

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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| WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES | | PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) Mark Williams (MW) Richard Wilson (RW) Richard Greene (RG) Ian Fergusson (IF) Nigel Pearson (NP) Bob Kindness (BK) Graeme Wilson (GW) |
| PURPOSE: | TRUSTEES' MEETING | |
| DATE: | 28 January 2009 | |
| OPENED AT: | 10.30 | |
| CLOSED AT: | 15.30 | |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Peter Cunningham (PC) Peter Jarosz (PJ) | APOLOGIES: Ben Hadfield (BH) Angus Morrison (AM) Mary Gibson (MG) |

1. MATTERS ARISING

- 1.i **PJ** stated that the amounts quoted in 2.v have been agreed between RAFTS and WRFT and now are £5.2K from the Scottish Government with no outstanding monies from the Crown Estate. This is due to a late (by end November) revamping of two of our projects to avoid any loss of grant money via RAFTS.
- 1.ii The minutes of the 12th November meeting were passed as read.

2. TRUSTEES

- 2.i Trustee were reminded that their interests (and any possible conflict of interest) should be recorded in the Interest Book (the Black Book) and also that when commenting on WRFT business matters their comments should reflect WRFT trusteeship before their other interests.
- 2.ii We have heard nothing further from Peter Voy concerning what progress (if any) he has made in recruiting an Angling Club representative. **PJ** will contact him for the latest position. If there is no result from Peter Voy's effort, it was agreed that we should switch our attention to recruiting a representative from anglers of the southern rivers.

3. FINANCE

- 3.i The Cash Projection was taken as per the circulated report with no questions on any of the entries.
- 3.ii The Management Reports were taken as per the circulated report. **VM** briefly outlined the major on-going projects.
- 3.iii The draft Budget was presented and is a start to progressing the document up to an agreed budget once all projects are approved and their funds in place. It was agreed that **PJ**'s time may double from the current one day up to two days a week to allow him to be more closely involved in funding, grant claim issues etc, thus freeing up **PC**'s time for scientific work.
- 3.iv The deposit account with HBoS matures on 29th January so it was decided to limit WRFT's total monies at HBoS to under £50K and move the residue to Nationwide – **VM & PJ**.
- 3.v The Management Group was re-formatted to be made up of **RG, RW, BB, JM, PC, VM** and **PJ** and will meet on Friday 6th February to prioritise the work projects for 2009/10 so that funding can be applied for within the time constraints of the main grant funders.
- 3.vi **NP** asked whether **PC** needed help with all the report writing that is scheduled to happen by the end of March 2009? – **PC** said not unless more of him is asked by way of responses.
- 3.vii **NP** said that it was imperative that expenditure (on projects) should not take place until the income was in place.

4. PLANNING AHEAD

- 4.i The FMP was discussed and a number of points made:
- It was agreed that the word "wild" be inserted in the statement that "the Purpose of the Trust is: to maximise and sustain the productivity of *wild* salmonid fisheries in the rivers and lochs of Wester Ross".
 - It was also agreed that this purpose would contribute to a wider goal for the Trust of: enhancing and sustaining the productivity and biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems for present and future generations.
 - **IF** said that objective 9 should be raised to a higher position within the list of objectives.
 - **BB** pointed out that "awareness" should be overarching throughout all our objectives.
 - **RW** asked the trustees to remember that WRFT is not a campaigning organisation when talking

about public awareness.

- **NP** said that Marine (Herring in particular) monitoring should be integrated into sea trout projects and asked can we get a solid scientific base for the effects of sea-lice on the sea trout and salmon populations?.
- **BK** stated that Fish Farms are using treatments for sea-lice (that they don't need to do) to help protect the smolt runs of wild fish.

4.ii WRFT only monitors and has no power to influence Fish Farmers with regards to sea-lice treatment/control so could we "manage" rather than just monitor?. There is little point in WRFT continuing to monitor unless the data we produce is going to be used to regulate/influence the practices of the fish farming industry. Should WRFT push for TWG to do a study on the Fish Farm sea-lice data versus wild fish problems? This issue could be taken up with RAFTS?

4.iii JM asked what samples Marine Harvest have received from the Tourniga trap? **PC** said that they had received all samples from the trap that were relevant to them.

4.iv It was decided to register with Entrust (the Land Fill Tax Credit) with the intention of using this grant provider for certain projects within the coming year (2009/10) – **PJ & VM**.

5. BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

5.i RG said that he would provide a contact for the Council engineers so that **PC** could discuss with them (council) obstructions to the wild fish in various burns .

5.ii The Biosecurity plan may commence towards the end of the year..

5.iii RG pointed out that the £1350 of H.C. money for the Marine Seminar (now scheduled for May 29th) must be spent before the end of March 2009 – **PC** said that he will allocate all his time spent organising the seminar against this amount.

5.iv NP asked should WRFT be doing more work on sea-lice in our area? **RG** suggested that we should devote an entire meeting to sea-lice workshop/problems in end March/early April using up any surplus sweep-netting monies.

6. AOB

6.i The Static Point planning application was discussed for some time and it was decided that WRFT should uphold PC's report and put forward its case for objection to the Board for their submission (as statutory consultee) to the council.

6.ii ACA legal advisors was discussed and it was decided to leave the contact for them with the Board.

Post meeting point: *Static Point objection has been sent by the Board who have also joined Fishlegal (the new name for ACA).*

| MEETING | DATE | LOCATION | TIME |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------|
| Management Group meeting | 6 Feb 2009 | WRFT Office | 10.30 |
| AGM/Trustees' meeting | 28 May 2009 | WRFT Office | 10.30 |
| Marine Seminar | 29 May 2009 | Poolewe Village Hall | 10.00 |