**Minutes - Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 – Agriculture and Environment Working Group (DEWG). 25th February 2022, 14:00 – 15:00**

**Chair**

Andrew Taylor Scottish Government

**Attendee’s**

Ian Muirhead Agricultural Industries Confederation

Stefan Reis Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Kate Hopper National Farmers Union Scotland

Sue Marrs NatureScot

Dave Freeman Ricardo

Iain Boyd Scottish Agricultural College

Gemma Miller Scotland’s Rural College

Lorraine Gormley Scottish Government EQCE

Michael O’Neill Scottish Government Agriculture

Neil Henderson Scottish Government Agriculture

Stephen Young Scottish Land and Estates

Clare Campbell SEPA

Colin Gillespie SEPA

Rob Morris SEPA

Susana Sebastian SEPA

Tanith Allison SEPA

Andrea Britton The James Hutton Institute

**Apologies**

Sarah Cowie National Farmers Union Scotland

Andrew Midgely RSPB Scotland

Rebecca Audsley Scottish Agricultural College

Julie Brown Scottish Government Agriculture

1. **Welcome**

Andrew Taylor (AT) welcomed attendee’s

1. **Introductions**

Round table introductions.

1. **Presentation**

AT gave a presentation on CAFS2 background, including current state of air quality in Scotland.

1. **CAFS2 Governance**

Already covered in item 3.

1. **CAFS2 actions – Agriculture and Environment**

AT confirmed that this initial meeting is an introduction and setting the scene. Subsequent meetings Scottish Government is seeking substantive discussion around various actions.

AT read through the actions outlined in the ‘CAFS2 Action Tracker – Agriculture and Environment Working Group’ and open the floor for comment after reading through each action.

*Short term action comments:*

* We should draw on existing projects e.g. Ricardo’s scenario modelling tool for the National Air Pollution Control Programme and the Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet.

**ACTION - ALL review actions in the AEWG Action Tracker and highlight existing and ongoing work relevant to the delivery of specific actions in the update/ comments section. Send to TA to collate.**

*Medium term action comments - Action 2:*

* Links with current work on updating the Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) code, which include a section on air emissions.
* UN code on good agriculture practice to reduce ammonia contains some useful information. The new code needs to reflect what is needed in Scotland and to consider potential implications on the water environment.
* Important to involve farmers in the development of the code of practice to look at practical implications and identify barriers. Code should tie in with the Agricultural Transformation Programme.
* There should be a joint approach covering both climate change and air pollutant reduction agendas.

***ACTION – AT and Tanith Allinson (TA) to liaise with Neil Henderson (NH) and Rob Morris (RM) to confirm timescales for PEPFAA code update and identify links with code practice being developed under CAFS2.***

***ACTION- ALL to flag up key issues that should be covered in the code of practice. How it should be drafted and presented for maximum benefit to farmers. Send comments and suggestions to AT and TA.***

*Medium term action comments - Action 3:*

* A number of related projects and data that could be helpful, in particular the Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet.
* Related work carried out by Richard Payne that could be made available by SEPA.
* RESAS project Nitrogen Impacts in the Natural Environment (NINE) due to start in April with outputs expected next year.

**ACTION – Andrea Britton (AB) to speak with Claire Campbell (CC) about sharing data which could be useful for NINE research project.**

*Medium term action comments - Action 4:*

* Action welcomed as current monitoring needs to be improved to address air pollution impacts. Common standards monitoring doesn’t currently consider air pollution impacts.
* The National Emissions Ceiling Directive Article 9 reporting and EA project monitoring in complex terrain was mentioned. Potential to utilise outputs in Scotland.

*Long term actions comments:*

* AT confirmed that long term timings mean completion of action by 2026 rather that commencing of action which could start well before then.
* Important to define what large scale means and take account of ammonia and methane emissions jointly to make sure compatible approaches are generated.
* IED review underway. Consider EA work on emissions reduction in the beef and dairy sector.

1. **Chair arrangements**

AT asked for those interested in chairing future meetings to express interest to him and TA. Will consider a rolling chair arrangement depending on level of interest.

It was suggested that having a rotating chair could work or adopt a co-chair approach with two people taking a lead from different organisations.

1. **Sector representation on Ministerial Group**

AT explained that the CAFS2 Ministerial Group sat in December 2021. A member of the AEWG is asked to sit on future Ministerial Group meetings to represent the views of the AEWG. AT asked anyone interested to email him and TA.

1. **Working Group ToR**

ToR circulated by TA. Any comments can be made via email to TA.

1. **Priorities and Next Steps**

The next meeting will be chaired by a member of the group. AT asked the AEWG members to report back any views to him and TA.

1. **AOB**

Thanks and close.