

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Proprietors within the Tay District held in terms of Section 44(1) of the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 held at Birnam Institute, Birnam, Dunkeld at 11am on Tuesday, 12th December 2017.

Present: Iain McLaren (Prospective Chairman)

Bob Band

Wattie Barbour

Geoff Coates

Alan Dunnet

Edward Eadie

Alasdair Gilbert

David Godfrey

Simon Hill

Bill Jack

Francis Jennings

John Lessels

Lord Mansfield

Claire Mercer Nairne

John Milligan

Gordon Nichol

Jim Perrett

Mike Smith

Patrick Steuart Fotheringham

Grant Tigwell

Duncan Twigg

Iain Wood

Katrina Wood

In Attendance: Dr. David Summers, Fisheries Director

Inga McGown, Clerk to the Board

David Brown

Mike Brown

Bob Mason

Stephen Mannion

Tom Monaghan

Cohn O'Dea

Davie Seaton

Fraser Smith

Geordie Stewart

Bob White
John Wood

Apologies: John Apthorp
Simon Furniss
Alastair Riddell

The prospective Chairman welcomed the attendees, and made a short presentation to the outgoing Chairman, Bill Jack, thanking him for all his hard work over the years.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Proprietors held on 13th December 2016:

The Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of Proprietors were previously circulated in the Annual Report and taken as read. There were no matters arising, and on a proposal by Bobby White, and seconded by Geoff Coates, were approved.

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December, 2016

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016, which were incorporated into the Annual Report, had been circulated and were taken as read.

The Clerk gave a brief overview of the accounts and the main variances year on year. 2016 saw a surplus of £28,578. There was a question regarding the make up of the website figure, which the Clerk answered.

There were no further questions, and on a proposal from John Wood, and seconded by David Godfrey, the Accounts were approved.

Annual Report 2016/7

The Annual Report 2016/7 had been previously circulated and was taken as read. On a proposal by Patrick Steuart Fotheringham, and seconded by Iain Wood, the Annual Report was approved.

Board Activities for 2017 season and beyond

Dr. David Summers gave an overview of the events of 2017, highlighting enforcement issues, lack of grilse, Wild Fisheries Review, Hatchery Work, re-watering of the Garry, and the main activities of the Board throughout the year.

Enforcement

Dr. Summers highlighted the fact that there are still enforcement issues in certain areas

Lack of Grilse

The lack of grilse and autumn fish is a worrying issue.

Salmon Conservation Regulations 2018

Dr. Summers explained that the Eden and the Earn had been re-categorised as Category 3 for the 2018 season, and reminded the room that compulsory Catch & Release was still in operation everywhere until the end of March 2018.

Rewatering of the Garry

Dr. Summers explained the whole history of the Garry project, from the 2000 EU Water Framework Directive, to the SSE proposal in 2006, to the 2010 SSE revisit of their prior plan, right up to the opening of the Garry this year, and the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.

Any Other Business

River Garry:

Mike Smith stated that ten years ago in the Annual report Dr. Summers had pointed out that fish might struggle to get up the waterfalls at Clunes Lodge, and perhaps something should be done about it. Dr. Summers replied that there had been a lot of work undertaken by many parties to get the Garry project to its current position, and that it was not just a salmon project, but more about a restoration of a river, which these falls are a natural part of. Both the TDSFB and SSE had raised this issue in the past, but had failed to gain traction. Assessing the ability of salmon to ascend these falls under the restored flow regime was a major element in the Adaptive Management Monitoring Plan. The issue was certainly not being overlooked.

Vitality Damage:

Duncan Twigg stated that scientists should become better communicators and instead of describing fish stock problems as genetic damage due to overharvesting, they should use the term vitality damage. The prospective Chairman thanked him for his comment.

Invasives Project:

Tom Monaghan explained that the treatment of invasive plants on the River Earn was being paid for through REIA member subs, and this money was dwindling. He stated that the Tay Foundation used to provide match funding but had stopped last year, and he wondered whether there was any funding to be had. Dr. Summers replied that regarding Tay Foundation funding, the REIA had been asked to submit a proposal for funding but had yet to do this. As far as the SISI project was concerned, Dr. Summers explained that it didn't take in the Eden or the Earn due to its boundaries, which had not been under the Board's influence. However, he

was more than willing to sit down and discuss a way forward.

Garry Habitat:

Patrick Steuart Fothringham asked if fish had enough food to sustain them in the Garry and was this issue being addressed, to which Dr. Summers replied that SEPA were undertaking surveys of invertebrates and algae amongst other things. He went on to explain that the Board had been stocking and electrofishing the Garry and had found that fry grew surprisingly fast but in low densities. He would expect to find fry growing more slowly but in greater densities with the increased flow of water.

There was no other business and the Prospective Chairman closed the meeting.