



Scottish Water Branch

Minutes of the SW Branch Meeting held on 17th November 2009
Belford Road Edinburgh

Present:

Willie Fortune	Fergus Allan	Steve Scott	Monique Fernandez
Will Muldoon	Andy Nisbet	Robin Gallacher	Richard Mould
Elaine Noble	Penny Philpson	Kate Brown	
Andy Ferguson	Paul Hyles		

NB. Elaine Noble in the Chair

Item	Notes	Action by
1.0	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from: Miranda Jacques-Turner; Jim Anderson (Shet); Jin Anderson; David Wilkinson; Steve Gordon; Jim Gault</p> <p>Debbie Dyer (FTO) in attendance.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting (September 2009)</u></p> <p>Copies of the Minute of the October Executive were distributed.</p> <p>Proposed: – RM Seconded: - KB.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>a) Branch Web Site- The website was now available to view and the Chair urged Executive members to have a look and feed any comments back to Miranda.</p> <p>b) Still awaiting information on Scottish Water Branch Joiners and Leavers. Debbie Dyer has agreed to ensure that the Branch receives this information on a monthly basis.</p> <p>c) Branch Credit Card – EN reported on the Branch Secretaries' behalf that he had received a card. The Executive were asked to consider how many more cards the Branch should take and who should receive them. After some debate it was agreed that the Branch should arrange for one more card, with this card going to the Depute Secretary.</p>	MJT
4.0	<p>Branch Officer Reports:</p> <p>Branch Secretary - Not present. In his absence SJS updated the Executive on the following;</p>	

<p>a) Branch Executive Meetings 2010. SJS asked the Executive to consider whether the decision to meet in Belford Road during 2009 should be continued. The majority of the Executive agreed that they were content with this arrangement continuing. SJS to table a list of proposed 2010 dates to the December Executive for consideration</p>	<p>SJS</p>
<p>b) National H & S Conference – March 2010. SJS tabled this information from Unison HQ requesting the names of Branch Delegates to attend this conference. It was agreed to send the Branch Secretary and the Branch Health & Safety Secretary. SJS will be in attendance in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Water Environment & Transport Executive.</p>	<p>SJS</p>
<p>c) To note that the Branch Secretary will attend the Area Branch Organising Staff meeting on 11th December.</p>	<p>AN</p>
<p>Branch Treasurers Report : -</p>	
<p>FA confirmed that the names to be added to the list of signatories for the cheque book are Andy Nisbet and Elaine Noble.</p>	
<p>Unison Branch Diaries should be arriving within the next couple of weeks and should be distributed to all Branch Members prior to Christmas.</p>	<p>FA</p>
<p>Service Conditions:</p>	
<p>SJS reported on a particularly difficult series of investigations and disciplinaries involving members in the Don area. The issue was one of public health but SJS stated that he felt very strongly that members were being unfairly targeted while there were clearly corporate failures which required to be addressed.</p>	
<p>WF raised the re-structuring exercise within Scottish Water Contracting and in particular the new role profile. WF felt that the new role profile in essence meant working for less money. WF to keep the Branch updated on developments. EN suggested writing to Mary Watt. AN to speak to Mary Watt to ensure that the selection process is open and transparent.</p>	<p>WF</p>
<p>Lab Review - EN and DW attended a meeting with management to look at standby arrangements etc. It was agreed to get PH to look at getting a risk assessment done for samplers.</p>	<p>EN</p>
<p>CSD Restructure – RM described the possible new arrangements under the restructure. RM invited to attend sub-group in January 2010. AN to assist RM</p>	<p>RM</p>
<p>Business Stream – WM informed the Executive of a meeting he had with Business Stream members. A number of issues were raised but there was a general feeling that the members did not feel sufficiently supported by Unison. This is an ongoing issue regarding flexible hours and travel policy. Advised to get in touch with Gerry Crawley to get involved.</p>	
<p>CID Restructure – RG reported that the last meeting on the restructure had a more positive aspect, although role matching is still an issue. He tabled figures for SPM's and PM's under the new proposals as well as figures for current staff numbers. Clearly, there will be some staff having to take VR or going into the ESP.</p>	

	<p>Health & Safety. – PH reported on the Safety In Numbers Campaign. Agreed with Jpoint Publicity Campaign with SW. Also highlighted a damning HSE report on Carron Valley TW and discussed the various breaches contained within the report.</p> <p>Also, Stress was discussed at the H& S Meeting. The Chief Executive has asked for statistics.</p> <p>PH also raised the continuing issue of Advanced Scheduling which still continues to cause many problems for members. SJS reported that he had tried to contact Gerry Crawley to discuss, but due to his being off on bereavement leave, this was not possible. Agreed to use the Branch Newsletter to highlight and to ask members to come forward with particular instances of problems caused to them by this system</p> <p><u>JTUG</u> - no report as there had been no meeting in the intervening period.</p> <p>AOCB</p> <p>A) Steve Gordon asked that a record of who has attended courses be pulled together.</p> <p>B) Reminder again that Annual Reports from Branch members must be submitted by the January Branch Executive meeting for inclusion in the next round of AGM's due to take place Feb/March 2010.</p>	PH