

MINUTES
of the Meetings of the
River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday 21st October 2015 at 5.30pm

(A) Triennial Elections

Present

1. Resignation of Existing Members – S47(1)

All members of the existing Board duly resigned.

2. Election of Members from amongst upper proprietors – Schedule 1 Para 3 (1) (a)

The upper proprietors present were as follows:-

Dougal Evans – Mandatory for Galloway Estate and Glentrool Estate (2 votes)
Terence Flanagan
Gene Fryatt – Mandatory for Peter Jones
John Galloway – Representative of NSDAA and mandatory for Simon Redman and John Scott (3 votes)
Jamie Hyslop
Iain Service

All the above were duly proposed and seconded by others among their number. There was no opposition to the appointment of any of them.

In addition Tom Kenyon and Steve Smith (in his capacity as mandatory for Lord Crampton) were elected.

3. Election of Members from amongst lower proprietors – Schedule 1 Para 3 (1) (b)

The lower proprietors present were:-

Jim Davidson – Mandatory for Lynne Rae
Norman J Macintosh – NSDAA
Lindsay McKain

Each of these persons were proposed and seconded by the other two and they were duly elected as members of the Board. There was, likewise, no opposition to their appointment.

4. Co-option of Representatives of Salmon Anglers and Tenant Netsman – Schedule 1 Para 5 (2)

It was agreed that Duncan Baillie, Murdo Crosbie and George McShane should be co-opted as representatives of Salmon Anglers. There were no known tenant netsman on the River.

5. Election of Convenor (Chairman) – Schedule 1 Para 5 (3)

Mr Flanagan was duly proposed by John Galloway and seconded by Gene Fryatt and was duly elected to serve as Chairman. He indicated his willingness to continue to be Chairman.

The quorum for Board meetings was fixed at six. New members of the Board were asked to complete declarations of interest forms and pass them to the Clerk.

B – Board Meeting

Present

(A) Board Members

Terence Flanagan – Chairman
Duncan Baillie
Murdo Crosbie
Jim Davidson
Dougal Evans
Gene Fryatt
John Galloway
Jamie Hyslop
Norman Macintosh
Lindsay McKain
Iain Service

(b) Attendees

Billy McHarg (Treasurer)
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from George McShane, Jamie Ribbens and Steve Smith.

2. Minutes of Meetings of 9th September 2015 and 15th July 2015

These were duly approved without demur apart from the misspelling of Gene Fryatt for which the Clerk apologised.

3. Matters Arising not specifically on the Agenda

There were no such matters.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman indicated that he had nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr McHarg said that levy notices had gone out in July 2015 and there was now still some £6,000 out of the £17,000 sought, outstanding.

6. GFT Report

In the absence of Jamie Ribbens there was no report given.

7. RCHHT Report

Mr Crosbie indicated that they were still working on the upper Penkiln Burn and would be expecting to do this until April 2016.

8. Wild Fisheries Reform Including Response to Licensed Consultation (to be separately circulated by the Chairman)

There was considerable discussion on this issue. The Chairman opened by saying that the Scottish Government wanted Boards to tell them what specific geographical area the new FMO's should cover.

The Chairman reminded the Board that, by a majority of one, the Board had voted for the relevant FMO for the Cree to include all the Solway Rivers and not just the Galloway Rivers from the Luce to the Urr. The majority view was that this was the only viable option given that an FMO just consisting of the six Galloway Rivers would not be viable. The turnover for those Rivers was in the region of £33,000 of which the Cree's contribution was £17,000. It was by far the biggest contributor of the six. No figures were available for two of the six Galloway Rivers and thus the figure of £33,000 was little more than an educated estimate. The Nith's income was £230,000 and the Annan £133,000 and thus these two Rivers were giants by comparison. There were also Trusts which added £135,000 to the East Solway Rivers. Some members thought that it would not be unreasonable to expect the Galloway Rivers to benefit from the extra income and influence provided by the Nith and the Annan.

The Chairman reported on a meeting held earlier that week to discuss the FMO area. Those present had been Mary Nicholson, Dougal Evans, Andrew Wallace, (RAFTS) Alasdair Laing (ASFB) John Galloway and himself. It was recognised that there were personality issues as well as management ones. Andrew Wallace emphasised that the criteria for what an FMO should comprise was not common interest or shared problems. Thus the fact that the Galloway Rivers were affected by Forestry and acidity whereas the Nith and Annan were not, would not be a reason for having a different FMO for the Galloway Rivers. There were various possibilities one of which was there should be an FMO for the Galloway Rivers and the Ayrshire Rivers and the Clyde might be included in that.

Alasdair Laing said that a proposed north eastern FMO would include the Findhorn, the Nairn, the Lossie and the Spey. One criterion that would be relevant would be the local authority areas and the fact that it would be desirable to have all salmon rivers within a local authority area in one FMO.

It was confirmed that an FMO would deal with all types of fishing including coarse fisheries.

The Chairman said that the Galloway Fisheries Trust wanted to know as soon as possible what the attitude of the Cree Board was going to be as regards the geographical area of the FMO which would include the Cree. The matter was put to a vote and the Board decided by a majority of 9 to 4 that it would favour an FMO consisting of all the Solway rivers, from the Luce to the Annan.

There was also generally a feeling that the ASFB was being too strongly influenced by RAFTS and was not expressing an independent view based on the wishes of its members.

The Chairman reported on a paper received from ASFB detailing that FMO's would have to have a management plan and would have professionally trained staff who would have to undergo CPD and meet other tests of proficiency. Each FMO would decide what level of training was required. The Board authorised the Chairman to state to ASFB that the question of training and CPD should be deferred until FMO's were set up or at least in a more advanced state of formulation.

The Board then went on to consider the Licensed Killing Consultation. The Board approved the proposed draft response which had been circulated, subject to the Chairman obtaining some

scientific input from Jamie Ribbens. Mr Crosbie observed that it should be noted that approximately 2% of the fish killed on the River Cree were caught by rod and line. It was generally accepted that the vast majority of rod-caught fish caught were immediately returned to the River. The data presented for numbers of fish in the river was inaccurate.

The Chairman said that he would keep the Board informed of any developments.

9. Review of the Board's Conservation Code

The Chairman suggested that this should be put back to the AGM. This was agreed.

10. Confirmation of funding for RCHHT

There was some discussion upon this and following a vote it was agreed to continue funding for the RCHHT at its present rate of £4,500 per annum for a further four years.

11. AOCB

There was none.

12. Date of Next Meeting

There was some discussion as to whether there should be a meeting in December or January or whether the next meeting could take place thereafter in February when in fact the Chairman would be away but which could nevertheless take place in his absence. The matter was left to be decided at the AGM.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm.

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Chairman

