

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT:	
DATE:	12 March 2015	David Barclay (DB) Chair	Ewen Ballantyne (EB)
OPENED AT:	11.00	Alasdair Macdonald (AM)	Bob Kindness (BK)
CLOSED AT:	14.15	APOLOGIES:	
IN ATTENDANCE:		Nigel Pearson (NP)	Melanie Smith (MS)
Peter Cunningham (PC)	Ian Lindsay (IL)	Mark Williams (MW)	Richard Greene (RG)
Veronica Mullaney (VM)	Peter Jarosz (PJ)	Henry Dalgety (HD)	Angus Davidson (AD)

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i There were no matters arising from the 16th December 2014 minutes – which were adopted as an accurate record and were proposed by DB seconded by BK.

1.ii **DB** welcomed Alasdair Macdonald to the meeting and proposed AM as a new WRFT trustee. This was seconded by EB and approved by all trustees present.

1.iii **DB** welcomed Ian Lindsay (Vice Chairman of the Skye Fisheries Trust) to the meeting.

2. Meetings (DB) and correspondence

2.i Just prior to this meeting DB and PJ met up with Hugh Whittle at Inveran Estate house to brief HW on the latest developments regarding the Bruachaig Restoration project. HW is probably the main beneficiary of any restocking of the Bruachaig river and is certainly the main financial contributor to the project. The intention was to stock out 80,000 eggs (at a cost of £10K) from captive brood stock held by BK above the falls on the Brauchaig. However, the Kinlochewe estate owner now has permission for a hydro scheme on the Bruachaig and does not want any restocking to occur above the lower falls. As a result the eggs will need to be stocked out in different places than originally intended. This latest situation does open up the possibility of a survey project that could involve a PhD student from UHI or Glasgow universities.

2.ii The board has agreed to increase its involvement with both schools and the general public and will support more work with education. As the trust already has a number of education projects on-going, the board can make funding available to ensure the future and further expansion of the existing education projects. One possible education project is to have a tank in the primary schools for them to manage pond life in the tank.

2.iii WRASFB will help finance the sea trout work in the south of Skye. This work is important as the area is some 40 kilometres away from the nearest fish farm and has not had a fish farm near the area for over six years. The work is able to monitor any recovery in the resident sea trout populations that should have occurred since the last fish farm left the area some six years ago.

2.iv DB reported that Harry Davies has agreed that his booklet on fishing in the Gairloch area can be used to populate the Angling Information web site. Bruce Sanderson's book can also be used for text on the web site. Both DB and PC will contact Ian Kinloch to find out how to populate the web site. Correct information on the web site should help to increase permits sold. Additionally the web site could be used to sell copies of the WRFT Annual Review as well as look to selling laminated guides of various hill lochs' locations and the information relevant to them.

2.v The move towards closer cooperation between the WRFT and SFT is ongoing. The two trusts will try to integrate and work more effectively with a single contact point here at the Harbour Centre and with one administrator. A draft memorandum of understanding will be circulated shortly.

2.vi **IL** explained that SFT was continually short on income and has no easy access to the skill sets that are necessary for projects. However, a unique set of circumstances is presenting itself on Skye and SFT are in close liaison with the Portree Angling club. This liaison will facilitate the option to raise funding for community ventures regarding the ownership of a number of currently publicly owned rivers that will shortly be released onto the market in the hope that community groups will take up the opportunity to buy the fishing rights. This is a unique situation for anywhere in Scotland, as the vast majority of rivers are privately owned assets. **PC** will look at more work projects that can be done on Skye.

3. FINANCE REPORTS

3.i Cash Projections.

The end of February 2015 cash projections had been previously emailed to trustees giving everyone an opportunity to read through them and bring any queries to the meeting. No queries were raised.

3.ii Management Reports

3.iii 2015 Accounts and Finance

- The 2014-15 accounts will be worked during the month of May.
- Education projects have been run in the current financial year (2014-15). The board's offer to help financially means that the current educational projects can continue in the future with the help of some matched funding, from outside sources, where necessary.
- The financial year 2014-15 has seen the Trust continuing to trade at a breakeven position – for the second year in a row. There are a number of reasons for this improvement among which are the number of contract work that the Trust, again this year, managed to achieve and, importantly, the continued significant funding from the Board.
- WRASFB has decided that there will be no increase in the levy rate for 2015-16. However, the board has agreed to give an additional £6,600.00 to WRFT for the specific monitoring of fish farms with a ten-year term attached to their planning permission. Any shortfall in the funding of this monitoring could be financed from other sources.

3.iv Budgets 2015-16

The budgets for 2015-16 will be worked on in the month of May.

4. BIOLOGIST' REPORTS

PC's report was a projected version of the WRFT Annual Report of January 2015. PC talked through salient points from the report that can be viewed using the following link:

<http://www.wrft.org.uk/files/WRFT%20Review%20Jan%202015%20for%20webv3.pdf>

PC also reported that he has managed to arrange a number of fish farm visits that will take place in the immediate future. He has already visited one in the Summer Isles and reported their use of both wrasse and lumpfish as a biological method of sea lice control. Is this because the chemical treatments are losing their effectiveness?

5. PLANNING AHEAD

5.i Priorities for the year ahead – trustees' input please

Priorities for the moment are focussing on educational projects, the Angling Information project and, most importantly, on the monitoring of fish farms with ten-year terms attached to their planning permission. Other projects are needed particularly long-term projects – such as habitat restoration projects.

5.ii Skye Fisheries Trust

All the discussion on this subject was recorded earlier in these minutes.

5.ii Loch Maree Project

This project has progressed to the stage of a steering group being formed. Members of this steering group are now agreed and next month an initial meeting of the group should occur.

5.iii Additional Trustee

As reported earlier Alasdair Macdonald was formally approved as a new trustee of the WRFT. Alasdair brings a fresh dimension to the trust in that his work involves salmonids on a daily basis and his viewpoint will prove invaluable to the trust.

There is still a requirement of at least another trustee and we will continue with efforts to bring the number of trustees back up to the maximum of twelve (as set out in our Deed of Trust).

6. AOB

PJ reported that following a successful initial survey of INNS in the Loch Broom area, an application for funding to ENTRUST will now be made. Should the application be successful, a start on some of the required eradication of the invasive species, reported there in the survey, can be made.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NEXT MEETINGS	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Trustees' meeting (Confirmed)	23/06/2015	WRFT Office	11.00
Trustees' meeting (Proposed)	25/08/2015	WRFT Office	11.00
Trustees' meeting (Proposed)	27/10/2015	WRFT Office	11.00