

MINUTES
of the Meeting of the
River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 5.30pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatory

Terence Flanagan – in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie
Jim Davidson
Jock Galloway
Jamie Hyslop
Tom Kenyon
Norrie McIntosh
George McShane
Iain Service

(B) Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Duncan Baillie, Billy McHarg, Jamie Ribbens and Steve Smith.

(2) Minutes of the Meeting of 6th September 2017

These were approved without demur.

(3) Matters arising from Minutes of 6th September 2017

Nothing that was not otherwise on the Agenda.

(4) Chairman's Report

Wild Fisheries Reform - he believed that FMS would try and revive WFR notwithstanding that the generally accepted view was that it was no longer on the Agenda. Our responses to various historical consultations would now be taken off the website.

Further application had been made for shooting fish-eating birds. The application had been made slightly earlier than it had been the previous year and so he hoped that the permission would be granted in the first week of February or as soon as possible thereafter. The Chairman was not contemplating refusal.

(5) Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report. The Chairman would be in touch with the Treasurer during the next week or so. In answer to a question about the Association's Appeal against its rate levy, Mr McIntosh said that this had still not been determined.

(6) Approval of APM/AGM Minutes

These were approved without demur.

(7) GFT Report

In the absence of Jamie Ribbens, the Chairman asked the Board to consider the email which had been sent to all Board members by Jamie Ribbens on 23rd January 2018. He did not propose to read it out.

On point 2 in the email (the Carrick Mill) Jamie Hyslop said that he wanted to see the representations made by GFT and wanted the Board to make representations as well. Iain Service was asked to assist in this but he said that he might have a conflict of interest. Accordingly a sub committee consisting of Jamie Ribbens, Murdo Crosbie and the Chairman would be convened to consider representations.

On point 5 (Angling Effort on the Bladnoch and Luce - Marine Scotland) the Board expressed the wish that Jamie Ribbens would make a presentation at a future Board meeting.

(8) RCHHT Report

Mr Crosbie produced a concise handout which was considered and approved by the Board.

(9) Matters Arising from AGM

In response to point (THREE) (b) the Chairman pointed out that the body involved in granting a licence to capture broodstock by methods that were otherwise illegal was not SNH but rather Marine Scotland, though they took notice of any objection raised by SNH. He said that there was no appeal process as such. He had approached Callum Sinclair of SNH with a view to stocking the Palnure but the latter was adamant that there was no justification for stocking. There seemed little point in any further discussion. It seemed that there were in fact few areas in the Palnure Burn which were suitable for stocking. Also, the 2011 and 2017 electro-fishing results varied over the various stretches of river surveyed and thus there could be no firm conclusion reached from those comparisons.

So far as the last sentence of (THREE) (b) was concerned the Chairman said that GFT had now produced the stocking results.

(10) Conservation Code

Murdo Crosbie proposed an alteration to the Conservation Code to allow only a single hook from a bladed spinner and that all fish over 10lb would be put back into the river regardless of sex. This motion was seconded by G McShane and was carried nem.con.

(11) Beaver Consultation

The Chairman spoke to extensive documentation including a Strategic Environmental Assessment which had been produced by the Scottish Government on this subject. It was agreed that he should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Board and object to the proposals.

(12) AOCB

Bailiffing on the River Cree. The Chairman reported that Andy Johnstone had retired as Bailiff. Jock Galloway also intimated that he would not be renewing his appointment. There was some discussion about Bailiffs' insurance and the appointment of "River Watchers". The Chairman noted that certain expenses payments were still due to Bailiffs and he very much regretted this. He would speak to the Treasurer as soon as he could regarding all the points raised. He would like to apologise for the non payment of expenses on behalf of the Board. The Board agreed.

Continued Membership of FMS. It was proposed that the Board should cease to be members of FMS with immediate effect. It was considered that they had "lost their way". The difficulty was that FMS were meant to be representing the interests of Boards and Fishery Trusts and those interests were not necessarily the same. The Chairman thought there was some merit in continuing membership, just to be kept informed of what was going on in the world of fisheries management. However, no other member agreed and it was accordingly resolved to discontinue membership.

(13) Date of next meeting

This would be held at 5.30 on Wednesday the 18th April at the Belted Galloway.

The meeting closed at 7pm.