



**The James Hutton Institute
BOARD MEETING
Macaulay Suite, Craigiebuckler
20 April 2022, 09:00**

MINUTES

Chair:	Ian Gambles (IG) (Chair)	
Board members:	Susan Davies (SD) Chris Gilligan (CG) by Webex Ken Greetham (KG) Paul Grice (PG)	George Lawrie (GL) Iain Reid (IR) Alyson Tobin (AT) Elizabeth Wade (EW) by Webex
Apologies:	Aileen McLeod (AM), Samantha Barber (SB), Deborah Keith (DK), Archie Gibson (AG)	
Attendees:	Colin Campbell (CC) Alasdair Cox (AC) Deb Roberts (DR) Hugh Darby (HD)	Lesley Torrance (LT) Anne Pack (AP) [Minutes] Jagadeesh Yeluripati [RETINA presentation]

Opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. A presentation, "Near real-time soil carbon and greenhouse gas predictions: A step towards net zero" was made followed by a brief discussion on the science supporting this research.

- 1 Apologies**
Deborah Keith, Archie Gibson, Aileen McLeod, Samantha Barber. AM and SB are both on a period of leave of absence from the Board.
- 2 Register of Interests**
The annual Register of Interest form was provided for completion by each Board and Executive member.
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022.**
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 4 Matters arising**
All actions were either on the agenda, complete, or were not due this time.
- 5 CEO Report, Operational Plan, Risk Register,**
The CEO Report, Operational Plan, and Risk Register were provided for information.
 - key issues from the RR could be highlighted to the Board in future.
- 6 Director of Finance Report and Management Accounts**

A paper was received for information.

2022/23 Budget

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The Board approved the budget.

8 Capital Programme Update

An update paper was provided for information and comment. Of note:

- The first year of the TCD project spend is complete meeting the agreed funding profile.
- Phase One of the consultation on the Craigiebukler Campus Masterplan is complete. Arising issues are being addressed through a detailed FAQ.
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9 BioSS Six-month Report

The BioSS six-month report was received for information.

10 Verbal Reports from Sub-Committee Chairs and James Hutton Ltd

SERIC

AT provided a verbal update on the meeting held the previous day:

- A presentation was made on the tall tower observatory, which will monitor in real time, emissions which will aid verification towards Net Zero. There will be a lab at the tower and it will be situated at Balruddery.
- The revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for SERIC was approved

NR&G

An update was provided on the meeting held the previous day:

- The Board effectiveness questionnaire was considered.
- Board recruitment was discussed. The union pay claim briefing was discussed

A&F

An update was provided on the meeting held the previous day.

- A change to timesheet processes was discussed
- CAPEX approval arrangements were agreed.
- Two reports were received from the internal auditors

James Hutton Ltd

An update was provided on the meeting held on 22 February

- P10 management accounts and capital
- Strategic priorities for the next year.

11.1 Principles for investment in spin-outs and similar ventures

A paper was provided for discussion.

11.2 Strategic case for a Potato Innovation Hub

A paper on the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for a Potato Innovation Hub (PIH) was provided for information and discussion. The paper sets out the context.

During discussion it was noted:

- The Institute sees the development of a PIH as the next flagship project
- It is timely for addressing global challenges in feeding a growing world population.
- Next steps will be commissioning an economic impact assessment and tackling funding gaps. It will be an opportunity for 2 – 3 years' time.

In summing up the Chair confirmed unanimous support from the Board for this critical project as a follow on to the TCD projects. He added it clearly has huge potential and the Board will welcome further updates in due course.

- **LT and CC to progress the initiative and bring updates to the Board when timely.**

12 Future Board topics

A paper was provided for information on suggested future Board meeting topics.

13 AOB

Dates of meetings in 2022:

29 June

21 September

30 November