

MINUTES
Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
On Wednesday 31st July 2024 at 5.30 pm

Present

(A) Board Members/Mandatorys

Jamie Hyslop – in the Chair

Murdo Crosbie

Terence Flanagan

Gene Fryatt

Norrie McIntosh

Lindsay McKain

Adrian Paterson

Iain Service

Steve Smith

(B) Attendees

John Gorman (SEPA)

Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Jamie Ribbens

(2) Water Quality

The Chairman decided to take this item first so as to allow John Gorman to leave early if he wanted to.

There were two issues which Mr Gorman had understood the Board had invited him to address, these being (a) the acidification/pollution of the Cree and its tributaries and (b) the discharge of sewage from the sewage works into the Cree.

On (a) he said that, while he could not describe the situation as satisfactory, it was, however, in his opinion now improving as a result of new rules being in place for new planting, restocking and, generally, compliance with the rules and his earnest hope was that such improvement would continue. This improvement had started after the nadir period of the early 80s when the pH was so low that the future presence of any live salmon in the river was seriously in doubt. He took on board the point made by the Chairman (and others) that the problem was that the new rules about planting trees only applied to new plantations and not to the restocking of existing ones. He explained how one of the improvement measures was for existing forest drains and ditches to be blocked up to improve water quality. Mr Gorman did concede however that due to a lack of resources there was limited enforcement of such measures

On (b) Mr Gorman suggested that request for information should be made to Scottish Water via their website. He commented that their response to the Board which was to the effect that they did not possess the information requested,. The Board could get information about the license from SEPA. Both requests could be made in the form of FOI requests.

Mr Gorman spoke for 1.5 hours. His time and the information he presented were both very much appreciated by the Board. The Chairman thanked Mr Gorman for his time and the Board also expressed their thanks. A copy of an email from Mr Gorman detailing the points he covered is attached to these minutes

(3) Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 1st May 2024

These were approved without demur.

(4) Matters arising from the previous Minutes

Terence Flanagan said that there appeared to be a contradiction in Lindsay McKain's appointment as a Board Member as he was already one with Steve Smith as his mandatory. Lindsay McKain said he was happy to remain a member of the Board and for Steve Smith to remain as his mandatory.

(5) Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that the fishing had been quite good so far with 150 fish or thereabouts having been caught.

(6) Treasurer's Report

As there seemed to be sufficient money at credit and taking account of bills still to be paid, it was agreed that a further £5000 should be placed in the Savings Account.

(7) Flood Prevention Scheme

The Chairman said there was nothing new to report. The Environmental report had not appeared, albeit promised. The Council would be appointing a Reporter.

(8) GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had sent an email to all Board Members stating what they had been doing. Generally, the Board agreed with what GFT were doing though the Chairman had a query on the fourth bullet point in the email namely the location of where the monitoring of water quality and temperature will be done and also if it will be constant monitoring of both temperature and pH.

(9) RCHHT Report

Murdo Crosbie spoke about the fry released from the hatchery, flood prevention, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam (now virtually removed on the river), electrofishing and invertebrates sampling.

(10) Management Plan

It was agreed that there should be a sub-committee appointed to examine the Management Plan in detail. The sub-committee would report back to the Board at the next meeting. The Chairman, Terence Flanagan, Steve Smith and Murdo Crosbie all volunteered to be on the Sub-committee and were duly appointed as members of it.

(11) Stocking Policy

The stocking policy is in hand and all the data required has now been gathered. The Chairman anticipates the document will be issued within the agreed timeframe by GFT for comment by the appointed River Board sub-committee.

(12) Electrofishing Request

An email had been received from Donald Macmillan who had been instructed to carry out electrofishing on behalf of Glenvernoch Windfarm developers. Points had already been made by Terence Flanagan, Steve Smith and Murdo Crosbie and shared with the Board and the Chairman agreed to respond to Mr Macmillan seeking information on the issues raised namely the exact location of the sites, a request for the data obtained to be shared with the Board, and a request that Murdo Crosbie should accompany the person(s) doing the electrofishing and to be paid for his time in doing so.

