

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) Richard Wilson (RW)
PURPOSE: MANAGEMENT MEETING	APOLOGIES: Angus Morrison (AM) Richard Greene (RG) Nigel Pearson (NP) Graeme Wilson (GW) Ben Hadfield (BH) Mark Williams (MW) Bob Kindness (BK) Ian Fergusson (IF) David Barclay (DB)
DATE: 14 September 2010	
OPENED AT: 10.30	
CLOSED AT: 14.00	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Mary Gibson (MG) Peter Cunningham (PC) Veronica Mullaney (VM)	

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. i The minutes of the 27th May meeting were passed as read, though there was a follow up of one item to report on – further enquiries into alternative accountants for WRFT. These enquiries have resulted in the decision to remain with our current accountants who are thorough, offer excellent value for the service they provide and have promised to “turn round” our accounts somewhat quicker than they have been doing in the past.

2. FINANCE

2.i The Cash Projection for August reflect a healthy cash position with the comparison figures from previous years (on page 3) showing an improved situation from the same time last year.

2.ii The annual accounts for year ending 31st March 2010, though complete, have not yet arrived (in the post) for “signing off”

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

3.i Project funding was discussed. PJ reported that all the funding from SG and CE via RAFTS has been allocated to projects. WRFT has received funding from the Robertson Trust (£2K for Salmon & Trout) and from SNH (Ullapool) a further £2.28K also for S&T – 3 schools only will take part in the project for this year.

3.ii The second biologist post has been advertised and we are awaiting applications before going into the selection process.

3.iii Post TWG projects – a bid is to be made to SG for:

1. Sweep-netting and sea lice data gathering.
2. Post genetic work on salmonids
3. GIS layers to identify important freshwater fish areas.

4. BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

4.i The Carrying Capacity project will involve some 9 days in the field followed by some meetings, analysis of data and report writing. This project needs monitoring with some £9K allocated towards it for this year - **VM**

4.ii The Sweep netting programme (for this year) also needs monitoring. Just over £7K of a £14K budget has been claimed to date. With more days to sweep in Gairloch and Loch Ewe and some 5 days of scale reading/data entry and a further 2 days of report writing, this project may still be on budget – **VM**.

4.iii **PC** stated that the weather has limited the amount of electro-fishing that has occurred this year to date. Roger MacLachan has completed his training as electro-fishing team leader and can lead a second team. This may allow us to catch up on the programme in October – if the weather permits – **VM** to monitor.

4.iv Some £4.5K has been spent so far on “public awareness” events – there appears to be a need for priorities to be defined – **PC/BB**.

4.v WRFT will undertake consultancy work on a “case by case” basis. **RW** pointed out that WRFT is not a consultancy firm. However, it was agreed that contracts provide important revenue for WRFT and will become more important if a second biologist is appointed.

4.vi **RW** noted that we should ensure that the methods of determining a natural sustainable stocking

bring the river up to its carrying capacity.

4.vii It was agreed that all information WRFT collects as data from work funded by core money should be available publically – **RW**.

4.viii PC to check with Chris Horrell regarding the follow up of the mink project – we should clarify WRFT's role in this

4.ix Peter C has been asked (as an individual) to endorse his support of the EU complaint and should ensure that his name appears without any reference to "WRFT's biologist".

4.x Peter C is to produce his ongoing work programme to ensure that he will fully utilise all funds allocated to the priority projects.

5. AOB

5.i Four of WRFT's trustees terms of office expire in 2010 - they are Ian Fergusson, Richard Wilson, Angus Morrison and Richard Greene. All are eligible for re-appointment at the Trustees' meeting on 21st October 2010.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Trustees' meeting	21 Oct 2010	WRFT Office	10.30
Management meeting	TBA	WRFT Office	10.30