



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Held at Pitgaveny.

Tuesday 27th June 2023 at 3pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair) (CD), Bill Fraser (BF), Fred Rhind (FR), Poppy Houldsworth (PH).

In attendance Clare Walker (Minutes) (CW), Robert Laughton (RL)

	Item	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies: CD opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Tomas Christie. CD noted the sad passing of Gordon Robertson and expressed condolences to Gordons family and colleagues on behalf of the LDSFB.	
2.	Minutes of the AGM held on 28th March 2023. Minutes were approved subject to minor connection. CW to publish on the FNLRT website.	CW
3.	Matters arising not on the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The next round of 'Money for Moray' funding will shortly be opening for applications. CD will pass on the details to BF.- CD told the Board about some collaborative work he has been involved with, alongside other local farmers, to form a farm cluster which enable businesses within the cluster to access non-agricultural and environmental funding which they wouldn't be eligible for individually. RL will pass on this information to Elle Adams to explore any potential for further collaboration within the remit of the FWI.- RL emailed the council to express an interest on behalf of the FNLRT and LDSFB to be provided an opportunity to consult on the development of plans to work on the Cloddach Bridge.	CD RL
4.	Financial CW provided an up to date cashflow. The financial year is expected to close on a deficit of approximately £400, up from the original forecast of £200. This is primarily due to increases to insurance premiums. Tomas Christie is still to pay the previous years assessment levy. Second half-yearly reminders will go out to proprietors shortly, but it was agreed that CD and CW will visit Thomas Christie to discuss his outstanding assessment.	CW/CD
5	Director's Report Bailiffing – The FDSFB Bailiffs have conducted 5 patrols on the Lossie so far, during April-June. Two anglers were found to be fishing without being able to produce a valid ticket. RL asked the EAA to remind members that fishing with fixed engines is prohibited. RL and Sean McLean met with the EAA in June for a meet and greet session which was attended by 6 members. The feedback from this meeting was positive and it provides a good opportunity for exchanging information and intelligence on the activity on the river. The use of a personal beacon system by the Bailiffs also allows the EAA members the	

<p>opportunity to see where patrols have taken place which BF said was useful.</p> <p>The Bailiffs are meeting with Hannah Corbett of Police Scotland in July on the Lossie and BF asked to attend. There will also be a Riverwatch meeting on 19th July.</p> <p>FR suggested that an investigation into a local chip shop using poached fish could be worth the Bailiffs looking into. RL will pass on this information to Sean McLean.</p> <p>INNS – It has been a tough season for Giant Hogweed control so far this year, but progress has been made at Kellas, Brokentore and Upper Bogside. RL was able to hire a pressurised tank from Kellas which was extremely useful for some areas. Other areas have seen a lot of growth due to the favourable weather conditions.</p> <p>Moray Council have pledged funding of £5k for INNS control next year. Positive discussions have also taken place between RL and Mayne Farm who have indicated their support for INNS control next year. Moira Green has employed contractors for GH control this season and looks likely to continue this approach in the future.</p> <p>The proposed Japanese Knotweed Pig Project at Kellas Estate has been postponed as the estate did not have the capacity to take it forward at the present time. RL is in discussion with the funder, Baxter's, to see whether the funding could be carried forward to next year.</p> <p>A mink was sighted Branchill and trap installed.</p> <p>PH reported that the presence of skunk cabbage at Dallas Pond was greatly reduced after last two year's control measures. RL will return at the end of July to spray the pond and burn.</p> <p>Fish Surveys – RL updated the Board on the severe Saprolognia outbreak experienced on the river Findhorn.</p> <p>RL had recently been informed that there will be a NEPS survey funded this year and it is estimated that there will be 8-9 sites identified on the Lossie. FNLRT's graduate placement, Sarah Hadfield, will be given the opportunity to lead on survey work.</p> <p>RL is in discussion with Ritchie Millar on the river Deveron about seeing their fish counter. RL will let the Board know when a site visit can be arranged.</p> <p>FR asked whether there was any action which could be taken to reduce the Perch population in the river which has been steadily increasing. RL said that there was no effective approved method of reducing populations beyond culling any fish that are caught by anglers.</p>	<p>BF</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
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6	<p>Catchment Developments</p> <p>Clashgour – FNLRT are in the advanced stages of confirming a monitoring plan proposal in collaboration with the Hutton Institute. The plan is being costed and will then be submitted to the developers.</p> <p>There has been no further update or progress at the Dallas substation.</p> <p>RL will be reviewing a proposal by CBEC on behalf of Milton Duff Distillery for works to improve their outflow and discharges.</p>	
7	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDSFB Management Plan has been inputted into the FMS story map and funding for this project has been received. • RL expects to have funding confirmed from Chivas shortly, this would be to fund the core costs of running the Trust which would help to future proof the organisation. • CD informed the Board that the Kirkhill footbridge has been cordoned off. It is not known who owns the bridge. 	
10	<p>Dates of 2023 Meetings</p> <p>November 21st 3pm, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A review of the SA between LDSFB and FNLRT to be added to the agenda for this meeting. 	CW

With no further business CD closed the meeting at 17:00