

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday, April 19th at 5.30pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatorys

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair
Jim Davidson
Terence Flanagan
Gene Fryatt
Norrie McIntosh
Steve Smith

(B) Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Murdo Crosbie and Jamie Ribbens

(2) Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 18th January 2023

These were approved subject to a rewording, proposed by Terence Flanagan, of a part of the final paragraph, under "AOCB"

(3) Matters arising

None

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman confirmed that the return for the Pisciverous bird license had been completed and returned to NatureScot.

The Scottish Government had issued some proposals which might affect the Hatchery, but both the Chairman and Terence Flanagan felt that the purpose and effect of the proposals were at best unclear and it could not be said whether such purpose and effect would be positive or not. The Chairman concluded that it would be unlikely that they would affect anything that the Board would do on the Cree.

The Scottish Government had now, it seemed, abandoned any plans to make Catch and Release mandatory.

(5) Treasurer's Report

The bank balance was £8337.29 at year-end which resulted in a surplus for the year of £2222.89. The Treasurer said that the AVJB Assessor, whom he had previously dealt with, had now left and there seemed to be no-one who had taken over her position. He had, accordingly, phoned the AVJB and had eventually received a telephone message from someone called Gregor McLeod who had promised to

telephone again the next day (April 14th) but had not, nor had he or anyone else responded to an email which the Treasurer had sent that morning (April 19th) seeking a response before this meeting. This created a problem for the South Ayrshire levies as well, because the Treasurer did not know the new RVs for the six Ayrshire proprietors. Steve Smith said that he was aware that they had been increased, as the one he was responsible for, had gone up from £100 to £110. It appeared that all the Wigtownshire RVs had remained the same so levy notices could now be sent to all the Wigtownshire proprietors. In the researches that the Chairman had made on the Redmans' liability through the Land Registry, there was no mention of Salmon Fishings in the Redmans' title for Creeside Farm. However it had appeared that there was a stretch just south of the Arnimean Bridge which belonged to people called Lockey from Bournemouth who were not on the AVJB Roll notwithstanding that their title to the Fishings were registered in the Land Register with an Ayrshire code. It was agreed that the Treasurer should make every effort to secure contact with the AVJB to clarify these issues. Terence Flanagan pointed out that the Clerk had the right to inform the Assessor of the identity of any proprietor who should be on the Roll.

(6) Flood Defences

There was general dismay at the way this matter was being dealt with in that it appeared that there was insufficient detail available to enable representations against the proposed flood defences to be made. The Council's position was that until they got funding and they knew the scheme could go ahead they could not entertain any discussion with any interested parties albeit that a window of opportunity for such representations was promised for some time in May. The Chairman stressed that the NSAA would be particularly affected and the loss of amenity and fishing and the problems for access could result in a significant claim for compensation for the Association. The Chairman felt that the Board should seek to ensure that there would be minimum disruption to the fishing on the river and to ensure proper access both to and from the river at the relevant points.

(7) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had sent an email to say that he had no report to make to the Board for this meeting. There was some discussion on the template for the River Management Plan that he had obtained from Jamie Ribbens.

(8) RCHHT Report

In Murdo Crosbie's absence, Terence Flanagan gave a report covering the Hatchery, the planting of trees and the control of fish-eating birds. This covered the tanks and incubators for the different tributaries as well as the River itself. Steve Smith said that it was Murdo Crosbie's enthusiasm and energy which kept the Hatchery going.

(10) Date of next Meeting

19th July 2023 at 5.30pm

(11) AOCB

There was none

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line followed by a large, stylized flourish that loops back and ends in a sharp point.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm