

MINUTES  
of the Meeting of the  
River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board  
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart  
On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 at 5.30pm

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Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatorys

Terence Flanagan in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie  
Jim Davidson  
Dougal Evans  
Gene Fryatt  
Jock Galloway  
Johnny Johnstone  
Tom Kenyon  
George McShane  
Iain Service  
Steve Smith

(B) Attendees

Billy McHarg (Treasurer)  
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

(B) Members of the Public

Mark McKie

(1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Duncan Baillie and Jamie Ribbens.

(2) Minutes of the Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

These were approved without demur.

(3) Minutes of AGM and APM

These were approved without demur.

(4) Matters arising from Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

The Chairman reported that he had duly voted for Alister Jack to FMS and he had been duly elected.

The Chairman asked Gene Fryatt about the continuing dialogue between herself and Peter Jones on the one hand and Callum Sinclair on the other. There were difficulties with stocking the Palnure Burn and electro fishing data would be required if the Board was to make the case for stocking the burn again. She felt that both she and Peter Jones would like to continue discussing matters with Callum Sinclair. This was agreed.

#### (5) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that a licence for the shooting of a limited number of cormorants and goosanders had been renewed but while the numbers were limited, this would create the positive effect on the other birds who would be kept on the move. Murdo Crosbie mentioned that the North Esk had been successful in increasing the number of birds on the licence from 2 to 42 (or thereabouts) and felt that this could be justified if a daily record was kept of the number of birds spotted on the river.

The Chairman had received from Marine Scotland details of recent individual catch returns for the district. Progress was being made on analysing the data but there were issues of data protection.

The Chairman said that he had invited by FMS to respond to a consultation on beavers. He would complete this by saying that there was no desire by the Cree Board to welcome any reintroduction of beavers. This was agreed.

The Chairman said that Marine Scotland had advised that there would have to be a risk assessment for any capture of broodstock for hatchery purposes. This might create a somewhat onerous obligation on hatcheries.

On a brighter note the Chairman said that the salmon season was just around the corner and RCHHT was ready to award its trophy for the first verified salmon caught.

In answer to a question about the Conservation Code and the observation by Steve Smith that there appeared to be people who did not realise there was a Conservation Code, the Chairman said that he could always provide a copy of the Code for anyone who was unaware of its existence.

#### (6) Treasurer's Report

Billy McHarg said that there were six outstanding levies due amounting to £472. Simon Redman was disputing what was due because he claimed not to own the salmon fishings. It was agreed that this should be checked by reference to his Land Certificate. Mr McHarg undertook to obtain a copy. The other main non payer were the Crown Estates but they usually paid and he did not foresee any fundamental problem, the difficulty being that he could never speak to the same person at the Crown Estates Office.

Mr McHarg said he was having some difficulty with the Bank of Scotland who had been unwilling to accept the Fishery Board Account as at 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. He suggested that the Royal Bank of Scotland be approached. This was agreed.

#### (7) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie circulated his report at the meeting and this included photographs of the Kirriemore Burn before and after the work carried out as mentioned in his report.

In answer to a question from Steve Smith, Mr Crosbie said that oak trees would not be suitable because they were too tall and the only trees that would really survive on such poor ground were those mentioned in the report namely alder, downy birch and aspen.

#### (8) Wild Fisheries Review

The Chairman was delighted to be able to say that the Scottish Government had now abandoned their plans to abolish Fishery Boards and introduce FMO's. They had issued a Press Release to this effect. However there was still in prospect a Wild Fisheries Bill though, as yet, no real indication of what was going to be contained in it. There would be some consultation. Generally the Press Release was unspecific about what was going to happen and when. The Chairman indicated that he felt that the Cree's position on the amalgamation of RAFTS and ASFB into FMS had been vindicated in that he had been the only person at the meeting (when this was discussed) to have suggested that the amalgamation was premature given that FMO's were not yet in existence.

So far as continuing meetings with other local Chairmen was concerned, two other local Chairmen had thought that it would be desirable to have continuing meetings. The Chairman felt that this might be a little pointless in view of the fact that there was not going to be any amalgamation of Boards in the foreseeable future. It was agreed that this could be further considered at a subsequent meeting.

In answer to a question from Jamie Hyslop as to whether FMS represented other fisheries apart from Salmon Fisheries the Chairman said that FMS represented only two organisations namely DFSB's and Fisheries Trusts. It did not represent coarse fisheries or other individuals or bodies.

#### 9. Funding for GFT

At the suggestion of the Chairman, Steve Smith was asked to speak to his motion. He was at first hesitant about renewing it but then suggested that as GFT had undoubtedly let down and failed to properly represent the Cree Board there should be a financial penalty and again with some hesitation suggested that the amount of that financial penalty should be half the annual donation. That would amount to £4,600.

This was strongly opposed by Dougal Evans. He described the motion as completely ridiculous and well over the top. There was no grounds for suggesting that GFT had intentionally misrepresented the Fishery Board's position on FMO's but now that FMO's were no longer going to happen the proposition that GFT had done anything wrong was even more outrageous.

Iain Service felt that as there had been an apology given, that this should now be regarded as water under the bridge and the suspension lifted.

As there was no seconder to Steve Smith's motion the motion dropped.

Dougal Evans proposed that the donation should be reinstated in full. This was seconded by Tom Kenyon. It was supported by most of the other members of the Board. There was no opposition. Accordingly the suspension was lifted. Mr McHarg explained that of the £9,200 due for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March £4,600 had already been paid and so he would arrange for the remaining £4,600 to be paid forthwith.

Jamie Ribbens had circulated to Board members details of GFT works on the catchment in the current financial year. The Chairman said that future funding for GFT could be considered at a future meeting.

(10) River Management Plan

The Chairman said that he thought that it would be better to defer consideration of the River Management plan to the next meeting. Most people had received Jamie Ribbens's email only very recently and there had not been time to fully digest this let alone discuss it in the context of the River Management Plan. This was agreed. The question of RCHHT funding would also be discussed at the next meeting.

(11) AOCB

The Clerk mentioned that he had received an email about fin clipping. This was passed to Murdo Crosbie and he agreed to respond to it and deal with it.

Mr Evans brought the Board up to date with the situation on the upper Minnoch. The fishing that had previously been leased to the Forestry Commission had been taken back in hand by Glentool Estates and would not be fished in future. He said that Lord Grantchester would be in the area in March and he would arrange a meeting with him and members of the Board.

(12) Date of Next Meeting

This would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 5.30pm.

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

*A. Flanagan*

*Chairman*

*18/5/17*