

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting

of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board

Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart

On Wednesday, July 6th 2022 at 6.00pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatories

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie

Jim Davidson

Terence Flanagan

Norrie Ferguson

Steve Smith

(B) Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Rory Crosbie, Gene Fryatt, Iain Service & Jamie Ribbens

(2) Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 4th May 2022

These were approved without demur.

(3) Matters arising

Nothing not otherwise arising in the agenda (but see (6) below)

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that he had been in touch with Vanessa Brown of Marine Scotland about tags for netsmen but the latest email which he had sent with regard to the names of the netsmen to whom tags had been issued had not been answered by her.

The chairman intimated to the Board that one of the currently active netsmen on the Cree is looking to sell their netting rights. The chairman asked the Board for their permission to speak with the netsman and also NASF and MSF to discuss a possible buyout. The Board agreed that the Chairman should pursue this. The Chairman wondered whether a letter to all netsmen with dormant netting rights on the Cree should be written to and asked whether they would be interested in selling their rights. The feeling was, however, that few, if any, netsmen would be interested in disposing of their fishing and that there might be a danger of such netsmen might respond by exercising their rights.

The Chairman had submitted the record of culled fish-eating birds to NatureScot

(5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the BoS was £14,056.82. He read out the non-payers of whom there were currently 11 in number. One of these was J & T Scott. Norrie said that this would be discussed within NSAA at their next meeting. Terence said that the levy was legally due by the Scotts as they were named on the Valuation Roll. Andrew Stewart (who was not one of the 11) had paid his usual first tranche with the balance of £1000 promised as usual in November. The other 2 big payers had both paid.

(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 Flanagan had raised under Item 3 above the question of whether the information was going to be shared and the Chairman had indicated that the matter was included in the aforesaid email and indeed sharing had been confirmed.

(7) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie mentioned the following:

- Regen would be cut in the Shalloch Burn with the consent of FLS.
- Fish-eating birds
- Stocking
- Fin-clipping
- Japanese Knotweed which had been rampant this year, but such might be easier to control when it became in flower
- Himalayan Balsam
- Electrofishing: would start next week
- Removal of 53 Aldi trolleys from river and return to Aldi who had promised a donation.

Murdo then discussed the current bailiffing. There have been reported instances of fishing without permission. Murdo has made contact with the wildlife crime officer and said that he had found the attitude of the Police to have been positive and helpful. Murdo has organised to meet with the police and show them the most favoured poaching areas, and where cars are left/hidden when fishing illegally. His concern was to keep them on side and not to involve them in false trails by trying to apprehend people fishing legally. He had been in touch with Duncan Baillie to discuss the possibility of syndicates leaving their cards in their parked vehicles to prevent this happening

(8) Blackcraig Lead Mine

No further significant developments. Murdo thought that the results of the latest surveys had been disappointing for the prospectors.

(9) Management Plan

The Chairman said that Terence and he had been through the two plans (2019 & 2022) and had matched them up; and the final document had been included with the agenda. It was now on the website. This was unanimously approved.

(10) Stocking document

Jamis Ribbens had said in the email referred to in Item (7) above that he would be able to comply with the Board's timetable. However Terence said that he thought the electrofishing proposed to be done by GFT would only be such to support the Stocking Document to be produced by 14th August but it appeared that GFT were going to be doing electrofishing in other sites. The Chairman said that he would try and clarify this with Jamie Ribbens. It was essential that the final document should be completed by 31st August.

(13) Any Other Business

- There would be discussions with Kenny Kortland of FLS which had to be concluded by 14th October and which hopefully could begin once the final stocking document was available at the end of August.
- Lack of fish would not be an issue this year.
- Marie Goujon (Scottish Government minister) had hinted at revisiting the subject of restructuring of District Salmon Fishery Boards.
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(14) Date of next Meeting

16th August 2022 at 6pm

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

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Chairman