

Minute of Quarterly Meeting held on 23rd September 2015

Location: The Queensferry Hotel, Fife

Present:	Apologies:
Fen Howieson(Mandated Cambusmore) – Chairman (FH)	Tony Cameron (Leny) (TC)
Fiona Simpson (Mandated Crown Estates) (FS)	Scott Nisbet (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (SN)
Craig Gardner (Mandated Stirling Council) (CG)	Roy Robertson (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (RR)
George McIntosh (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (GMC)	Joe McGarvie (Netsmen Rep) (JM)
	Not Present:
	Aly Dickson (Lanrick) (AD)
In attendance: Alison Baker – Clerk to the Board(AB) Jonathan Louis – RFFT Project Officer (JL) Scott Mason – Stirling Council Fisheries Officer (SM) Lee Fisher – Forth District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent (LF)	
0 members of the public	

The meeting opened at 3.00pm

Ref	Item	Action
1.0	Minutes of the last meeting	
1.1	The last meeting was held Wednesday 27 th May 2015, minutes proposed by FH, seconded by FS	
1.2	<u>Actions:</u> 1.1a No request received from River Avon Federation regarding C&R. 1.1b AB stepped down as Angler's rep on the Board 1.1c New angler's rep will not be immediately advertised. As there are Board triennial elections in 2016 the appointment of the New Rep will be made at the same time..	
	Agenda items	
2.0	Governance	
2.1	Register of interests was circulated and updated	
2.2	Register of Complaints – None received	
2.3	Changes to Board – Craig Gardener has been formally mandated as Stirling Council fishery representative with a letter from Stirling Council.	
3.0	Chairman's update	
3.1	Nothing new to report. Commends the work AB has done to turn the Board around.	
4.0	Clerks update	
4.1	AB presented the Clerk's report.	
4.2	Wild Fisheries Review (WFR) & License to kill (LTK) still ongoing.	
4.3	LTK – Trust responded re conservation limits and querying estuarine limits along with asking why Marine Scotland did not consult with the Trust or Board. It is thought that Scottish Government may only tag in areas that don't have sustainable fisheries No consultation from Scottish Government on the sustainable harvest quotas. Board and Trust have not been contacted. The SAC status of the Teith was discussed but until response submitted it was not known what approach Scot Gov would take.	
4.4	WFR - a Draft bill will be published after Christmas Geographic areas discussed at Joint Working Group Meeting. Forth boundary not likely to change at the moment. It is likely that a logical number based on existing network would be 19 FMO's to cover Scotland but group think Scottish Government may want that down to 15. Forth Board has been asked to speak with Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust as there may be opportunities to share resources. Makes sense Geographically but FDSFB not rushing to action this. Finance was discussed at the JWG, it is suspected that salmon levy will continue to be core funding to finance FMO's. no indication as to where more money would be found.	

