

## MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting  
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board  
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart  
On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 5.30 pm

### Present

#### (A) Board Members/Mandatory

Terence Flanagan – in the Chair  
Duncan Baillie  
Murdo Crosbie  
Jim Davidson  
John Galloway  
Jamie Hyslop  
Tom Kenyon  
Norrie McIntosh  
George McShane  
Iain Service  
Steve Smith

#### (B) Attendees

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)  
Jamie Ribbens (GFT)

#### (1) Apologies for Absence

There were none

#### (2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting (held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019) and AMP/APM

These were all approved without demur. The Chairman considered that the AMP/APM Minutes should be approved at this meeting as it was required that the Minutes should be published as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### (3) Matters arising from Previous Board Meeting Minutes

There were none except as otherwise appearing on the Agenda.

#### (4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman observed that members had received an incorrect version of the Agenda but the discrepancies were not such as to have justified his asking the Clerk to re-send it. He would, however be working from the corrected Agenda.

The number of rod-caught salmon and grilse caught in 2019 was now estimated at 356, well up on the 2018 figure. It was also greater than the estimated figure given to the AGM.

Mark Ashton of the Scottish Government's Consents Unit had, through the Clerk, notified the Board of a planning application for the proposed Clauchrie Windfarm. There were many documents to consider, including an Environmental Impact Assessment. Jamie Hyslop asked how they could come

to the conclusions they had reached on the impact of the proposed development on water courses affected. Jamie Ribbens replied that the only way to address the Board's and the Trust's concerns would be to object at the Planning Stage, and, while such objection would not prevent the Windfarm project continuing, it might at least restrict the potential damage to the river. The turbines would be about 200 metres high, so there would be a considerable visual impact. Also there would be many miles of new roads to be constructed. The Chairman proposed a sub-committee of Murdo Crosbie, Iain Service and himself to look into this further and make representations on behalf of the Board without further reference to other Board members. This was agreed.

#### (5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that he had had a meeting with Billy McHarg and had learnt that there was just about enough money coming in by way of subscription to pay all the expenses. Therefore, unless anything unexpected arose during the next year, there would be no need to raise the levy. He had received all the relevant paperwork from Mr McHarg but the Bank had been somewhat slow to respond with the request by Mr McHarg to change of signatories. Norrie McIntosh offered to become a third signatory on the account to allow for anything untoward happening to the two existing signatories. This was agreed.

#### (6) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens circulated two handouts: the first was in response to the request made at the September 2019 meeting for an update on the activities of the Trust as regards the Cree and the second was the River Cree Catchment Report. There was considerable discussion on some of the aspects of the two Reports particularly page 15 of the Catchment Report. Jamie Hyslop expressed the view that it would not be feasible to blame the watercourses for the decline in salmon numbers.

#### (7) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie circulated his Report. This dealt with the Hatchery, Forestry Project 2020, School visits (which had been slightly up on the previous year) and Fish-Eating Birds.

#### (8) River Management Plan

The Chairman had asked that this be circulated for information purposes only. There was no further comment.

#### (9) Review of Contribution to GFT.

The following declared their interest in the matter; the Chairman declared his interest as a trustee of RCHHT, Murdo Crosbie as an employee of RCHHT and Jim Davidson as a director of GFT. The members were content that the Chairman continued to convene this part of the meeting. There was a considerable amount of discussion on this but no conclusions were reached and no specific proposal was made. It was agreed that a concrete proposal for discussion at the next meeting should be put to the Chairman by those members who had raised the matter, within 21 days of this meeting, so that it could appear as a separate item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

#### (10) Fish-Eating Birds

The Chairman reported that he had applied to SNH for a licence to scare/shoot. As already mentioned under Item 7 (RCHHT Report) the bird count carried out in the autumn had revealed greater numbers of the birds than in previous years. The Chairman thanked Murdo Crosbie for his help in organising the bird count and with the application process.

#### (11) Conservation Code

The Chairman reported that he had circulated the Conservation Code to proprietors and requested that a copy of it should be given to all anglers fishing with their permission.

(12) AOCB


Steve Smith asked whether the Board should object to a planning application for a proposed fish farm off Arran. Murdo Crosbie said that the time limit for objections had passed.

Duncan Baillie mentioned a proposal to levy a surcharge on day ticket sales with a view to employing an additional bailiff. Although well intended, it was thought that the offer was impractical. The main difficulty would be in finding someone who was prepared to go through the training and pass his bailiff's exams. With regret, the Board thought the offer should not be pursued.

(13) Date of Next Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30 pm at The Belted Galloway

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

  
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Chairman