(13) Arrangements for APM, AMP and Triennial Elections

The triennial elections were due to be held in October 2024. Subject to confirmation by Craig Andrews of The Belted Galloway, the date would be 2nd October 2024. The APM & AMP would be fixed then, as they were not due until November 2024.

(14) Date of next Meeting

2nd October 2024 at 5.30 (subject to confirmation)

(14) AOCB

None

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm

Attachment: email from John Gorman:

Afternoon Jamie,

I forgot to add the link to the SEPA Forestry & Wood Processing Sector Plan which I co-wrote. This outlines the regulatory and partnership working approach we have taken with the sector and our relationship with, and understanding of what drives, the sector which has improved.

[Delivering regulation through sector plans | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

I spoke for over an hour on a whole variety of issues such as blocking drains, chemistry data, peatland restoration, land management plans, new woodland creation, felling & restocking, sewage and flooding, satellite maps of Upper Cree. Water Quality has improved and continues to improve looking at the data which we collect from Bargrennan and Arnimean bridges so land use change including drain blocking is working. There's still lots to do and inputting into consultations as they come up takes time/effort. I also suggested the Galloway acid waters would benefit from a one voice approach and we discussed the Dalry Local Place Plan and the links to Local Authority statutory planning guidance. I was hoping the Dalry LPP section on water quality could be cut n' pasted into River Cree/Newton Stewart Plan. SEPA has also been active over the years in approving GFT limestone cobble insertion at Barjarg following work done on liming in the Fleet after a 2 day fact finder to Wales. We discussed GFT scallop shell insertion which SEPA is reviewing for the neighbouring Bladnoch. I have commented on the large Clauchrie land management plan and pushed Scottish Woodlands Limited to going beyond the UK Forestry Standard for extra broadleaves, open space, peatland restoration and the removal of the 2 hanging culverts/pipe bridges on the Clauchrie Burn which will be done [I will contact SWL to confirm when].


There is much work still to be done and I am happy to attend any future meetings with yourselves and Scottish Forestry regarding a holistic plan for the Upper Cree. Likewise given its mostly public forestry, Forestry & Land Scotland would be worth inviting to review the felling deadlines for their coups along the Clauchrie, Fardin and Cairnfore burns and whether these could be accelerated or greater focus placed on the riparian zones.


Having covered and dipped our toes into all of the above, I take issue with your summation after 1.5 hours talking that "blocking drains and waiting another 30 years" is all the ambition I and SEPA have which is nonsense. In truth, there are 100Km of acidified waters mostly in Galloway all demanding improvement, 1000's Km's of riparian zones all downgraded from land use impacts demanding improvement. Lots of work ongoing and much more needed and its way beyond the means of any one regulatory body which is why partnership working is key with all parties contributing in a positive, constructive fashion.

I would ask that the minute of my session reflects the matters we discussed.


Regards

John Gorman
Principal Compliance Officer
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Buidheann Dìon Àrainneachd na h-Alba

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From: jamie.hyslop@btinternet.com <jamie.hyslop@btinternet.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2024 08:56

To: Gorman, John <John.Gorman@Sepa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Papers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi john,

Many thanks for talking with us on Wednesday - it was much appreciated and informative

We all realise the very restricted budget and constraints you work under - it is however still disappointing to learn that the governments plan to restore water quality can (in essence!) be summed up by "blocking drains and waiting another 30 years!".

It certainly lacks ambition!

