RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

25th Meeting, 2010 (Session 3)

Wednesday 17 November 2010

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2.

1. **Decision on taking business in private**: The Committee will decide whether to take item 5 in private, together with consideration of future budget evidence and a draft report. The Committee will also decide whether to consider a draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment on tenant farming at future meetings.

2. **Subordinate legislation**: The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

   - the Feed (Sampling and Analysis and Specified Undesirable Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/354); and
   - the Animal Feed (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/373).

3. **Subordinate legislation**: The Committee will take evidence on the Waste Information (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/draft) from—

   - Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Minister for Environment; Gary Gray, Policy Officer Zero Waste; and Chris Graham, Team Leader Zero Waste Team.

4. **Subordinate legislation**: Roseanna Cunningham MSP to move S3M-7292—That the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee recommends that the Waste Information (Scotland) Regulations (SSI 2010/draft) be approved.

5. **Budget Process 2011-12**: The Committee will consider its approach to the Scottish Government's draft budget proposals 2011-12.

6. **Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill (in private)**: The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.
The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda Item 2**

*the Feed (Sampling and Analysis and Specified Undesirable Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/354)*

*the Animal Feed (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/373)*

**Agenda Item 3**

*the Waste Information (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SSI 2010/draft)*

**Agenda Item 5**

Approach Paper (Private Paper)

**For Information**

Recent Developments
RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S REMIT

Note by the Clerk: Each time an agenda and papers for a meeting are circulated to members, a short paper like this one will also be included as a means of alerting members to relevant documents of general interest which they can follow up through the links included.

Fishing opportunities for 2011

The European Commission has issued a press release outlining its fishing opportunities proposals for 2011. A link to the press release is provided here:

EUROPA - Press Releases - Fisheries: Commission proposes science-based, sustainable fishing opportunities for 2011

The clerks hope to be able to provide a breakdown of the figures as they affect the main stocks fished by the Scottish fleets in due course.

King scallop fishing

The Cabinet Secretary has written to the Convener regarding King Scallop fishing in the 3-12 nautical mile zone around the Isle of Man. The Committee will be considering The Scallops (Luce Bay) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 2010, under the negative procedure, on 24 November. The letter can be accessed here:


Brussels Bulletin

The latest issue of the Brussels Bulletin has been published and features CAP reform and fisheries, including both mackerel quotas and the 2011 fisheries programme. An update on the EU Budget Review has also been provided. On CAP reform it states that - “Early indications are that CAP funds will not shrink as much as originally expected” and that “The next steps in the reform of the CAP will begin with the publication of the Commission’s Communication on 17 November 2010. Thereafter, legal proposals are expected to emerge in July 2011. In 2012, negotiations between the co-legislators will begin in earnest.”

The bulletin is available online using the link here:


SEPA Flood risk trainee programme

SEPA have written to the Clerk providing an update on the Flood Risk Trainee Programme, which emerged as a point of interest during the passage of the Flood
Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The text of the letter is provided below and the CD is available on request:

“As Clerk to the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee I know that you will be interested to hear about the progress of the SEPA’s Flood Risk Trainee Programme.

I enclose a CD which SEPA has produced that summarises the programme and its progress. This CD includes an explanation of SEPA’s new approach to Flood Risk Management and a copy of SEPA’s Annual Operating Plan – the blueprint of what we aim to achieve and how we are doing it. The CD also contains a photomontage of the current Trainees and videos of two presentations by existing trainees which give insight to their motivation in joining the programme and some examples of experience gained from it.

The programme demonstrates our effective collaboration with the Universities of Dundee and Stirling to fill the skill gap in hydrology that the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee noted during the passage of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The Trainee Programme is producing MSc graduates who are highly skilled and motivated individuals and whose training and talents will go a long way to filling this skill gap.

I hope that you will be interested in the formation of the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service, which should be up and running in March 2011 and which will link scientists at the Met Office operations centre in Aberdeen with SEPA’s flood forecasting team in Perth. This partnership will provide the emergency services with better and earlier indications of flood risk. It will enable SEPA to deliver better and timely information on the possibility and severity of flooding situations to key responders, like the emergency services and local authorities.

When you have had an opportunity to look at the contents of the CD please share it with your colleagues”

A link to the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service is also available here: