



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

Held at Pitgaveny.

Tuesday 25th March 2024 at 3pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair) (CD), John Fielding (JF), Tomas Christie (TC), Poppy Houldsworth (PH), Tim Atkinson (TA).

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

	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies: CD opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Mark Laing and Bill Fraser. CW informed the Board that Fred Rhind had stepped down from the LDSFB. CD acknowledged the service and contribution Fred had made to the Board and asked CW to draft a letter of thanks.</p>	CW
2.	<p>Minutes of the Meeting of Qualified Proprietors held on 21st November 2023 Minutes were approved. CW to publish on the FNLRT website.</p>	CW
3.	<p>Matters arising not on the agenda The LDSFB accounts for 2022-2023 have been signed and sent to Scot Gov. The Clashgour Water monitoring plan is now up and running in collaboration with The Hutton Institute. Dallas substation works have finished but some material has since slipped, they plan to return to remedy.</p>	
4.	<p>Financial <i>Budget Update</i> - CW provided an up to date cashflow. <i>Change to Bank Signatories</i> – CW and TA will submit another mandate request to have TA added to the banking mandate after the first one was unable to be actioned by RBS. TC raised the issues of increasing assessment levies which prompted the Board to hold an in depth and constructive discussion on how the LDSFB could improve its financial position without the continued reliance on the assessment levy – it is acknowledged that the LDSFB cannot cover its operational costs without increasing the levy, however, the Board also acknowledges that this is not financially sustainable for both proprietors and local angling associations and another solution needs to be explored. The following points and actions were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dallas AA are currently looking into using Fishpal to sell fishing tickets, other AAs have seen an increase in ticket sales once they have started using Fishpal - There may be an opportunity for the DAA to get funding through Moray Council’s Health and Wellbeing fund. - RL has made enquiries with FMS for whether there is any help available for grade 3 rivers and FMS have confirmed that there is not. The Board agreed that it is important that Scottish Ministers recognise the difficult position of DSFB’s and that RL should draft a letter to ministers outlining this position. 	CW/TA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several Board members are aware of potential funding but the way that the DSFBs are set up is prohibitive when it comes to direct applications. The DSFBs do not have a constitution or charitable status, and this makes seeking funding difficult. CW will contact FMS for advice. - The FNLRT could be a vehicle to channel funding to the DSFBs but this must meet with charity legislation around grant giving so thought must be given to how FNLRT can best support the LDSFB - CW will circulate the contact email for the Grampian Assessors office to proprietors so that they may contact them directly to discuss the ratable value of their salmon fishings. 	<p>RL</p> <p>CW</p> <p>CW</p>
5	<p>Year 2023 Report and Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEPS – eight sites were surveyed on the Lossie in 2023. There was a good distribution of salmon and trout and an upturn in eel numbers. There will be no NEPS in 2024; it is possible that they will go to a two yearly rotation. A general survey of the Lossie will be carried out in 2024. - Fish Counter – RL visited the Deveron to have a look at their fish counter set up. There is a good site on the lower Lossie but the costs of setting up a counter are prohibitive – it is about £100k to set up and then there are ongoing staff costs for monitoring it to consider. - INNS – The 2023 season was very successful. Kellas was tackled hard and the spray tank from the estate made a big impact on the areas able to be covered. INNS at Bogside are beginning to reach management levels for Giant Hogweed. Contact is being made with more farmers and Elise is working on getting landowner agreements in place for when the SISI project concludes. Funding was awarded by Moray Council last year but a decision on this year’s funding is still outstanding. RL thanked Elise Cox for all her hard work on the SISI project last year. - Schools go to Fish – Mosstowie and Dallas schools are both keen to engage in the program. RL is still awaiting confirmation from Alves. <p>TC asked whether new legislation introduced regarding animal traps will affect the SISI project. RL confirmed that it would not; all the SISI mink traps are live traps checked every 24 hours so fall out with the new legislation.</p>	
6	<p>Proposals for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INNS – the SISI project will continue through next year and tenders have been issued to contractors. - Fish Survey – a general electrofishing survey of the Lossie will be carried out in 2024. 	
7	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complaints Procedure – It was agreed to defer the review of the LDSFB Complaints Procedure until the next Board meeting so that 	

	<p>representatives of the EAA can have input. CW to add it to the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triennial Elections – It was agreed to hold triennial elections at the June Board Meeting. CW to arrange. - Archived paperwork – TC asked whether the FNLRT had any historical records from the LDSFB in its possession. RL said there were a few old records, but he was unsure of the content. RL will have a look at what the FNLRT have in storage. 	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>RL</p>
8	<p>Dates of 2024 Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25th June 3pm, Board Meeting and Triennial Elections - 26th November 3pm, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 	

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