



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

held by videoconference.

Tuesday 30th November 2021 at 3pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair), Bill Fraser, Mark Laing, Poppy Houldsworth

In attendance Valerie Wardlaw, LDSFB (Minutes), Robert Laughton

	Item	Action
1	Apologies: Charlie Gerrie, Fred Rhind, Mark Houldsworth, Eddie Gormanley, Tomas Christie.	
2.	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 4th May 2021 Approved	
3.	Matters arising not on the Agenda None	
4	Financial Approval of Draft Accounts to August 2021- were approved. VW will arrange for CD to sign & for the accountant to co-sign and then she will send to Scottish Government and upload to the website. Assessment for 2021-22- VW circulated a budget for Sept 2021 to August 2022. A levy set at £1.15 in the £ will result in a small deficit. The board approved the levy set at £1.15 in the £. VW will send out notices in the new year.	CD/VW VW
5	2021 Season Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL reported that the National Electrofishing Programme went ahead with 16 sites randomly selected for juvenile surveys on the Lossie. These were a good spread across the catchment and included the mainstem, Black Burn & other tributaries. RL thanked Willie White for his help with the surveys. Data has been submitted to the Scottish Government and is being analysed; RL has asked MSS if he can report on his provisional data. His impression is that there was an excellent distribution of trout and a reduced, but still healthy, distribution of salmon from the upper sites. Salmon numbers were excellent just upstream from Elgin where there is a good spawning area. They also caught a perch. • Cloddach Bridge- RL has written to Daniel Preston from Moray Council to get an update on whether they have any budget to conduct a survey of the structure. RL thinks it is very unlikely, and Moray Council has put in the height restriction barrier, which has been damaged on a number of occasions already. RL will keep chasing. RL applied for a licence for Elgin AA to transfer fish above the bridge if required and anglers moved some fish. However, this is not a long-term solution. This autumn was wet and so river levels were high enough to let fish migrate above the barrier without help. • Mayne Farm- the farmer applied to SEPA for a CAR licence to remove a sediment build up that was blocking farm drains and causing fields to be flooded. Work has been completed to a high standard and RL is waiting to see how the river settles down. This was a very good spawning area and sediment will build up again to restore the spawning site. 	RL RL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenlatterach Reservoir- repairs were undertaken on valves with no incident. • INNS- RL reported it has been a busy year for treatment with good control of GH from Kellas down to Wester Manbeen. 80% of both banks were treated and a decline in density and distribution is evident. However, the banks above the Cloddach through Bogside still have dense GH. Intensive treatment of JK at Kellas and Brokentore was undertaken with visible reduction in densities. However, stands are still very dense along Bogside. The SISI project will enable treatment by contractors along some sections in 2022 and RL will continue to look for funding to undertake treatment. RL thanked Kellas, MEDCO and Crown Estate for their support in tackling INNS along the river. Skunk Cabbage was also treated on Dallas Pond and the Doual Burn with help from the Dallas Estate gardener. • Mink- some sightings around Kirkhill and through Elgin. James Symmonds is trying to find sites to install monitoring rafts where they won't be disturbed by the public to try and catch any mink. Please ask everyone to contact James a.s.a.p. if they see a mink as time is of the essence when reporting sightings. (07493 272898) • Blockage of plastic near KFC on the outskirts of Elgin has been cleared – by Moray Council? 	<p>RL</p> <p>ALL</p>
6	<p>Conservation Code for 2022 The Lossie is still a Grade 3 river so all salmon and grilse must be released. The Conservation Code for Sea Trout was approved unchanged from 2021.</p>	VW
7	<p>Catchment Developments RAF Lossiemouth airfield drainage outfall pipe has been installed using directional drilling, which creates less disturbance.</p>	
8	<p>SLA & River Management Plan The Management Plan has been approved and is now being used to focus all the work of the FNLRT. It is available on the website. The Service Level Agreement between the Lossie DSFB and the FNLRT has been signed by CD and ML.</p>	
9	<p>AOCB CD- was contacted by the Moray Council Access Officer as a farmer on the opposite bank from Pitgaveny had strung a piece of barbed wire across the river to prevent livestock movement (since removed). This is a danger to river users- there has been an increase in the use of inflatable kayaks especially downstream of Elgin and on the Spynie Canal. The RSPB have asked Outfit Moray not to take kayakers into the Spynie SSI reserve to prevent disturbance to nesting birds. RL suggested the FNLRT could start a dialogue with Outfit Moray by asking for help with INNS control.</p> <p>Lossie Catch figures for 2021- BF has reported very poor catch returns from Elgin AA members- only 40% of members have sent in their returns resulting in 1 salmon, 13 grilse, 30 Sea Trout released and 20 retained. It was a dry summer which reduced fishing, but that is a very poor result. BF will try and get a higher % of returns from members to get a more accurate picture and remind members that if they don't report their catch, the Lossie</p>	BF

	<p>will never move out of Grade 3. VW will ask for catch returns from Dallas, Brokentore and Innes Estates.</p> <p>Herbicide Training- CD and BF have volunteers who would like to be included in any further herbicide training. RL will send them details when he has them, CD and BF to send RL the volunteer's details.</p>	<p>VW</p> <p>RL/CD/ BF</p>
10	<p>Dates of 2022 Meetings</p> <p>March 1st at 3pm AGM</p> <p>June 21st at 3pm, Board meeting</p> <p>November 29th 3pm, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors</p>	