

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held by Zoom
On Thursday January 21 2021 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatorys

Norrie McIntosh – in the Chair
Jim Davidson
Terence Flanagan
Gene Fryatt
John Galloway
Jamie Hyslop
George McShane
Iain Service
Steve Smith

(B) Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Jamie Ribbens

(2) Request made for an increase in the donation to the RCHHT of £3,000 under Section 46(6) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003

Declarations of Conflict of Interest had been received from Terence Flanagan and Murdo Crosbie. Nominations had been requested by the Clerk for another member to chair the meeting and such nominations had been received for Norrie McIntosh. No other nominations had been proposed. Mr McIntosh asked whether his nomination was acceptable to all who were attending. There being no dissenting voices, he was confirmed as Chairman for the meeting.

Mr McIntosh said that John Galloway would be voting on the Request (hereinafter referred to as "the Motion") on behalf of NSAA and that he (Mr McIntosh), therefore, would not be voting himself. The Chairman asked the Clerk to confirm that notice of the meeting, and the Motion to be considered at it, had been duly notified to all members. The Clerk confirmed that this had been done and in addition the Notice of the meeting and the Motion had been put on the website.

The Chairman asked the proposer and seconder of the Motion to address the meeting thereon. Both said that the Motion together with the additional information that had been provided about the RCHHT, as had been requested by the Clerk, was sufficient and while they would both be prepared to answer any questions on it, there was nothing further they wished to say at this point.

The Chairman then asked whether there were any amendments that anyone wished to propose. Matthew Pumphrey said that he had been contacted by Gene Fryatt prior to the meeting to express her view. This was that the extra £3,000 should be granted for this year but should not be a recurring commitment as RCDSFB did not have enough surplus income in the year to afford such a commitment, year on. Further RCHHT were not in financial straits and did not need the money each

year. Jim Davidson seconded Gene Fryatt's amendment. He mentioned figures which showed that RCHHT had more capital and more income than RCDSFB and did not require additional funding. Specifically, at the end of the 2020 financial year RCHHT had cash at bank of some of some £13,000 and during that year had acquired a capital asset for some £11,000. On a point of information Mr Flanagan said that Mr Davidson's figures were misleading. The cash at bank would not have funded the ongoing operation of the charity for more than six months and the capital expenditure had been on the laying of a pipeline for a gravity-fed water supply for the hatchery. It was not an asset that could be disposed of. Mr Hyslop said that the Motion envisaged the possibility of an insufficiency of surplus income for any ongoing commitment by specifically providing for a review if circumstances changed. The Chairman asked whether a review would be mandatory and explained that the difference between the Motion in its unamended form to its amended form seemed to be that, in its unamended form, a review could be requested but would not be mandatory whereas the amendment would mean that the annual contribution would have to be considered each year. Mr Hyslop replied that a review would not be automatic but could be requested. He reminded members that, in the past, where the Board needed more money, there had been an increase in the levy. In these circumstances and with this explanation, the amendment was not carried for want of insistence.

The Chairman asked for other views. Iain Service spoke in favour of the Motion and referred to the contribution made to the river by the Hatchery and that there was scope for increasing the number of fish particularly in the High Cree.

The Chairman put the Motion to a vote. The Motion was supported by Gene Fryatt*, John Galloway, Jamie Hyslop, Iain Service and Steve Smith. It was opposed by Jim Davidson. It was accordingly carried by majority.

The meeting ended at 6.05 pm

***Note**

By reason of her poor broadband speed, Gene Fryatt was not aware that the vote was on the Motion. She had thought that she was voting in favour of her proposed amendment.