

**Minutes of the Scottish Water Branch Meeting held on 13th January 2009 Belford Rd
Edinburgh**

Present:

Willie Fortune	Fergus Allan	Steve Scott	Dave Wilkinson (Chair)
Elaine Noble		Jim Anderson Miranda Jacques- Turner	Douglas Black (part) Mary Scott (part)

Dave Wilkinson in the Chair

Item	Notes	Action by
1.0	<u>Apologies for absence</u>	
1.1	Apologies were received from: Jim Anderson (Shetland); Steve Gordon; Claire Wilson; Jim Gault.	
	<u>Minutes of previous meeting (December 2008)</u>	
2.0	Minutes Approved as correct record: Proposed - AN Seconded: FA	
a)	<u>Matters Arising</u>	
b)	PAY – Douglas Black gave an update on the Pay deal. He said that at the meeting in Livingstone prior to the deal, HR were very obstructive. At that time, industrial action seemed inevitable. A press release followed that meeting which was particularly critical of the Chief Executive for not adopting a more hands-on approach. The Chief Executive then called for a meeting on 23 rd December and in-depth discussions took place. SW stated that as far as the first part of the deal was concerned, there was nothing more they could do; however, it was agreed to focus on the second part of the deal – STAR plus cost of living. After a follow up meeting on Christmas Eve, it was finally agreed that 7.75% consolidated for 27 months would be recommended for acceptance. DB went on to say that he felt that this was the best deal that could be achieved.	
ii)	A number of questions were raised with regard to the deal, in particular clarification around STAR and what the incorporation of that into the deal meant exactly.	

<p>3.(1)</p> <p>4(1)</p> <p>4(2)</p> <p>5(1)</p>	<p>DB also mentioned that a follow-up meeting was arranged for 4th February to finalise the details of the deal and to discuss a new negotiating body.</p> <p><u>JTUG</u></p> <p>No meeting had taken place since the last Branch Executive, but another meeting was imminent.</p> <p><u>Branch Secretarys' Report</u></p> <p>AGM's - The Branch Secretary tabled the dates for AGMs' along with venues. It was agreed that Dumfries be dropped in favour of Prestwick, but that the other venues remained. It was also agreed to delay the start time to 12.30pm to allow a buffet lunch to be provided at each venue at 12.00pm.</p> <p>Branch Executive nominations were re-affirmed</p> <p>Andy Nisbet be proposed as Branch Secretary; Steve Scott be proposed as Depute Secretary ; David Wilkinson be proposed as Chairperson; Elaine Noble be proposed as Vice Chairperson; Fergus Allan be proposed as Treasurer;</p> <p>Miranda Jacques-Turner be proposed as Publicity Officer; Jim Gault be proposed as Equal Opportunities Officer.</p> <p>The Branch Secretary raised the nomination of delegates to Annual Delegate Conference. Branch policy was re-stated, ie we are entitled to 2 delegates, but that the Branch chooses delegates according to the following formula;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Delegation Leader – (either Branch Secretary or BranchChair) 2) Female Delgate (as a full delegate) 3) Sharer – to share with the Delegation Leader 4) Visitor – first time visitor if at all possible. <p>The names put forward, apart from the Delegate Leader, was Jim Anderson, and possibly Miranda Jacques-Turner (who is to confirm) Full delegation to be finally determined at the next Executive.</p> <p>With regard to the Water & Environment Conference, David Wilkinson confirmed he wishes to attend. It is understood that delegates to ADC also attend W & E Conference. Again, delegation to be confirmed at next Executive.</p> <p>The Branch Secretary also tabled a letter received from John Jones, the current NEC delegate for Water & Environment. We asked for Scottish Water Branches' support for th up-coming elections. His request was agreed, and the Secretary agreed to table the nomination papers before the deadline.</p> <p>Also, Andy Nisbet undertook to contact Paul Hyles to gauge interest in the possible vacant Health & Safety Officers' post.</p>	<p>SS</p>
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Branch Treasurers Report

FA gave an update on the current financial position which was clearly healthy

Health and Safety Report

AN gave a brief report on various health & safety issues he is involved in throughout Scottish Water. He stated that he is preparing his report for the AGM's which he will send to the Branch Secretary.

Equal Opps Report

.EN reported on various issues and updated the Executive on her work within the Equalities Steering Group. Good feedback received so far. Elaine requested that an article be put into the next Newsletter asking for feedback from gay, lesbian and black staff.

Service Conditions

Under Service Conditions Jim Anderson raised an issue regarding a member leaving Unison. Jim expressed concern that the former members issues were not addressed properly. Debate ensued, and the issue was noted.

Honoraria

Although a formula applies to Honoraria, the Branch Secretary stated that consideration should be given to the extra role that the Branch Chair has carried out over the past year – in effect, that of Lead Negotiator during the pay dispute. It was unanimously agreed that an additional payment of £500 be paid to Dave in recognition of the work he has carried out over and above his role as Chair.

AOCB

- 1) MJT asked the Branch to support an LGBT motion to go to Annual Delegate Conference. The Branch asked for the full wording to be circulated to Executive members for comment prior to approval.
- 2) The Branch Secretary also stated that Steve Bloomfield from the Water & Environment Service Group Executive had asked that Scottish Water consider raising a motion to the Service Group Conference. The Secretary would draft something prior to submission.

EN