

Date: Friday, 18/07/25

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The Licence Managers will now be distributing the cage assessment DOPS with another communication which will be sent when [REDACTED] returns from holiday.

2. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

[REDACTED] gave an update from the HOLTIF meeting on Monday.

3. What is happening in your unit?

In [REDACTED] there has been a delay with the ventilation works as the pipework is blocked with sludge. Redecoration is now complete. The surgery and new kitchen still need to be installed.

At [REDACTED] the decorating is nearly complete. Fire door strips still need to be replaced.

A sensor in the plant room is not working correctly, which is currently being looked into.

[REDACTED] has visited. A wheel has come off the safety steps so a new one will need to be purchased out of [REDACTED] budget. [REDACTED] may be able to find one at a better price than on Market Place. The cage wash has been disconnected as it wasn't being used due to not working, and the service contract has been cancelled.

The lights in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are failing. [REDACTED] is working on this. Lone working options are being looked in to. These include an SOS dongle amongst other options.

Nylon filters are now being used instead of cotton which has saved about £8000.

The health and safety inspection went well in all aquatics buildings.

There is a review underway on whether plants should be put in all tanks.



a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

There has been no change in the number of marmosets in [REDACTED] and breeding will be reviewed soon as a new grant has come through. There is a small rodent study in the imaging suite, and a rat study will be starting within the next couple of months.

A researcher at [REDACTED] that was due to retire has now applied for another grant.

[REDACTED] fish numbers are increasing.

There have been three birds found dead at [REDACTED] due to bacterial enteritis. Steps have been put in place to prevent the spread.

There will be some work starting at the beginning of next year with 24 magpies. The [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have requested to do some work with zebra finches.

There has been a 50% reduction of frogs being used, so these will be rehomed rather than culled.

The medaka have been rehomed with a member of staff.

[REDACTED] is going to be opening soon making five facilities that house fish and frogs.

Quarantine processes are changing to comply with the new Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) rules. 150 fish need to be screened for import which is a much larger number than is usually imported. So, if 50 fish are needed, 200 will be ordered. 150 of those will be screened and culled.

This goes against the 3Rs, so UK facilities are looking within the UK for fish, rather than importing.

A resource between UK managers has been set up to enable sharing of fish stocks.

There have been recent publications showing that a much lower stocking density than we currently use, is beneficial to zebra fish. So trials will be conducted, then findings will be discussed with the users.

Zebra fish in two facilities have had their food increased and water quality has not been compromised by this.

[REDACTED] is applying for a service licence mainly because of the Cefas rules as we are hoping to provide an import service for other facilities in the UK.

Frogs are not being put in an incubator after injections, and food is not being withheld, due to review of the licences.

New lamprey will be arriving soon.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

[REDACTED] are fully staffed.

[REDACTED] are fully staffed across all five sites. They will be attending and presenting at the first UK zebrafish meeting in September and there will be a second NACWO.

There have been lots of tours and staff are eager to continue to show people around.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

[REDACTED] will be visiting [REDACTED] on Monday. His son will be working there for a week.

A new user will be starting at [REDACTED] and will take up nearly a quarter of the facility with zebrafish.



4. Overview of SC18's

██████████ discussed the graph. In June there was a high mortality rate in certain strains which is why there was a spike in one category.

5. Biofacility Infrastructure

There is a new contractor who will be bringing some new, smaller, A bins.

6. Health and Safety (RA's, COSHH)

UBS will have a formal audit by the Safety Audit Team in February next year. Requests for paperwork will be sent out in November.

██████████ had a visit by the Environment Agency looking at the radioactivity work that happens there. It was a successful visit.

7. Training and Competencies

A Training the Trainer DOPS will now be included in the Train the Trainer course.

The next Service and Support Tech course will run on 9th September 10am – 12.30pm on Zoom.

The Training Team will let NACWOS know who should be approaching them for a handling assessment each month before the PIL course.

Next month three people will be interviewed for the Training and Competency Supervisor post.

The NACWO Refresher course deadline is 7th August. Some NACWO's have still not completed the course.

There was a discussion around this.

There was a question about whether there is help available for writing SOPs. ██████████ and ██████████ are working on this.

8. Any other business

The BBQ is still going ahead. Please let ██████████ know if you are attending the anniversary party.

Date of next meeting: Friday, 22nd August 2025. Group 2.