

RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

Held at Pitgaveny. Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 3pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair) (CD), Bill Fraser (BF), Fred Rhind (FR), Poppy Houldsworth (PH), Mark Laing (ML), Tomas Christie (TC), Tim Atkinson (TA)

In attendance Clare Walker (Minutes) (CW), Robert Laughton (RL), Sean McLean (FDSFB Water Bailiff) (SM), Alister Taylor (FDSFB Water Bailiff) (AT).

1 Welcome and Apologies: CD opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received Mark Houldsworth, and Edward Crookes and Rebecca Russell. 2. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 27 th June 2023. CW 3. Matters arising not on the agenda CW 3. Matters arising not on the agenda CW 4. RL has not received any further news in regard to works proposed to Cloddach Bridge following the funding announcement earlier in the year. It was decided not to apply for a licence to move fish upstream given the high water meant that fish passage was unlikely to be hindered. CD believes that the council are currently commissioning an options appraisal for the Bridge. Financial 4. Financial Approval of Draft Accounts – CW circulated the draft accounts prior to the meeting. The accounts include an annual report which is updated with the Board's activities over the financial year. This has mostly been updated but still required a season update from the EAA. The financial accounts were approved and, once the season update to the annual report is added, CW will circulate this to the Board over email. BF/CW Assessment for 2023-24 – CW circulated a draft budget and levy proposal. It was agreed to set the levy at £1.15 to the pond for 2024. This was not unanimous, BF and FR voted against, but the motion was passed. This is projected to result in a deficit for the LDSFB of approximately £330. It was acknowledged that there will be a need in future years to consider how the LDSFB raises funds. BF and FR made clear the financial position of the EAA would not be able to sust		Item	Action
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	RL presented an overview of the services provided to the LDSFB by FNLRT. The Trust plan to highlight the lack of support for Grade 3 rivers with FMS and Scottish Government <i>NEPs</i> – There were good numbers of juvenile fish found during the NEPs surveys. Including salmon found near Todholes on the Black Burn for the first time since the gabion weirs were removed in 2012. <i>Catchment Developments</i> – A monitoring plan has been developed for Clashgour windfarm alongside The Hutton Institute. A request has also been received for comments on a proposed license to remove sediment build up on part of the Elgin flood alleviation scheme. The Board agreed that a fish rescue would not be necessary given the low likelihood of disturbance to fish in this location. A fish rescue was completed for Dallas Substation and PH confirmed that works are nearly completion. RL reviewed the method statement submitted for work to the Kirkhill Bridge but has heard nothing further as yet (Post meeting note: The following day, Moray Council confirmed the works were completed). On the Linkwood Burn, two weirs have been replaced with fish passes previously. There are two weirs remaining on the burn and SEPA are currently assessing whether these could also be replaced. There is the potential for developing a small project to improve habitat along the Linkwood burn led by FNLRT which RL will explore further. <i>INNS</i> – Giant Hogweed treatment conducted from Kellas to Elgin. Japanese Knotweed treatment conducted from Kellas to Elgin. Japanese Knotweed treatment. There have been 11 mink captures so, mostly on the Lossie. RL gave thanks to funders, contractors, and volunteers for their efforts this season.	RL
	 Bailiffing – The FDSFB Bailiffs have conducted 15 patrols on the Lossie in 2023. There were a number of incidents of fishing with no ticket and fishing with a fixed engine. FR quoted the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act 1868 which doesn't classify the use of a rod rest as a fixed engine. SM clarified that the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 has superseded the 1868 Act and that the latest legislation prohibits the use of rod rests. SM will circulate the wording of the 2023 Act to provide further clarification. 	SM/CW
6	Conservation Code for 2024	
	CW circulated a draft conservation code for 2024, there were no changes from 2023 and the code was approved. CW will update the website.	CW
7	Catchment Developments Covered in item 5.	
8	Service Level Agreement This item was postponed until the finance meeting to be arranged with EAA.	
9	 AOCB a) FNLRT AGM – The FNLRT AGM will be held on Monday 27th November, all are welcome to attend b) Farming Cluster – CD updated the Board; MOUs are being drafted and ecological surveys are underway. 	

10	Dates for 2024 Meetings	
	March 26 th 2024 – LDSFB AGM	
	June 25 th 2024 – LDSFB Board Meeting	
	November 26 th 2024 – LDSFB Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors	

With no further business CD closed the meeting at 16:40.