

## MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting  
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board  
Held  
at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart  
On Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 5.30 pm

### Present

- Board Members/Mandatorys

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair  
Murdo Crosbie  
Terence Flanagan  
Gene Fryatt  
Norrie McIntosh  
Lindsay McKain  
Iain Service  
Steve Smith

- Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

### (1) Apologies for Absence

Adrian Paterson

### (2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 2nd October 2024

These were approved without demur.

### (3) Matters arising from the previous Minutes

There was some discussion about the (unwelcome) presence of American Signal crayfish. There was very little likelihood of being able to obtain a licence to control them from NatureScot. The additional problem was the difficulty of actually trapping them as they were frequently found in burrows on the riverbank. There was anecdotal reference to someone who had spent a great deal of money on electrofishing gear to address the problem but this had proved fruitless.

### (4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that, as this was the off-season, there was not very much to report. There would be an opening ceremony on 1st March at 10.00am (sharp).

He said that, fortuitously, Storm Eowain had not affected the Cree or its environment to any great extent.

He said that the Board, itself, had made no representations about the proposed GNP but Board members had submitted personal ones.

Although his Report contained other matters, these are dealt with under the specific heads in these Minutes.

### (5) Treasurer's Report



The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the Savings Account was £8,500 (plus interest ) and, in the current account, was around £2,500. (NB the actual balance in the Current Account was £2,293.15). He anticipated a small shortfall for the year this being the result of the purchase of the trammel nets for the RCHHT. He was asked about the three non-payers and it was agreed that no action should be taken to try and recover any of the sums due by them at the moment albeit that they should all get Notices in the usual way for next year.

There had still been no response from the AVJB with regard to the continuing quandary about the Creeside fishings in Ayrshire.

It was agreed that the levy should remain the same as last year.

#### (6) Minutes of 2024 APM & AMP

This had been put on the Agenda as a result of views expressed in an email from Mr Flanagan. These views were accepted without demur. Accordingly, Mr Smith would update the website to incorporate the revised versions of both sets of Minutes. As these were a matter of preferred style rather than substance, it was agreed that the Minutes sent to the Scottish Ministers on 4th December 2024, and acknowledged by them on the same date, should not be replaced or resent. For future years, it was agreed that the APM & AMP Minutes should be first approved by the whole Board before being sent to the Scottish Ministers. This could be achieved by a Round Robin email to all Board Members as soon as possible after the meetings.

#### (7) Flood Prevention Scheme

The Chairman said that he had heard nothing further from DGC on the all-important question as to whether the Board have been made a Consultative Body. He recommended that no action should be taken at the moment until DGC had confirmed that the Board have been appointed a Consultative Body.

#### (8)GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had emailed his report on 11th February 2025 to all members of the Board. The report contained reference to the objections that they had raised to the Glenvernoch Windfarm consultation, the Flood Prevention Scheme, the Galloway Hydro Licence review (not thought by the Board to be of particular significance to the Cree), Water Quality ,and Peatland Restoration. Mr Smith asked the Chairman to find out from Mr Ribbens to whom the data on the Water Quality would be sent. This was agreed by the Chairman.

#### (9) RCHHT Report

Mr Crosbie gave a verbal report which included a meeting with FLS.

There was agreement on the works required and that work had started albeit temporarily suspended as a result of Storm Eowain.

Of the 25 hen fish and 8 cock fish in the Minnoch, 7 hens and 1 cock were taken from the stretches owned by Glentrool Estates.

The fertility within the hatchery had been excellent with a very low mortality rate.

School visits were scheduled for May & June.

He would be proceeding with the application for the licence regarding the control & scaring fish-eating birds during the smolt migration.

Mr Service asked the Board to congratulate Mr Crosbie on everything he was doing for the river and this was unanimously endorsed.

#### (10) Proposed Wind Farms at Glenvernoch and Blair Hill

The Chairman reported that the deadline for the Glenvernoch Wind Farm had been on 15th January 2025. There had been approximately 450 objections. Very possibly the Blair Hill Wind Farm was more significant as far as the Cree was concerned because it would be so near to the Hatchery water



supply intake. There had, however been no significant developments as yet though if there were, the Board would be making its position very clear.

(11) Date of next meeting

14th May 2025

(12) Any Other Business

Mr Smith mentioned the dirt on the A714, which was running off into the river. It was agreed that steps should be taken to clear up this mess so as to minimize the damage to the river

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm

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Chairman