faragher (TF), Kevin Smith (KS).

WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor (LM), (minutes).

Apologies: Rick Johnson (RJ), Amanda Pennington (AP).

Meeting started 09:30, closed 10.45.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2019.

Matters arising:

- TF is corresponding further with Balfour Beatty re an administration fee for the Treworder Fund.
- TF to follow up on details of Wildwood Fuel through AP.
- Following AP's request, TF had discussed the monthly Board meeting dates with all Board members and concluded that Wednesday mornings are the only workable option at the moment.

1. **Finance:** KS produced an update on WREN's finances with an amended forecast to reflect the extra work undertaken by TF. The insurances are due to renewed soon, level of cover to be discussed.
2. **Communications:** An invitation to apply to The St Breock Fund was widely advertised, and included in the current North Cornwall Advertiser which was published 2 weeks before the deadline for applications.
3. **Update on Projects:** WREN's application to the Next Generation Fund (NGF) had been one of 8 projects shortlisted out of 31 applications to the fund. CC, TF and KS had been interviewed in Bristol as part of the next stage of the process, and the outcome is expected by Friday 15th February. If successful WREN will receive 5 or 6 days of support to work up the project, with a further full support stage if successful after that.

CC reported that some of the partners in an ERDF project she is involved with through BRE are starting work on a second project for the next round of funding. This could include WREN's peer to peer project as a discrete work stream, and would fit whether or not the NGF application is successful. It was agreed that the possibility should be explored further. The deadline is 21st March.

4. **WREN Fund:** 8 applications had been received, totalling £13,500 (fund value £9,000). KS volunteered to sit on the awards panel, alongside Nicky Gilmour (environmentalist and smallholder), Andy Lyle (Concern Wadebridge) and Trevor Renals (Environment Agency). It was noted that some groups had applied for a WREN administered fund for the first time - CC suggested that future fund application forms should ask how the applicant found out about the fund.
5. **Other business:** Volunteering: TF to reply to the recent enquiry re practical experience. The Real Food Garden had contacted WREN with details of their vegetable growing courses and requesting publicity. It was agreed that as a matter of policy WREN would consider publicising any event or organisation that comes within the scope of the WREN community fund. KS to respond offering to include details in the next newsletter.

Western Power Distribution Stakeholder workshop: KS had attended and reported on this day which was aimed at consulting on the next price control period i.e. 2023 – 2028. CC to seek further information on the identification of vulnerable consumers. KS had had useful discussions with members of the Chacewater Energy Group, including reports on their electric vehicle day and renewable energy fair. Their next event is 27th July – to be included in WREN's newsletter.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 13th March 2019, 9 30 am at The Goods Shed.

(then 10th April, 8th May, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November, 11th December 2019)