

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board meeting held at the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board Offices, Cromwellpark, Almondbank, on Tuesday, 8th August 2017.

Present: William Jack (Chairman)
Geoff Coates
John Wood
Alastair Riddell
Steve Mannion
David Godfrey

In Attendance: Inga McGown - Clerk
Dr. David Summers – Fisheries Director

Apologies: Council Representative
Brian Roxburgh
John Apthorp
Iain McLaren
David Brown
Claire Mercer Nairne
Cohn O’Dea (TGA rep)
Simon Furniss
Nicki MacIntyre (SNH)

IMcG stated that John Apthorp had sent an email explaining that he would not make this meeting, and due to personal circumstances, had asked to stand down from the Board. ALL were saddened by this news, and it was agreed to mark his standing down.

ACTION: The Chairman to look into

Declaration of Interests:

The assembled members handed in their newly completed declaration sheets.

ACTION: ALL remaining Board members to hand in completed declaration sheets prior to next Board meeting.

Minutes of Board Meeting of 13th June 2017:

Matters Arising:

Bailiff Update:

DS explained that there were a few applicants for the job, and that interviews would be sought this month.

Road Repairs:

IMcG stated that she was finding it difficult to get contractors to quote for the road.

ACTION: IMcG to get 3 road repair quotes.

The Minutes were agreed unanimously and were signed by the Chairman.

Financial Report:

Cash Account to 21st July 2017:

As at 21st July 2017, the Cash Account is showing a surplus of £38,885, and the overall bank balance stands at a healthy £446,705, with £100,000 of this being invested.

Income

To date, 47% of 2017 assessments have been paid. The forecast and budget are still standing at 7.5% of total for appeals. IMcG explained that the appeals figure was still the most volatile figure in the forecast and budget. She explained that she had been in touch with the assessor, who had stated that the hearing for the Category 3 appeals for the Rivers Eden and Earn would be heard on the 28th September 2017. It had been agreed that if successful, any appeal granted would cover not just the successful appeals, but every beat on these rivers. At present, there is no view on how much this is likely to equate to.

SM asked if we needed to have more input at the appeals committee.

ACTION: IMcG to speak to the Assessor and feed back to the Board

The Assessor will then tackle the revaluation appeals, which will likely be decided towards the end of the year, but there is no indication as yet how much this equates to in monetary terms.

Expenditure

The forecast on pensions is slightly up due to the unexpected cost of backdating the hatchery manager's pension.

To date, the Kelt Reconditioning Hatchery has cost £14,900, of which £11,284 is salary related.

The spend of £1,724 under projects is all related to the smolt project and is mainly made up of expenditure for the second trap (shed, ropes etc). There is a small spend of £480 on Scone Game Fair costs, and there may be more spend to come of around £3k, with the second set of electrofishing equipment being purchased and largely paid for by the generosity of the TGA.

The Chairman asked whether the TGA would kindly consider funding the additional spend on the broodstock fishing equipment.

ACTION: IMcG to ask the Operations Manager to request further funding from TGA

Health & Safety Report:

DS noted that there had been no reportable H&S incidents since the last meeting.

Bailiff Update:

This was covered in Matters Arising.

River Garry Update:

DS reported that the contractor, AMCO had been very busy, and after a couple of unforeseen setbacks, would be finished work on Garry intake around the 11th August. SSE are still working on the Glas Choire intake and this will take some time. They are doing the work themselves. Once flow starts from Garry intake there will not be the full flow at the start, but the system will need to be experimented with to maintain the agreed flow.

Smolt Trap Update:

DS reported that no tagged grilse from last year had yet made it through the Pitlochry counter. DG asked if they were fin clipped, to which DS replied they were not. The fish that DG had caught without adipose fins were most likely to have been stocked in the Braan.

Hatchery Update:

DS explained that two teams would now be deployed for broodstock fishing, rather than the customary one. The volunteers were largely to be made up of the TGA members. The Chairman asked whether Board members would be interested in helping out.

ACTION: IMcG to email ALL to gather support for broodstock fishing

Wild Fisheries Review Update:

DS stated there were no new developments on this topic.

AOB:

Stronuich Dam Counter

AR asked whether a counter at Stronuich could be put in, to which DS replied there was a counter at the dam, but it did not seem to record useful data. It appears to be affected by waves from the loch. AR asked that it be put on the agenda for next meeting.

ACTION: IMcG to ensure Stronuich dam is on next agenda.

Lyon DNA Study

AR asked what was happening to the DNA study, to which DS replied that the Operations Manager would finish fishing between the dams as a matter of priority.

ACTION: IMcG to ensure Lyon DNA study on agenda for next meeting.

Scone Netting rights Lease

JW made the board aware that the lease had now been agreed and signed by all.

Biosecurity and maintaining river system

GC explained that he had been to Denmark where biosecurity had been top priority, and wondered what we could do to improve our biosecurity. DS replied that this could really only be done on the riverbank. He stated that Iceland has strict biosecurity measures at its airports, but that this was deemed to be a non-starter in the EU countries. He agreed that we should raise awareness of this issue on the Tay.

ACTION: DS to look into biosecurity measures on the Tay.

There were no further items, and the Chairman thanked the Board for attending, and closed the meeting.