

MINUTES

Of the Meeting of the

River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board

Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart

On Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Terence Flanagan - in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie

Jim Davidson

Gene Fryatt

Jock Galloway

Jamie Hyslop

Tom Kenyon

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(B) Attendees

Billy McHarg (Treasurer)

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

Jamie Ribbens (GFT)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Duncan Baillie, Norrie McIntosh and Steve Smith.

(2) Minutes of Meeting of 6th February 2019

As this meeting had not been quorate, the Board not only approved and ratified the Minutes of that meeting but also the decisions taken at that meeting, including approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 17th October 2018 and the AGM and APM on 19th November 2018, none of which could have been legally approved at the Board meeting on 6th February 2019 as there had not been a quorum to approve them.

(3) Matters arising from previous Minutes

There were no matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had applied for and obtained a licence to scare/shoot fish-eating birds. The licence period was for slightly longer than applied for, which was satisfying. Murdo Crosbie and Jamie (Hyslop) would be doing the shooting.

The first salmon of the season had been caught on the 8th March on the Galloway Estate water. Subsequently Jamie Hyslop and guests had caught other fish.

(5) Treasurer's Report

The four levies which had been mentioned in the previous Minutes, amounting to £2,512.50 in total, were still outstanding with £2,287.50 of this being due by Glentool Estates. Notwithstanding this, the Treasurer did not recommend any increase in the rate levy of 75p in the pound. He said that this recommendation was made on the basis that no-one on the Board knew or expected any unusually high expenditure that might have to be met in the next financial year (commencing 1st April 2019).

There was some discussion as to whether a time limit for payment should be imposed. It was agreed that the levy notices should state a long-stop date of 1st June 2019 for payment.

(6) Stocking Policy Document

There was some criticism expressed about the more negative comments in the document to which Jamie said that the document was intended to give, and in his view did give a balanced view. However there had been a lot of research into hatcheries and some of it was negative to which Murdo said that some positive things could have been said about hatcheries but had not been. The Chairman questioned some aspects of the science used. Jamie said that he had noted the points raised and promised to look at them.

(7) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens reported that:

(a) Dornal Forest Plan - GFT had responded to this replanting forest plan by the High Cree in 2017. The plan was now being drawn up and has responded to the concerns raised by GFT. Conifer replanting will move further away from water courses with more deciduous trees planted. The final plan will be available shortly.

(b) Carrick Mill Woodland Creation - Disappointingly this new planting by the High Cree/ Carrick Burn has been given permission even though the GFT/RCDSFB objected. GFT still feel that correct procedures were not followed regarding water quality impact assessments and continue to raise concerns with regulators. This is a small scheme (15.1 ha of Sitka) but its location is particularly sensitive.

(c) NASCO - In the recently submitted NASCO Plan for Scotland it states that Marine Scotland would be reviewing the stocking guidance it uses for assessing broodstock collection soon. GFT understands this is likely to be issued in the next couple of months and may impact on broodstock collection in the future. It is unclear whether Trusts/DSFB's will be consulted on the guidance or not.

(d) Sonar Fish Counter - Rowan was at a meeting where a company was discussing conditions they needed for possible trials of a sonar fish counter; Rowan had suggested that the Palnure Burn could be suitable. If there was any interest from the company then GFT would discuss further with the Palnure owners and the RCDSFB.

(e) Sparling Bridge - GFT had been in discussions with some contractors quoting to build Sparling Bridge. GFT had given advice on what to do to protect the surrounding fish populations.

(f) Jessica Rodger (GFT Salmon Enhancement Officer) - She was presently compiling various data sets from GFT/SEPA/Forestry etc from across the Galloway rivers and looking at knowledge gaps and how to influence forestry plans at an earlier stage. Jamie would provide regular updates of her work at future meetings.

(8) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie circulated a written report on the activities of the Trust since the last meeting. He emphasised that although the paragraph on "Forestry Project" was small in length, an enormous amount of time and energy had been spent on removal of trees. The "before" and "after" pictures demonstrated the work and time spent.

He had shot 2 goosanders under the new licence granted for fish-eating birds.

Duncan Baillie had written to the Chairman and had asked that the Minutes record his appreciation of the work done by the Trust on the Upper Minnoch.

Murdo mentioned that they were intending to stock some fry into the main stem of the Cree, including putting some autumn fry into the Cree at Linloskin. Jamie Ribbens

confirmed that GFT had no objection to this proposed stocking and it was approved by the Board.

(9) AOCB

Jock Galloway mentioned a proposal for a fish farm off the coast of the Isle of Arran. There was an online petition objecting to it and members were encouraged to add their names to the petition.

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(10) Date of next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at the same venue at 5.30 on 19th June 2019.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm

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Chairman