

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) Graeme Wilson (GW) Richard Wilson (RW)
DATE: 1 February 2011	APOLOGIES: David Barclay (DB) Angus Morrison (AM) Nigel Pearson (NP) Ian Fergusson (IF) Richard Greene (RG) Ben Hadfield (BH) Bob Kindness (BK) Mark Williams (MW)
OPENED AT: 10.30	
CLOSED AT: 15.30	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Peter Cunningham (PC) Mary Gibson (MG) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Donna-Claire Hunter (DC) Jonah Tosney (JT)	

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i The minutes of the Management meeting of 7th December we adopted as read.

2. FINANCE

2.i The overall financial situation remains buoyant with £6.2K still to claim from sweep-netting budget, 7K from RAFTS, 5K from WRASFB, 2.5K from an individual donor and some 2K from contract work still to come in before the financial year end.

2. ii Although the bank balance appears very healthy, it was pointed out that three months of the second biologist costs must be paid in this FY, and some ring-fenced project funds that are not freely available for Trust use, feature in the balance. These unspent project-specific funds need to be quantified and made clear in the accounts – **VM/PJ**

2.iii The River Ewe screw trap still has 3K unspent but 2K of this money has not yet been received. The trap will continue next financial year.

2.iv The River Carron rotary screw trap budget is fully drawn down and no funds are available to support BK in data analysis. However, JT is now helping with the analysis and this should be considered as direct support.

2.v A number of contracts undertaken this year have had mixed financial results – some making a net gain and others not. This emphasises the importance of the Trust only undertaking consultancy work where it directly furthers our objectives.

2.vi The following projects were discussed:

- The Bruachaig restoration project is now using more than the grant funding that has been sought to date. Neil Morrison is holding brood stock and BK is holding fry. This project must continue and new sources of finance should be explored – the new owners at the Heights of Kinlochewe and S & SE could both be approached. **PJ**
- With proposed extra sweep netting, as well as a scale reading workshop and report writing, the sweep netting budget should be fully realised – see 2.1 for the actual outstanding amount.
- One or two days work (possibly in March/May) may need to be allocated to the implementation of the bio-security plan and mink monitoring. Co-ordination is required for the mink work, but this is not a direct task for WRFT.
- The Conon carrying capacity project that is supported financially by WRFT and RAFTS, has completed 2 years of baseline work. WRFT needs to clarify just what is needed hereafter as part of stage two, the actual trial of nutrient enhancement in Wester Ross. This could possibly be taken forward by **JT**.
- The Slatterdale project still has 2K of monies left unspent – this could be linked into the Gairloch Business Association Wildlife Festival in May 2011.
- The Herring project has stalled and urgently needs to progress – **BB** will speak to **RG**.
- The educational projects for 2011/2 have pre-applications into SNH for grant funding, but in the current climate these may not be successful and alternative sources should be explored. **PJ**

2.vii A new budget heading has been set to monitor the ever-increasing Trust time put into consultations (e.g. aquaculture and hydro scheme developments). **VM**

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

3.i The second biologist work programme is beginning to “flesh out”:

- **JT** will undertake about one and a half months work for Skye Fisheries Trust (SFT) probably starting in late July. Apart from replicating survey work done in 2005, there are some additional

sites to electro-fish.

- SFT would also like JT to identify and work up new projects that the Trust can seek funding for, and implement in the following year.
- **JT** will also take on responsibility for electro-fishing surveys in the WRFT southern rivers in 2011. **JT and PC** to agree a survey programme.
- **JT** will carry out the feasibility study funded by RAFTS to investigate setting up a Wester Ross anglers' information system. He will also undertake the analysis of data from the 'River Ewe rotary screw trap.
- WRFT require a meeting with Inverness College to agree the work programme for **JT**.

3.ii See **2.vi** for educational projects' funding.

3.iii The Tournai trap project has just £600.00 left for this FY and both the up and down stream traps need repairing. The down stream trap can be repaired within the remaining funds but the up stream trap will need some £1.5K spending on repairs and this should be sought from external sources. However, it is essential that the value of the several years data is ascertained before the Trust invests further. **PC**

3.iv The current procedure in responding to aquaculture development/expansion is generally that WRFT provides the technical advice and WRASFB actually responds. There was some discussion on the merits of the advice being approved, or at least passed by all the Trustees or by the management group. Whilst it was agreed that this would be a useful procedure in principle, in practice it has to be remembered that some response are required within a 14 day time slot.

4. **BIOLOGIST'S REPORT**

4.i Key points are summarised in the attached sheet. Supplementary points made were:

- The exact future of sweep netting post-TWG remains uncertain. RAFTS will convene a meeting to discuss this and other potential new project components.
- The latest newsletter has been produced and is available on the web site, though not posted out in hard copy. There is an increasing reliance on disseminating information via our web site. It is, therefore, important to remind members from time to time (by email) that the web site has been up-dated. It will still be necessary to post out the Annual Reviews to all members and newsletters to any members who do not have email. The Annual Reviews and some Reports could be placed in, for example, medical centres and libraries thus raising the profile of WRFT.
- Support is being sought to fund production of a DVD about marine life in Loch Gairloch.
- John Armstrong has been appointed Chief Scientist at MSS Pitlochry

5. **AOB**

5i There is a possibility of a new computer from the HC's redundant stock.

5ii The Inveran Estate netting rights in Loch Ewe are to be leased to WRFT over 25 years for scientific purpose only. The legal side of this leasing still needs to be formalised and completed.

5iii Doubt was expressed over whether the proposed Flowerdale biodiversity interpretation boards could be completed within the allocated timeframe. **BB** to report back to SNH immediately.

5iv The SNH SAC Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) contract is likely to be negotiated by RAFTS at a lower than normal rate for this type of work. However, it should be remembered that this work would usually be done as core work so any funding could be viewed as a contribution to core funds. This was seen as a good opportunity to take on a worthwhile project.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management meeting	15/03/2011	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustees' and AGM meeting	01/06/2011	WRFT Office	10.30