

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) Richard Wilson (RW) Graeme Wilson (GW)
PURPOSE: MANAGEMENT MEETING	
DATE: 15 April 2010	
OPENED AT: 10.30	
CLOSED AT: 13.30	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Peter Cunningham (PC) Mary Gibson (MG) Veronica Mullaney (VM)	

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i After discussion, it was agreed that the Southern Rivers' levy should be increased annually in line with RPI to avoid the alternative of a sudden large increase being imposed (following a number of years of no increase).

2. FINANCE

- 2.i There are still 2009/10 project monies to come in from RAFTS.
- 2.ii The overall cash position is positive, however the current surplus will decline over the next twelve months (or so) – our 2010/11 budget indicates a £10K shortfall.
- 2.iii WRFT is exploring other funding sources (Robertson Trust being one) and there does appear to be a number of options. Entrust (Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) may be a possible fund source for the Carron Carrying Capacity Project.
- 2.iv Our annual accounts for 2009/10 will shortly be going to Ritsons who have proven themselves extremely slow in the past. **JM** raised the query “should WRFT consider changing accountants”?
- 2.v Whilst OSCR requires each (funded) project to be tracked, showing precisely how much money comes in, where these funds come from and how that money is used, we still need to consider if our financial systems could be further simplified. **PJ, VM, BB**

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

- 3.i There is potential value in having a second electro-fishing team leader, and Roger McLachlan will undertake the appropriate training course. This will spread the load giving more flexibility and could provide options for offering services to other organisations.
- 3.ii This year Salmon & Trout in the Classroom and Living Lochs will be part funded by RAFTS and, hopefully, the Robertson Trust. SNH (Ullapool) may still part fund both of these projects in 2011/12.
- 3.iv We will look for funding, probably from RAFTS, for the Stocking Workshop in May. This will focus on the value or otherwise of stocking in Wester Ross, and on identifying best practice for stocking programmes and restoring wild fish populations.
- 3.v The screw trap in the River Ewe is still not functioning satisfactorily – moving it is difficult but essential to locating the best possible position for it to perform adequately.
- 3.vi A proposal by Wester Ross Fisheries to “grow on” native sea trout for Loch Maree will be put to the board at its next meeting.
- 3.vii There were some instances of fishing for non-salmonid species on Loch Tollaidh over the winter but no reports of any unusual catches.
- 3.viii Genetic samples have been examined from a number of different rivers throughout Wester Ross – looking for differences and/or reasons for differences. The results to date have not yielded clear answers to some of the key questions. We await further analysis.
- 3.ix WRFT has sought sea lice data from other Trusts to supplement our own data set. There appears to be some resistance from other Trusts in providing this information. We continue to pursue this option.

4. AOB

4.i **PJ** and **BB** reported on their meeting with Dr Melanie Smith of Inverness College – the main outcome is the possibility of a jointly funded biologist for 3 years. The Trustees, present at this meeting, were in general agreement with this innovative idea. The details will be presented at the next trustees meeting for a decision.

4.ii The Annual Review (2010) will follow the format of the Fisheries Management Plan and will show action/achievements against objectives.

4.iii We need to “chase up” Aberdeen University to discover what progress they have made on the Students Projects – **BB**.

4.iv SEPA seem interested in taking the Tollaidh burn project onto the next stage of a survey of the FWPM status.

4.v PJ will be attending the RAFTS’ Project Funding seminar in Perth on 21st April.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Trustees’ meeting	27 May 2010	WRFT Office	14.00
AGM	27 May 2010	Poolewe Village Hall	19.45
Management meeting	8 July 2010	WRFT Office	10.30