



RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD
Minutes of Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors
 Held at Pitgaveny.
 Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 5:30pm.

Present

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

In attendance Clare Walker, (Minutes) (CW), Elle Adams (EA), Ollie Smaje (OS), Roy Russel (RR), Willie Fraser (WF), Alex Dunbar (AD), Chris Gordon, Colin Paton (CP), John Ross Dingwall.

	Item	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies: CD opened the meeting by outlining the purpose, responsibilities and key duties of the LDSFB and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from John Fielding, Tim Atkinson and Rebecca Russell.	
2.	Minutes of the Meeting of Board meeting on 24th June 2025 Minutes were approved. CW to publish on the FNLRT website.	CW
	<p>CW asked whether WF planned to stand for appointment to the LDSFB, having resigned at the previous Board meeting.</p> <p>WF and RR confirmed that at the recent Elgin Angling Association AGM, the membership decided not to appoint a representative to the LDSFB and had voted to divest from the Board entirely citing that they objected to payment of the assessment and the way the way those funds were subsequently utilised by the LDSFB. There was also objection to the LDSFB's approval of 100% catch and release for salmon and sea trout.</p> <p>WF and RR left the meeting at 5:50pm.</p> <p>CD agreed to draft a letter to the Elgin AA to remind them of their legal obligation to abide by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (Scotland) 2003.</p>	CD
3.	Matters arising not on the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following reports of skunk cabbage encroaching on the Lossie, CW confirmed plans to survey this extent of the infestation early next year. PH asked whether the SISI project would be involved in control – CW confirmed that the SISI project does not currently have the capacity to expend to cover skunk cabbage in the Lossie catchment. 	
4.	Financial <i>Approval of Draft Accounts</i> The accounts for financial year September 2024 to August 2025 were approved. <i>Assessment and budget for 2025-2026</i> The draft budget shows a small deficit, and it was acknowledged that the current funding model for DSFBs is not sustainable in the long term. CW confirmed that this has raised with FMS and they are aware of this issue.	

	<p>CD asked whether R. Russell was entered into the valuation role and CW agreed to check. The draft budget was approved and the Board agreed to keep the assessment the same at £1.20 in the £.</p> <p>CD suggested the Coastal Communities Fund might be a potential avenue for funding.</p>	CW
5	<p>2025 Season Update</p> <p>Director's Report</p> <p><i>Bailiffing</i> Patrols on the Lossie were carried out throughout the season. Windfallen trees at Cooper Park were reported and checked for obstruction of fish passage, these did not present a fish passage issue but have nonetheless less now been removed by Moray Council.</p> <p><i>Funding Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FNLRT has received a grant from Riverwoods to explore riparian woodland restoration opportunities along the Lossie and Nairn rivers. Riparian woodland helps to shade the river, lowering water temperatures, to make it more hospitable to salmon and trout. Any proprietors interested in exploring opportunities should please get in touch with EA. - EA represented FNLRT at a recent Moray Council Nature Networks meeting, which aspires to connect habitats across Moray, and an exhibition by the Moray Farm Cluster. - EA is assisting Moray Council to draft a bid to the Just Transition Fund for climate-based projects, aiming to replicate the Findhorn Watershed Initiative across Moray, including the Lossie catchment. <p><i>INNS</i> – The SISI partnership project has secured funding for a further two years, including provision for a seasonal post. Two American mink have been caught on the Lossie so far this year. All control targets met on the Lossie this year. Area above Cloddach bridge underwent extensive Giant Hogweed control, and Elise Cox is currently attempting to contact the landowners on the left bank so that control can begin there. The infestation on the Black Burn is unable to be tackled until the control area is moved further downstream, this should come with time and further resources.</p> <p>TC flagged a large area of Japanese Knotweed in a gorge section at Brokentore which is not very accessible and reported Himalayan Balsam present at Brokentore. CW will pass these reports on to Elise Cox.</p> <p><i>Catch Data</i> – OS asked how catch data was usually collected on the Lossie, CW confirmed that the Angling Associations submitted their catch returns to either the Director (in previous years) or the Administrator and this information is also available through the Marine Directorate.</p> <p>Catchment Developments</p>	CW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OS is in contact with Scottish Water to review the proposed method statement for the exchange of an overflow outlet into the Lossie. - An objection was submitted regarding Chivas Brothers Ltd's Miltonduff distillery planning application for increase in water abstraction on the basis of its potential to impact water temperatures. They have applied for a CAR licence which should contain a lot more information on environmental impact - Chivas Brothers Ltd are planning to install a series of small weirs at Longmorn, this should improve fish passage. - A response has been submitted regarding the Beauly to Peterhead overhead transmission line. - Clashgour Windfarm construction has been delayed until late 2026, this could mean that the current water monitoring program is temporarily paused. - SSEN's Elgin to Speyslaw development has been delayed until next year – OS will engage with the developers and ensure that a fish rescue is carried out if any dewatering of the channel is required. - OS plans to pre-emptively apply for a license to transport fish at Cloddach bridge in low water for next season. 	
6	<p>Conservation Code for 2026</p> <p>Due to the increased prevalence of disease on other nearby rivers and the matter of it being best practice, the LDSFB agree to add a section of the conservation code to include advice on biosecurity measures. CW will amend and circulate for approval via email.</p>	CW
7	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AD and CP asked whether there are public liability implications for proprietors where Giant Hogweed is found, particularly on accessible areas of the river. CW will look into this and update the Board. - CD asked OS if he knew how much water Scottish Water are taking from Glenlatterach in a drought year. OS confirmed that he is attending SEPA's National Engagement Forum meeting next week and there is an item on the agenda to discuss how river levels are managed within the catchment. OS will update the Board with any information gained. TC mentioned that he had walked the Latterach Burn and noted that it had a reasonable amount of water in it. 	CW OS
8	<p>Date of 2026 Meetings</p> <p>March 2026 (APM) – Tuesday 25th March at 5:30pm June Board Meeting – Tuesday 23rd June at 5:30pm November AMQP – Tuesday 25th November at 5:30pm</p>	

With no further business CD closed the meeting at 6:55pm.

