

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held
at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 5.30 pm

Present

- Board Members/Mandatory

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair
Murdo Crosbie
Terence Flanagan
Gene Fryatt
Lindsay McKain
Adrian Paterson
Steve Smith

- Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Norrie McIntosh and Iain Service

(2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 31st July 2024

These were approved without demur. The Chairman explained that, after discussion with John Gorman, who had raised concerns about certain aspects of the correspondence entered into after the last meeting when he addressed the Board at length, the Chairman decided to incorporate the whole of that correspondence as an appendix to the Minutes.

(3) Matters arising from the previous Minutes

None not otherwise on the Agenda.

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that, despite the recent lack of water, the fishing had been quite good compared to last year and he thought that around 320 salmon had been caught so far this season. The proposed windfarm at Glenvernoch appeared to have been put on hold, with no date yet known for any planning application.

However, the windfarm proposed for Blair Hill appeared to be proceeding and it was likely that representations would be required near Christmas or early in the New Year.

(5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the Savings Account was £10,000 plus interest and the current account could afford the first instalment of £1627.27 towards the money promised for the RCHHT for the trammel nets and associated equipment. A cheque for this amount was handed to Me Flanagan. Mr Crosbie said that the balance would be in the region of £1200, to which the Treasurer said that some money would have to be withdrawn from the Savings Account to pay this.

Last year there had been 3 non-payers and this year the same three again had not paid. The Treasurer had been corresponding with an Ayrshire firm of solicitors about one of these, but despite their assistance, the offending proprietor had not responded. There had still been no response from the AVJB with regard to the continuing quandary about the Creeside fishings in Ayrshire.

(6) Stocking Policy

The Chairman reported that the Stocking policy had been signed off with GFT, and GFT had now received their donation of £1,000. It was very similar to last year's except that stocking would no longer take place at the Creemills in 2025, but there would be limited stocking of the main stem of the river from Penninghame House to Suth Greys

(7) Flood Prevention Scheme

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Ombudsman agreed with the Boards opinion that they should have been consulted, and should have been made a Consultative Body. A screening opinion should therefore have been sought from the RCDSFB by the local council

The Reporter had accordingly put the Enquiry on hold pending clarification from the council on how they wish to proceed.

(8) Management Plan

The new proposed Management Plan had been circulated by the Chairman to Board members and this was approved without demur. There were some changes from the previous plan and these were spoken to, briefly, by Mr Flanagan.

(9) GFT Report

At the request of the Clerk, Jamie Ribbens had emailed his report that morning (Oct 2) which the Chairman had only been made aware of when the Clerk mentioned it to him just before the meeting began. The Chairman read out the email. This included Water Quality, Peat Restoration and North American signal crayfish. There had been some discussion previously at the meeting about North American signal crayfish, and, as a result of the concerns expressed, the Chairman said he would ask GFT what they were proposing to do about the presence of these species in and around the river catchment.

(10) RCHHT Report

Mr Crosbie gave a verbal report which covered the conclusion of the electrofishing, fin clips (still 5000 to do) and Invertebrates Training (through Buglife). A meeting had been arranged with FLS on 17th October 2024.

(11) Triennial Elections

Mr Flanagan read out the procedure under the 2003 Act and this was duly followed. The whole Board resigned. He then proposed the existing Upper Proprietors to the New Board. This was approved without demur. Gene Fryatt did likewise for the Lower Proprietors subject to Mr McKain being formally approved and again there was no demur. Mr Crosbie was proposed as Angling representative and this was also approved without demur. Mr Flanagan proposed Mr Hyslop as Chairman and he, Mr Hyslop, said he would be happy to continue if there was no opposition. There was no opposition. The Board would therefore be constituted as follows:

Chairman and Upper Proprietor	Jamie Hyslop
Other Upper Proprietors	Terence Flanagan Norrie McIntosh for NSAA Upper Iain Service Steve Smith as mandatory for De Kang Zeng
Lower Proprietors	Gene Fryatt Lindsay McKain Adrian Paterson for NSAA Lower
Angling Representative	Murdo Crosbie

The Clerk said he had written to Lynne Rae who had previously been a lower proprietor member with Jim Davidson having been her mandatory until his death, but she had said that she no longer wished to be on the Board either in her own right or through another mandatory.

(12) APM & AMP

These meetings would take place on 27th November at the Belted Galloway at 6.00pm. They would not be preceded by a Board meeting.

(13) AOCB

There was none

(14) Date of next meeting

To be fixed at the meetings mentioned above at (12).

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm

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Chairman