Many thanks again

Regards

Jamie

-----Original Message-----

From: Gorman, John <John.Gorman@Sepa.org.uk>

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:44 AM

To: Matthew Pumphrey <matthewpumphrey55@gmail.com>; 'Jamie Hyslop' <jamie.hyslop@btinternet.com>; 'Norrie McIntosh' <norrie264@hotmail.com>;

mcrosbie7@aol.com; Steve Smith (winsby1@hotmail.co.uk)
<winsby1@hotmail.co.uk>; 'Gene' <genefryatt@btinternet.com>; 'Terence
Flanagan' <flanagan.1948@yahoo.co.uk>; Adrian Paterson
<apaterson@outlook.com>; 'Iain Service' <iainservice@btinternet.com>;
'Marrbury Smokehouse' <mail@marrburysmokehouse.com>
Cc: Jamie Ribbens <jamie@gallowayfisheriestrust.org>
Subject: Papers

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Evening all,

Thank you for inviting me to discuss forestry and sewage issues this evening, hope my responses made sense. I referred to several information references and I have attached the very interesting R&D paper on buffer strips and widths to obtain good reductions in diffuse pollution. Whilst its farm-heavy, the principles can be applied equally to forestry.

[https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ciwem.org%2Fassets%2Fpdf%2FEvents%2FPast%2520Presentations%2FD18%2F2.2.4%2520Ma&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990223754%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=m9ozfezeqBNivs2IFHkHtQAF6Zj7sRRhUBLPUOzh4T0%3D&reserved=0)

[url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ciwem.org%2Fassets%2Fpdf%2FEvents%2FPast%2520Presentations%2FD18%2F2.2.4%2520Ma&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990223754%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=m9ozfezeqBNivs2IFHkHtQAF6Zj7sRRhUBLPUOzh4T0%3D&reserved=0](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ciwem.org%2Fassets%2Fpdf%2FEvents%2FPast%2520Presentations%2FD18%2F2.2.4%2520Ma&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990223754%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=m9ozfezeqBNivs2IFHkHtQAF6Zj7sRRhUBLPUOzh4T0%3D&reserved=0)

rc%20Stutter.pdf

This paper, slide 5 shows that even a 20 metre buffer width can reduce diffuse pollution by 80% and trap vital soils.

I have also attached a link to the Riverwoods Initiative which SEPA is a key partner in and whilst the project group have been running now for 2 years, there are case studies starting to appear on funding opportunities and the picture attached from the Borders is a great demonstration of what we are after. Again, its farmscape related but there's no reason why it cant apply to forestry. The difference for forestry is the UK Forestry Standard already demands buffer zones besides rivers way beyond that demanded for agriculture, we just need to focus on riparian planting to be more creative/inventive rather than blank zones with dead/dying or missing broadleaf trees. [https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.riverwoods.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990235423%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X0pA2fU87pGCQEfC7A%2Fav1juQpBqLAaEqD0h0HZPq8A%3D&reserved=0)

[url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.riverwoods.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990235423%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X0pA2fU87pGCQEfC7A%2Fav1juQpBqLAaEqD0h0HZPq8A%3D&reserved=0](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.riverwoods.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990235423%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X0pA2fU87pGCQEfC7A%2Fav1juQpBqLAaEqD0h0HZPq8A%3D&reserved=0) It would be worth inviting

someone from either Riverwoods and/or Tweed Forum to one of your meetings to share successes.

Scottish Water's Access to Information webpage :

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?>

[url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.scottishwater.co.uk%2FHelp-and-Resources%2FAccess-to-Information&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990243696%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jFAvuW3z%2FQ3vbwAwYg8KDP0i6gm7bS7OpNnvT1ArN0M%3D&reserved=0](https%3A%2F%2Fwww.scottishwater.co.uk%2FHelp-and-Resources%2FAccess-to-Information&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990243696%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jFAvuW3z%2FQ3vbwAwYg8KDP0i6gm7bS7OpNnvT1ArN0M%3D&reserved=0)

SEPA's Access to Information webpage:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbeta.sepa.scot%2Fabout-sepa%2FAccess-to-information%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJohn.Gorman%40Sepa.org.uk%7C99b44b4d56244a3f0ee108dcb391cbb9%7C5cf26d65cf464c72ba827577d9c2d7ab%7C0%7C0%7C638582685990251393%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BYPK1LW8rbQxhGtmsXL3w0Glx19vlu21PbWbH22GXms%3D&reserved=0>

I didn't take notes but I think these links were all I referred to, please correct me if I'm wrong.

Regards

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