

MINUTES

Of the Board Meeting
of the River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board
Held
at The Belted Galloway, Newton Stewart
On Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 5.30 pm

Present

- Board Members/Mandatorys

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

- Attendee

Peter Jones – Riparian Proprietor
Matthew Pumphrey (Clerk and Treasurer)

(1) Apologies for Absence

Steve Smith

(2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 12th February 2025

These were approved without demur.

(3) Matters arising from the previous Minutes

None, not otherwise mentioned in these Minutes

(4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the licence to scare and control FEBs had been successful in keeping these predators on the move and reducing predation on migrating smolts. The licence was due to come to an end on 31st May (male goosanders only in May)

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 £8059.70) and, in the current account, was around £6789.14 There had been a shortfall for the year of £1022.28, this being the result of the purchase of the trammel nets for the RCHHT. The AVJB had now replied to the information request put to them about the two Ayrshire non-payers and they said that their records showed that Maxine Gosden was still the owner of the Arnimean Fishings and that they could trace no correspondence from the Redmans about the Creeside Fishings. The Chairman said that, as it

could not be proved that the Redmans owned the Creeside Fishings they should be removed from the Roll of Proprietors. It was **agreed**, without demur, that the Clerk should write to the AVJB accordingly. The Treasurer suggested that the Savings Account should be topped up to £10,000 so that there was sufficient for a 31 day Savings Account with a higher interest rate. This was unanimously **agreed**.

(6) Revaluation 2026

It was **agreed** that the Board should make no direction to either of the river's Assessors about this nor to express any opinion about it..

(7) Flood Prevention Scheme

The Chairman said that he had still heard nothing further from DGC on the all-important question as to whether the Board have been made a Consultative Body. A promise had been made by Michael Smith on behalf of DGC that a decision would be made and would be intimated to the Board immediately thereafter but despite indicative time limits nothing had been heard since.

(This has been overtaken by notification on 20th May by Michael Smith that the Council had decided to follow the Reporter's view and, thus, the Board would now become a Consultative Body.)

(8)GFT Report

Jamie Ribbens had emailed his report on 12th May 2025 but to the Chairman only. The Chairman accordingly read it out. It referred to Water Quality, American Skunk Cabbage and confirmation of GFT's objection to the Blair Hill Wind Farm. There were no questions on the report or generally to GFT.

(9) RCHHT Report

Mr Crosbie outlined the various things that had been going on. He said that all the fry had hatched which was really early for the time of year. 26,000 fry had been released albeit that he had hoped it would be more but, because of the unusually low water caused by lack of rain, this was not possible. There had been a few drop-outs but not nearly so bad as last year. It was necessary to be vigilant because of the lack of water and the rising temperature of the water.

School visits had started and the children seemed to love them. He told them about insect life which he thought was of particular interest to them as well as being important for the propagation of the fish. He was pleased to note that the number of insects had appeared to have increased.

There had been arranged a meeting with 2 MSPs – Tim Eagle from Aberdeen and Finlay Carson –with the purpose of seeing what more could be done for Wild Fisheries.

He said that he was looking to increase the size of the Hatchery. The hope was to produce better fish with less losses. He was investigating the finance for this with potential funders.

(10) Proposed Wind Farms at Glenvernoch and Blair Hill

The Chairman said that representations had been made in respect of both proposed Wind Farms and now it was a question of waiting for developments.

(11) Date of next meeting

30th July 2025

(12) Any Other Business

There was none apart from the proposed Solar Farm proposed at Challoch. There was no planning application submitted as yet – but one was expected. The Board would submit a response to the planning application as the proposed location is in the catchment of the Challoch Burn, and involves crossing the burn also.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm

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Chairman