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4.5	<p>Big push coming from boards for levy to be collected locally AB continuing to apply pressure for coarse anglers to pay into the system if FMO is to be an all species organisation.</p> <p>Forth have been asked to look at costings to work out resources needed to run at full capacity. Stakeholders in FMO will be wide ranging. Suggestion to put a list of potential stakeholders together for a new FMO board had been requested. It should potentially extend to people with an interest in rivers as well. It was confirmed that the FDSFB response to the consultation was not yet up on the website. (AB to action)</p> <p>Conservation policies - Two changes had been agreed with local clubs.</p> <p>Leven is now full catch and release for salmon starting 2016 Carron is now full catch and release for salmon starting 2016 GMC raised the issue that full catch and release harms clubs and puts people of fishing rivers. AB stated that Board was trying to help clubs promote and encourage use of their rivers through Trout & Salmon and is considering setting up fishpal for the Forth but some clubs do not engage in the process.</p> <p>Electrofishing surveys across the District are not catching fry at a rate level with some of the neighbouring areas and are not therefore considered at this stage to have a sustainable harvestable surplus.</p> <p>Stirling Council Fisheries proposed lowering the number of issued tags to 3 per season for salmon and 3 for sea trout. It was agreed to apply this across the Forth and Teith catchments. No objections to conservation policies.</p> <p>It was noted that the conservation policies may have to change when further regulation was issued by Scottish Government.</p> <p>The Board agreed to the conservation policy levels, AB to issue as and when SG regulations are agreed.</p>	AB
4.6	<p>2017 re valuations have started. Requests for information have been received from Fife, Central and Tayside. AB was in the process of responding in relation to the nets held by the Board.</p>	AB AB
5.0	Bailiff's update	
5.1	AB/LF presented the Bailiff's report.	
5.2	AB confirmed that Bill Cunningham (BC) retired at the end of July.	
5.3	Lee Fisher has been appointed as Acting Superintendent whilst the Board reevaluates the enforcement strategy.	
5.4	LF worked with Bill for 3 weeks to ensure the best handover possible. There are a number of outstanding court cases which are being dealt with. LF is in the process of contacting the volunteer water bailiffs. A number of WB did hand in their warrant cards at the same time as BC retired, however sufficient remain to continue bailiffing the District and more will be recruited.	
5.5	The Tyne continues to cause problems with a large scale poaching issue which has been classed as part of larger serious crime operations. FDSFB are working with the River Tweed Commission. RTC has requested a number of their staff to be issued with a Forth District Warrant to undertake an overlapping operation. No objections raised.	
5.6	LF is also involved in bailiff working group feeding into the WFR. LF has asked the working group to consider consolidating the Inshore Fishing Act so bailiffs know how to handle illegal fishing for salmon through fishing for other species (such as sea bass)	
5.7	Continued Professional Development (CPD) will happen for all volunteer bailiffs to make sure skills are at a high standard.	
5.8	AB presented a paper outlining options for future of bailiffing in the District to the Board for consideration. SM raised the question of the Boards boats. AB confirmed that the boats were not up to current commercial standards and further work was required to assess the type of boat required and the skills and manpower required to operate effectively in the Estuary and Firth.	
5.9	FS asked whether FDSFB have the data on where the issues are for poaching. AB confirmed that there was some data which was now being added to the FDSFB data management but that there was a paucity of data collected in the past and much of this was not reported up the line to the clerk or to the board.	
5.10	AB confirmed that changes to volunteer bailiff model will need to occur to fulfill employer health and safety requirements and that volunteer bailiffs will sign a 'contract' to make sure rules are followed and they know what is expected of them.	
5.11	The new proposals would be piloted on the Tyne and Esks. The Clerk to progress requirements for to progress the new superintendent's post to make it full time.	AB

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6.0	Trust update	
6.1	AB presented a report from RFFT.	
6.2	RFFT submitted a separate, slightly different WFR response Turnover for 2015 is projected to be over £1m (from £60k FDSFB donation) the majority from SEPA Water Environment Fund and HLF for specific project costs.	
6.3	FS stated it was good to see fisheries management plans have a timetable	
6.4	AB confirmed that more electrofishing sites have been completed in 2015 than ever before.	
6.5	Fankerton fish counter is progressing as planned.	
6.6	Dollar Weir is progressing as planned with offsite construction.	
6.7	Belhaven weir has ground to a halt. No further progress and it is now back with SEPA due to legal reasons.	
7.0	Financial Update	
7.1	It was confirmed that the outstanding assessments were less than £5k. AB is working with Managed Estates on chasing the remainder.	
7.2	It is forecasted that FDSFB would be within budget at the end of the year.	
7.3	The digitalization of the Districts fisheries was still ongoing. There had been a poor response to sending out of the maps.	
7.4	A discussion on the sections of rivers which are not currently covered by the valuations/assessment was held. AB to work with Crown Estates to agree a way forward to ensure that the Forth area was not penalized in any future funding regime if not all assessment was being collected.	
8.0	Date of next meeting	
8.1	Date of next quarterly, public meeting and annual general meeting 25 th November Board meeting 4pm AGM – 6pm Public meeting – 8pm Venue to organised.	AB
9.0	AOB	
9.1	LF commented that he was impressed with the running of FDSFB compared to other areas he knew. He also stated that Bill Cunningham had done a very good job at enforcing the District bearing in mind the size and resources at his disposal.	
10.0	AOB open to the floor	
10.1	No other business.	

Meeting closed at 5.30pm

This meeting was not followed by a closed session of the Meeting as there were no members of the public in attendance and no sensitive matter raised..