



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held by videoconference.

Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 3p.m.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair), Fred Rhind, Bill Fraser, Mark Laing, Eddie Gormanley, Tomas Christie, Mark Houldsworth

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

	Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies: Charlie Gerrie</p> <p>Welcome Mark Laing expressed his sadness at the death of David Houldsworth and asked Mark to pass on his sympathy to David's family. The board will miss his knowledgeable input and all the work he undertook to keep the River Lossie healthy. Crinan Dunbar has volunteered to take on the position of Chair to the board. Mark Laing proposed, and the board approved.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Triennial Elections held on 1st December 2020 Approved</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising not on the Agenda None</p>	
4	<p>Financial Budget update: First half yearly assessment notices were sent out in February 2021. There is one assessment remaining unpaid from last year for Brokentore. VW to send reminders. Otherwise, income and expenditure is as forecast for the year. Accounts for the year ending 31.8.20 have been approved by the Board, signed, circulated to the Scottish Government, and uploaded to the website.</p>	VW
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2020 Report & Proposals for 2021 • Cloddach Bridge- RL has had a response from the Moray Council- they have a budget to do some works on the bridge as they are reducing the weight limit. They hope this will include some funding for a survey of the channel. RL will keep chasing them up. • Glenlatterach Water transfer- RL has sent back comments on their proposal for water transfer from the Lossie at Kellas to the reservoir in times of drought. He has given them the contact details of relevant landowners. Scottish Water would like comments on their proposals from Kellas and Brokentore and more information on the issues that might affect how compensation water from the Leanoch Burn is managed. RL feels that there are significant issues that need to be addressed in pumping water from the Lossie into the reservoir such as contamination with invasive plants and animals into another part of the catchment. • Lossie blockage- Elgin AA have reported tree debris and litter blocking the Lossie on the outskirts of Elgin. RL does not think this is blocking fish passage but has reported the blockage to Moray Council and Kirkhill Farm. 	<p>RL</p> <p>EG/TC RL</p> <p>RL</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A96 Dualling- RL has completed the habitat surveys and a report on the proposed river crossings and will be attending a meeting with the A96 team next week. • NEPS- RL is still waiting to hear if the Scottish Government will fund a National Electrofishing Survey again this year. The Lossie is still Grade 3 even though juvenile populations are good. RL will organise a juvenile survey if the NEPS programme does not go ahead this year to provide evidence that fish populations in the Lossie are healthy and the river should be regraded. • INNS- RL has organised brushcutting of dead JK canes to improve access for treatment later in the year from Kellas downstream through Bogside to Wester Manbeen. GH treatment is starting soon with funding from the EB Scotland, Moray Estates and Crown Estates. The SISI project has been extended for a year to October 2022 and James Symonds will be organising treatment with volunteers along the Lossie and funding spray training for Elgin AA volunteers. RL has been talking to other landowners and farmers and there is increased support for a concerted control programme for the future. RL is monitoring skunk cabbage this year as it is present in the Dallas and Kellas Ponds and plans to spray later in the summer. CD participated in the recent INNS seminar and thought using herbivores such as sheep and the pigs at Kellas should be explored further. • Mink- please report any sightings asap. BF reported a mink sighting at Kirkhill Farm last week. • Schools- delivering field trips and angling taster sessions is still suspended due to coronavirus restrictions. 	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>ALL</p>
6	<p>Catchment Developments Discussed under item 5</p>	
7	<p>River Management Plan RL has circulated final draft and is now working to the plan's actions.</p>	
8	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EG- asked if a smolt trap could be installed again to gain further evidence of the productivity of the river for applying for regrading. RL said most smolt traps are in use for the AST tagging projects but their might be a 4' trap available to borrow in 2023. • CD reported a dead cow carcass which is washing down the river and is now at Innes Estate. • MH- said he will be supporting Poppy Houldsworth in representing Dallas Estate on the board. • ML- There are two vacancies on the FNLRT board for representatives from the Lossie. ML asked if CD would join the FNLRT board and if BF or FR could suggest an Elgin AA representative. CD agreed to join the FNLRT and BF said the Elgin AA would consider options. • Lossie Bailiffing- regular patrols continue to be undertaken by the Findhorn bailiffs but it would make their time much more effective if Elgin AA and other anglers would report any signs of poaching or suspicious behaviour to the police every time they see it. This gives the Wildlife Crime officer intelligence they can use to prioritise police efforts and ask for resources. There is a new Wildlife Crime Officer based in Keith and her email is Hannah.Haywood@scotland.pnn.police.uk 	<p>RL</p> <p>ML/CD /BF/FR</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passing on intelligence to the Findhorn bailiffs will also allow them to prioritise their patrols appropriately. Crime can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, who pass the information on to the police. 	
9	<p>Dates of 2021 Meetings</p> <p>July/August- site visit to the Cloddach or similar- VW to circulate possible dates for a Tuesday pm meeting.</p> <p>November 30th Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 3pm</p>	VW