

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting

of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board

Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart

On Wednesday, May 4th, 2022 at 6.00pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie

Rory Crosbie

Jim Davidson

Terence Flanagan

Gene Fryatt

Iain Service

Steve Smith

(B) Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Norrie McIntosh & Jamie Ribbens

(2) Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 9th February 2022

Terence, while not at the previous meeting, made three observations on them following which it was agreed that three changes should be made. This was agreed and accordingly the changes were made in manuscript. Subject to these changes, the Minutes were proposed by Gene and seconded by Murdo.

(3) Matters arising

Following an email received from Terence about the River Management Plan (Item 10) Minutes), it was agreed that, as the 2017 Management Plan had been updated in 2019, the Chairman and Terence would agree a new Plan comprising the changes that had already been made and those that had been the subject of the discussion at the last meeting.

The Chairman said that, contrary to the Minutes, there had been an opening ceremony for the season which had been quite well attended. Refreshments had been provided.

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman had attended a somewhat unsatisfactory meeting on the Blackcraig Lead Mine and very little information had been forthcoming. There had been a geologist from JDH in attendance but he had declined to commit himself. Finlay Carson thought that the Company might well wish to pursue their interest. It seemed as if the results of the survey might be available but it did not seem as if anybody was sure of this. The Chairman spoke of the possible effects on the Palnure Burn and thence the Cree as a whole.

The Chairman had attended, along with Murdo, a zoom meeting on the possible co-ordination of hatcheries in Scotland. While the meeting had been a good one, there was a danger that the momentum which had been built up, needed to be maintained. Murdo thought that the co-ordinator (Nigel Pearson) had seemed to have lost interest

(5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the predictions mentioned in the interim account produced in November 2021 had turned out to have been correct and unaffected by anything unusual or unpredictable. The paperwork for the account for 2021-2022 were with Montpelier.

(6) GFT Report

- Jamie Ribbens had sent an email to the Chairman with his report and this was read out in full by the Chairman.
- Terence asked **if the results of any survey or measurement/sampling work can be shared with the Board**

(7) RCHHT Report

Murdo spoke about the habitat works that had been done on the **Shalloch Burn**. **A significant amount of regen Conifers have been cut and native trees planted. However, there is still further work to be done on this burn.**

The smolt shepherding by scaring and in some cases shooting of fish-eating birds carried out under license has been successful.

(8) Blackcraig Lead Mine

While the Board would not be at the forefront of this, it was agreed that the matter was of potential concern to the river – for the reasons already mentioned – and the position would be monitored

(9) Service provided by GFT

Given that both the Board and GFT had now agreed that the only work which GFT would do for the Board would be to produce the Stocking document and the electrofishing underpinning it by 14th August it was felt that all payments to GFT should immediately cease and should only be resumed if (and only if) the timescale was strictly observed. If the Stocking document was produce on time and was satisfactory, then GFT should receive the balance of the full donation now agreed with them.

(10) Management Plan

Already discussed.

(11) Insurance

The Chairman said that he had obtained a quotation from a broker friend of his which would be £250 less than what the Board had been asked to pay this year. Unfortunately the broker concerned had not been in touch with the Treasurer and in the meantime the previous

insurers had issued their invoice and renewed the previous insurance. It was agreed that the Board should take out the new insurance.

Steve suggested that the £250 saved should be paid to Murdo as expenses. This was agreed.

(13) Any Other Business

Gene mentioned that she had seen an armchair in the river just downstream from the bridge.

Murdo said that he had occasion to ask someone to produce his written authority to fish and the fisherman said that he had such authority and had offered to go and get it but otherwise there had been no difficulties as anglers had appeared to have taken to heart the provisions of the Conservation Code to this effect.

Murdo raised the question of tag numbers for netsmen. **The chairman agreed to obtain the tag numbers from MSS**

(14) Date of next Meeting

6th July 2022

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

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Chairman