

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting

of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board

Held at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart

On Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatorys

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie

Terence Flanagan

Gene Fryatt

Norrie McIntosh

Adrian Paterson

Steve Smith

(B) Attendee

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Jamie Ribbens

Absent: Iain Service

(2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 7th February 2024

These were approved without demur.

(3) Matters arising from the previous Minutes

None not otherwise on the Agenda

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he and Adrian had been to Jim Davidson's funeral. This had been a sad event especially as it was so unexpected. He asked the Clerk to write a suitable letter of condolence to Jim's daughter and to say how much the Board had appreciated his contribution to the Board over the years.

He asked the Clerk also to write to Lynne Rae (for whom Jim had been a mandatory) to ask whether she still wished to remain a member of the Board.

He said that he and Terence had attended the conference in Yorkshire at which Murdo, representing the river Cree Hatchery & Habitat Trust, was one of the speakers. There had been over 300 attendees at the conference and many more viewed online. Murdo's contribution had been well received. It was significant that in Wales there were no hatcheries and the numbers in England were very restricted compared to Scotland

He had not seen many fish-eating birds (cormorants and goosanders)

He reported current catches of 5 fish from the Cree and 15 from the Minnoch.

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(5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the current account presently stood at £9898.68 and, with the levies paid at the meeting the balance would be over £10,000. Additionally, thanks mainly to the much appreciated assistance of Adrian, there was now a Savings Account, the balance in which was now £5009.80.

Last year there had been 3 non-payers. The Treasurer had been corresponding with an Ayrshire firm of solicitors about one of these, but despite their assistance, the chances of successful recovery were not high. There had been no response at all from the AVJB with regard to the continuing quandary about the Creeside fishings in Ayrshire. He would continue to press the only owner in Wigtownshire who had not paid the levy last year.

(6) Flood Prevention

The Chairman reported that he had sent in some maps but there had been no acknowledgement from the Council let alone any response. There had, as far as he was aware, been no negotiations with the adjoining proprietors who would be affected by the Scheme. This was worrying in that the Scheme was expected to be commenced in 2025.

(8) Proposed Wind Farms at Glenvernoch and Blair Hill

The Chairman had attended the recent Community liaison Group meeting for the RES windfarm development at Blair hill. The chairman had told the meeting of the extreme sensitivity of the proposed wind farm site, and the fact that the hatchery water supply is directly downstream of the proposed site. RES have modified the original plans and reduced the number of turbines from 22 to 17. They have also prepared all the documentation legally required and propose to submit a planning application in August/Sept. The Board should respond to this when it is available.

(9) Water Quality

Adrian had sent an email of correspondence that he had been having with John Gorman of SEPA. He described this as “informative”. It was unanimously agreed that John Gorman should be asked to attend the next Board meeting to discuss and advise on where the Board should go from here.

(10) Management Plan

It appeared that only Terence had looked at the Management Plan. He would have wanted to comment about certain aspects but it was decided to defer discussion until the next meeting at which all members would have been expected to have looked at the existing Plan in detail.

(11) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had sent an email which all members of the Board had received. The Chairman read out the GFT report.

(12) RCHHT Report

Murdo gave a verbal report which covered water temperature monitoring, tree planting and school parties to the river which seemed to be very popular with the children. He mentioned that he could not say when the money would be needed for the electrofishing/trammel nets equipment. Possibly

the cost might have gone up from what had been quoted last year. The Board reiterated their support to provide the funding for the equipment when required

(13) Triennial Elections

Lindsay McKain had informed the Chairman that he would like to be considered for election to the Board. As he was a lower proprietor, the Chairman felt that Lindsay's application should be particularly welcomed, albeit that there was a possibility that Lynne Rae, who was also a lower proprietor, might wish to remain a member. If Lindsay became a member then Steve would cease to be a mandatory for him.

(13) AOCB

The chairman advised that there was evidence that raw sewage was being regularly discharged into the Cree in the area directly upstream of the sparling Bridge – especially during periods of high rainfall. The chairman said he would raise this matter with John Gorman of SEPA, and it could be discussed with him when he attends the next Board meeting.

(14) Date of next meeting

31st July 2024

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm

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Chairman