



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Pitgaveny.

Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 3pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair) (CD), Bill Fraser (BF), Gordon Robertson (GR), Fred Rhind (FR).

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 Poppy Houldsworth, Mark Houldsworth, Tomas Christie, and John Fielding.	
2.	Minutes of the Meeting of Qualified Proprietors held on 29th November 2022 Minutes were approved. CW to publish on the FNLRT website.	CW
3.	Matters arising not on the agenda There were no matters raised not already covered on the agenda.	
4.	Financial CW provided an up to date cashflow. Noted was an increase in public liability insurance premiums for this year. There are a few half-yearly payments remaining outstanding, CW will chase. CW has now been added as a signatory on the LDSFB bank account. The Board agreed for Crinan Dunbar to be added as signatory to the banking mandate and for Valerie Wardlaw to be removed. CW will fill out the appropriate forms and submit these to RBS.	CW CW
5	Year 2022 Report and Proposals for 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloddach Bridge – it was recently announced in the Governments budget that £1.4m has been ringfenced for Cloddach Bridge. The LDSFB and FNLRT will submit comments to Moray Council to push for improved fish passage to be incorporated into any bridge replacement/renovation. CD suggested that RL attend the next Community Council meeting where there may be the opportunity to speak directly with Council representatives. BF stressed that any works undertaken during the fishing season would have an adverse impact on the AA. The Board acknowledged work was unlikely to start soon but this point should also be raised during discussions with the Council. • INNS – The SISI project has been awarded funding for a further three years. The focus will be on continuing current efforts and expanding Giant Hogweed control to Elgin and Japanese Knotweed control to Cloddach. Elise Cox continues in her role as Project Officer and she will be taking the lead on developing landowner agreements, which will utilise a range of outcomes suitable to each landowner, to secure the ongoing control of INNS after the conclusion of the SISI project. The pilot 'Pig Project' in collaboration with Kellas estate has proven difficult to get funding for. Three funders rejected applications and RL is still awaiting a final decision from another funder. The FNLRT Board has agreed that the project should go ahead without secured funding. It is intended that some of the project costs be recouped through a public 	RL

	<p>scheme to ‘sponsor a pig’, the details of such a scheme are still to be decided but RL informed GR that he can go ahead and begin organising fencing contractors.</p> <p>BF pointed out that control undertaken by Moray Council last year was carried out after the plants had seeded which seriously undermines the effectiveness of the control measures. RL will contact the council and discuss this with them.</p> <p>RL and Elise Cox met with Network Rail last week, who confirm that they have an action plan which it is hoped will be rolled out to the Lossie and implemented.</p> <p>RL thanked FR for his reporting of mink sighted on the Mosset Burn last November. Traps were deployed straight away in response to this report and four mink were captured as a result. Another mink capture occurred along the coast at Hopeman last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River works – Work to stabilise the substation at Dallas were delayed due to planning and CAR license issues but plant has now been mobilised. RL was due to carry out a fish rescue, but this been postponed. <p>Clashgour windfarm has been granted planning permission. RL is working to develop a monitoring plan for the works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding – Discussions with a local distillery company are ongoing regarding funding some INNS/fisheries projects. <p>The is no word as yet on funding from the Scottish Government for juvenile surveys for 2023.</p> <p>There is still funding available for ‘Schools go to Fish’ but this is likely to be carried over into the next financial year. Time constraints and school strikes have prevented organising events with the local schools, but it is hoped these can go ahead next year.</p>	<p>RL/GR</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
6	<p>Update on FNLRT Activities</p> <p>Funding for the Trust’s Findhorn Watershed Initiative is being utilised to facilitate stakeholder engagement and create a monitoring programme to provide baseline data which can be used to assess future project outcomes. Tenders for this work have been awarded this week and a Project Officer has been employed and will be in post at the beginning of April.</p> <p>FR raised that issue of a lack of angling representatives on the FNLRT Board. RL confirmed that Campbell Ross was now a member of the FNLRT Board but that previous attempts to get representatives from other AA’s to join the Board have not garnered any interest. BF agreed that he could attend on behalf of the Elgin AA if transport could be arranged with another member.</p>	
7	<p>Catchment Developments</p> <p>Planning for works to the Lhanbryde Burn bridge are pending, inspections have been carried out and it is thought the works may be more complicated than originally thought. RL will keep an eye on the progress of this work.</p>	
8	<p>River Management Plan</p> <p>Fisheries Management Scotland provided funding for Scotland’s Trusts and Fisheries to input their management plans to their new online platform. RL has done this on behalf of the LDSFB but during this process felt that it</p>	

	could benefit from being revisited and updated to better reflect the specific activities going on on the Lossie.	
9	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD asked whether the Elgin AA had considered some other outlets for selling tickets this season. BF confirmed that the AA had tried this in the past but it hadn't produced any extra ticket sales. CD offered to contact some potential outlets if the Elgin AA wanted to try this. • A new round of Money for Moray funding through Moray Council is due to open soon. CD offered to assist Elgin AA with applying. • RL suggested that a meeting be arranged late April/early May between the Findhorn bailiffs and local anglers to facilitate a greater connection and understanding between both parties. BF and FR said the feeling among anglers is that the bailiffs aren't seen enough on the Lossie. RL highlighted that the purpose of the meeting would be to improve relationships with the anglers and work with them to target the Lossie more effectively with co-ordination with the anglers. FR proposed that the Board consider withdrawing funded patrols by the Findhorn Bailiffs on the river Lossie. CW confirmed that the budget for bailiff patrols for this year was approved at the last Board meeting and any motion to vote on this would need to be put to the whole Board at a separate meeting. It was agreed that the meeting with bailiffs should go ahead, and the position of the Elgin AA could be reviewed afterward, if a motion is still desired, this can be proposed at the next Board meeting. • FR expressed his frustration at the current river grading model which relies solely on catch data rather than other quantitative data such as juvenile surveys. RL confirmed that the National Electrofishing Program aims to improve the current model by utilising more data but this is still in a developmental phase. RL stressed the importance of submitting comments when river gradings are reviewed each year so that these can be passed on to Scottish Government. 	BF/CD
10	<p>Dates of 2023 Meetings</p> <p>June 27th at 3pm, Board meeting at Pitgaveny</p> <p>November 21st 3pm, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors</p>	

With no further business CD closed the meeting at 16:30