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| | <p>be submitted once the final details are decided. CD and AL suggested that Miller's abattoir in Grantown and Munro's abattoir in Dingwall could provide slaughter services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windfarms – Clashgour and Rothes III have been awarded planning permission. Ourack comments will be submitted next week. • Other developments – Scottish Water WWTW Bridge, new bridge in Forres is planned to service the water treatment works. Construction is proposed for January 2023. RL has been conducting Redd surveys and has confirmed no spawning activity and is therefore, happy to give the go ahead to Scottish Water for the bridge construction. • SSE Dallas Substation requires some repair works due to erosion in the burn undermining the substation site. A re-channelling of the burn is proposed to reduce erosion. Previous fish surveys have indicated very little fish in the burn so no significant concerns regarding the works. However, a fish rescue will be undertaken anyway. There appears to have been a lack of communication between SSE and Dallas regarding the works and concerns over a lack of flood prevention measures. A further site meeting between all parties is proposed for January 2023. • SISI – Most Japanese Knotweed (JK) on the Nairn is coming under control. AR highlighted that areas where JK has been treated are now being colonised by Himalayan Balsam and he plans to liaise with the factor at Cawdor about a collaborative effort to treat the problem. RL confirmed that now that JK and Giant Hogweed (GH) control are increasingly reaching management levels more time within the project could be dedicated to Himalayan Balsam. Progress is being made at the Mosset and Muckle Burns. JK is still a real problem on the Lossie, but inroads are being made and support and communication with landowners continues to improve. • Fishing Season – it was a poor season all round with catch numbers down. High temperatures, low water, lack of rain and disease outbreak in spring fish hampered the season. However, evidence of spawning has been witnessed in reasonable numbers. At the recent LDSFB meeting of Qualified Proprietors the Elgin AA raised their issues with a continuing decline in membership and RL provided some advice on ways to try and improve numbers. • Tomatin – The temperature in the Burn where the distillery discharges its cooling water was measured at 10 degrees higher than a nearby burn showing that the distillery is failing to take action to improve the situation. The high temperatures have a negative effect on fish within the burn. The Chairman of the FDSFB wrote to the distillery to highlight the issue and a meeting has been arranged and it is hoped the distillery will take the Board's concerns into consideration. | <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>RL</p> <p>AR</p> |
| 6 | <p>Board Membership</p> <p>ML outlined the more significant role which the Board have, with a larger remit than ever, to care and manage the three rivers catchment and it was agreed that the Board should continue to meet three times a year. A steering group has been set up to spearhead the Findhorn Watershed Initiative with ML, Andrew Wallace, AL and RD from the Board.</p> <p>ML suggested that the Board would benefit from someone from the Upper catchment with knowledge of the river and also someone who has knowledge in finance, particularly with government contracts or project management. A few people were suggested who might be interested in joining the Board and these people will be approached directly.</p> | <p>ML/CD/ RD</p> |
| 7 | <p>Findhorn Watershed Initiative</p> <p>The Trust has received a substantial grant of £970k from the Just Transition Fund towards the Findhorn Watershed Initiative. RL and EA have been working towards putting together a budget and finalising job descriptions. AL has been doing a lot of groundwork with local landowners to start the conversation about participation in the Initiative and the reception has been positive. ML congratulated RL and EA and the steering group for their efforts in achieving this momentous funding award.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>AOCB</p> | |

RESEARCH

RESTORE

EDUCATE

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| | A number of members have enquired about whether the Trust could hold hybrid meetings to allow attendance remotely when unable to attend in person. The Long Room does not currently have the facilities to host hybrid meetings, but it was agreed that a solution would be worth pursuing to make meetings as inclusive as possible. Andrew Wallace has offered to provide contact details for someone at the Fishmongers Guild who may be able to advise the best way to achieve this. | AW |
| 9 | Dates of 2023 Meetings March Board Meeting tbc, August Board Meeting tbc, November 27 th 2023 AGM | |

ML closed the meeting at 19:30.