



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held at Pitgaveny.

Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 5:30pm.

Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair) (CD), Poppy Houldsworth (PH), Tomas Christie (TC).

In attendance Clare Walker,(Minutes) (CW), Elle Adams (EA), Roy Russel (RR).

	Item	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies: CD opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from John Fielding, Mark Laing, Tim Atkinson and Ollie Smaje. Willie Fraser has resigned from the Board. The Elgin AA committee are still to nominate a new representative.	
2.	Minutes of the Meeting of APM (AGM) held on 18th March 2025 Minutes were approved. CW to publish on the FNLRT website.	CW
3.	Matters arising not on the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elgin AA hope to be able to engage with the Lossie Community Development Trust after the season, once the committee has had a chance to reform and appoint office bearers. - CW has raised the issues with the current DSFB funding model with FMS and Scottish Government through the FMS annual conference and DSFB annual survey. - CW drafted an organisational structure chart and included it in the Board papers. RR thanked CW and confirmed this would be useful to illustrate to Elgin AA members the relationships between the various fishery management stakeholders. - RR corrected CW on the development of a hatchery paper to focus on restocking with bought in sea Trout smolts and Parr. CW and OS will look into this further and will put forward an impact report looking at the feasibility of such a project. 	CW/OS
4.	Financial <i>Budget Update</i> CW highlighted some items of expenditure that have come in slightly over budget. The budget currently suggests a very small deficit at year end. CD will be meeting with Innes Estate shortly and will discuss the outstanding assessment. <i>Fundraising Update</i> CD is waiting for some further responses from potential collaborators on a river based fundraising event. CD passed on details of the Moray Local Action Plan funding to RR for consideration by the Elgin AA for potential funding. A meeting with Alasdair Kennedy or tsiMoray could help with drafting any funding bids. CW raised some difficulties with the roving ticket premise, after feedback from Dallas and the Dallas AA, some more detail on how the ticket might be developed is needed before proprietors can make an informed decision	CD

	about involvement. CD will draft a paper to illustrate some of the ways the ticket could be administered.	CD
5	<p>2025 Season Update</p> <p><i>Bailiffing</i> Patrols on the Lossie were carried out by the FDSFB Bailiffs during May and June.</p> <p><i>Catchment Developments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dalcour Maclaren have been in touch on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) with regards to crossing the river Lossie to facilitate 2x new transmission connections. The works have now been delayed until Feb 2026, but FNLRT will be carrying out habitat surveys this year, prior to work commencing, and fish rescues next year as required. OS will be monitoring their plans closely to ensure that spawning fish are not disturbed. - Consultation responses have been submitted for Kellas Drum Windfarm. - FNRLT will be carrying out monitoring for Paul's Hill windfarm in partnership with the Spey DSFB. A very small part of the development falls within the Lossie catchment. - Comments have been submitted to Dallas Estate as part of their Long-Term Forestry Plan stakeholder engagement process; positive feedback was received from the estate's agent TreeStory about the potential for incorporating riparian projects. <p><i>Director's Report</i> FNLRT received funding from Heldon Community Council prior to covid in 2019 for delivery of the 'Schools Go To Fish' program to three local primary schools. The project was finished in May, culminating in a day for each primary school at Kellas Trout Fishery where the children took part in fly fishing and invertebrate hunts. The program was delivered by OS with assistance from the FDSFB bailiffs and other volunteers. TC has heard positive feedback from the local primary schools; the children all appear to have had a great time. RR suggested that working with larger schools such as Elgin Academy would also be worthwhile. EA confirmed that it is likely that further schools' programs facilitated by FNLRT will focus on the ecology of the river/fishery.</p> <p>EA will be attending the upcoming Moray Farm Cluster meeting representing FNLRT.</p> <p><i>INNS</i> John Fielding had submitted a report of Skunk Cabbage encroaching on the burn downstream of Dallas Pond to CW who has passed this on to Elise Cox, the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative Project Officer. PH confirmed the reports and raised concerns about the potential for spread into the Lossie. Bob Laughton has carried out some control in previous years, CW will discuss with OS and Elise Cox whether there is scope to carry out some control this season.</p>	CW

	<p>TC reported that the Giant Hogweed control carried out by one of our sub-contractors at Brokentore, earlier in the year seems to have been effective with some first-year plants visible.</p> <p>There is an area of dense Hogweed above Cloddach Bridge and TC asked whether there are issues with carrying out control on this area, as there may be accessibility concerns. CW will discuss with Elise Cox and update the Board. TC suggested that, if funding is confirmed for repairs to Cloddach Bridge, there is precedent for the Council to carrying out a control program in the lead up to major works to improve Health & Safety conditions prior to work commencing.</p> <p>TC also reported a small infestation of Giant Hogweed on the Black Burn and raised concerns that it could be a seed source for feeding into the river Lossie. CW will confirm what control plans there is for the Black Burn and update the Board.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p>
6	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RR asked whether there had been any reports of diseased fish on the Lossie, CW confirmed that no reports had been received so far. - CD made the Board aware that he was informed at a Heritor's meeting earlier in the day that the Clerk has received permission from SEPA to dig out the outlet valve on the Spynie Canal so that it can be inspected. He is not clear on where the silt will be put after the works are complete. - CD has established that the Kirkhill Bridge was originally installed by the Parish which has now been absorbed into another Parish and the church is closed. Repairs to the bridge are unable to be carried out without establishing ownership. 	
8	<p>Dates of 2025 Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25th November 5:30pm, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 	

With no further business CD closed the meeting at 18:45