

Minute of Quarterly Meeting held on 25th November 2015

Location: The King Robert Hotel, Bannockburn

Present:	Apologies:
Fen Howieson (Mandated Cambusmore) – Chairman (FH)	Bob Baird (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (BB)
Tony Cameron (Leny) (TC)	
Fiona Simpson (Mandated Crown Estates) (FS) (part)	
Scott Mason (Mandated Stirling Council) (CG)	
Chris Thomas (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (CT)	
Jason Walls (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (JW)	Not Present:
John Mckenzie (Mandated Allan Water Angling Improvement Association) JM	Aly Dickson (Lanrick) (AD)
In attendance: Alison Baker – Clerk to the Board(AB) Lee Fisher – Forth District Salmon Fishery Board Superintendent (LF) Davy Graham (DG) Volunteer Bailiff William Anderson(WA) – Managed Estates Jonathan Louis (JL) – River Forth Fisheries Trust	

The meeting opened at 6.00pm

Ref	Item	Action
1.0	Apologies for absence	
	Apologies were received from BB	
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting	
2.1	The last meeting was held Wednesday 23 rd August 2016, minutes proposed by FH, seconded by JM and accepted as a true record.	
3.0	Actions form the previous minutes	
3.1	No actions.	
	Agenda items	
4.0	Governance	
4.1	Register of interests was circulated and updated - CT asked to sign register as new angling rep	
4.2	Register of Complaints – None received	
4.3	Register of Code of Good Practice – no changes to the code and all confirmed accepted.	
5.0	Chairman's update	
5.1	Policing such a large district is always tricky but progress being made in the estuary thanks to LF and DG. Indication from catch returns which we have to date highlights most rivers are down re catches but some are substantially up (Allan Water and Tyne)	
6.0	Clerks update	
6.1	AB presented the Clerk's report.	
6.2	WFR	
6.2.1	- No parliamentary time for WFR during the next year so WFR has quietened down. AB continued to engage with working groups to make sure Forth voice/issues are heard.	
6.2.2	- Potential pilot FMO/NU to be set up in the coming year and Forth could be a potential front runner for being the pilot FMO.	
6.2.3	- Financing of the FMO's remain unclear	
6.2.4	- Number of Trust staff are on several fisheries working groups feeding into the development work for WFR	

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6.3	Conservation Limits	
6.3.1	- FDSFB not told/consulted prior to 2017 limits being released and the following issues were raised as part of the consultation: Allan and Devon were not mentioned in initial release, Forth geographical area which was used for new calculation was not correct, Carron made category 1, up from category 3.	
6.3.2	- All the above points were reassessed due to FDSFB response and information provided to MS. The Clerk has had confirmation that the Carron, Forth, Allan and Devon have been changed but exact changes have not been published prior to the date of this meeting.	
6.3.3		
6.3.4	- FDSFB conservation codes have been reviewed for 2017 and the main clubs have been consulted. The Forth Codes of Conservation have been distributed and the content agreed unanimously.	
6.3.5	- The Code of Conservation also have catch & release targets which will be assess as part of the annual assessment.	
6.3.6	- Codes will be uploaded onto the website for proprietors and clubs to see changes.	
6.4	ASFB	
6.4.1	- As part of the streamlining process in fisheries management, ASFB has changed it name and adjusted it constitution to allow for Fisheries Trust to join. RAFTS is in the process of being closed down. ASFB will be known as Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	
6.4.2	- Alan Wells now CEO of FMS	
6.4.3	- FMS will be a representative body only	
6.4.4	- The discount from ASFB last year will not be applied in 2017 for FMS and so the subscription will increase.	
6.4.5	- AB has agreed to organise a joint meeting between Board and Trust to discuss who the Forth wish to put forward as a representative to sit on FMS board and whether this is a board or trust rep.	
6.5	Outstanding assessment	
6.5.1	- WA provided an update on outstanding levy to be collected	
6.5.2	- AWAIA assessment still outstanding, JM highlighted this has now been sent and will arrive shortly	
6.5.3	- Tullis Russell in receivership waiting for info from administrators, TC stated that it might be good idea to put a nominal offer in to buy Tullis Russell fishing rights and have them in board ownership. AB to action	
6.5.4	- Crown estate have overpaid and this will be adjusted next year.	
6.5.5	- Deacon industrial denying owning fishery and have wound down. They are not sure which part of the river it is on Len18	
6.5.6	- £2,200 is still outstanding and to continue to be pursued by Managed Estates.	
6.6	Reports	
6.6.1	- Two reports have been created. One on the use of body cameras during bailiffing and another on alternative non-lethal predator control. General board agreement to proceed with body camera technology.	
6.6.2	- LF highlighted that JL and LF attended bailiff/enforcement working group for WFR which JL presented his findings at. The working group agreed to consider this technology further with a view it would create protocols which would make their use consistent nationwide.	
6.7	Consultations	
6.7.1	- TC requested information on whether the board responded to the proposed barrage across the Forth as part of the Stirling Development Plan, AB confirmed it had but as yet had not had a response from Stirling Council. RSPB have been in contact and highlight they are against aspects such as barrage. They will be submitting representation to parliament against aspects such as barrage. The board will support where possible.	
6.7.2	- AB other consultations which the Board is currently being consulted on include a Stirling Council pontoon.	

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7.0	Bailiffing update	
7.1	- A lot of focus protecting stocks in estuary and in the Forth, Teith and Allan with multiple patrols being carried out.	
7.2	- Constantly building contacts and new sources of intelligence, with volunteer bailiffs being a fantastic source of info for local landowners. A special mention to Davy Graham who has been invaluable	
7.3	- Pilot project set up in Tyne & Esk catchments consisting of 6 volunteer bailiffs with 1 coordinator to help the Superintendent police this area.	
7.4	- 8 boats fishing for sparling/sprats using booms currently on the Estuary. Ongoing discussion with Marine Scotland on the regulation of this.	
7.5	- Work over the coming months will look at protecting salmon from putty poachers.	
7.6	- Additional support for managing volunteers continued to be provided by JL. Training of volunteer bailiffs has been organised by JL with further workshops to follow. This has led the board to develop CPD for the bailiffs with training to be carried out either yearly or biyearly for some training.	
8.0	Trust update	
8.1	- AB presented a report from RFFT.	
8.2	- AB highlighted that the donation provided by the Board was being solely used on fishery management activities such as: Core fishery management, WFR consultation time, electrofishing monitoring, building relationships with potential partner organisations, education, consultations, fish counters (Allan water & Lanrick) (development) and Fankerton), genetics	
8.3	- Project funding had been brought in for further projects by the trust	
8.4	- Allan Water Improvement Project continues with several projects successfully completed in the catchment. No board money has been used to fund this project	
8.5	- RiverLife: Almond & Avon fully funded by grants acquired by funders. No board money has been used to fund this project	
8.6	- FINNS continues throughout several rivers in the district. Fully funded via grants secured.	
8.7	- A project in the headwaters of the Teith and Forth currently being developed	
8.8	- A project on the Leven currently being considered	
8.9	- A project on the Tyne currently being considered	
9.0	Financial Update	
9.1	AB confirmed that there was a shortfall for 2016/17 as previously thought from last AMQP due to assessment being down. This was mainly due to the assessment collection being lower due to adjustments for the Allan and late payment penalties having to be returned. Income: £137,018 Expenditure: £139,020. Accounts can be found in 2016 annual report.	
10.0	Date of next meeting	
10.1	AB confirmed that she would set the dates for the meetings for the forthcoming year	AB
11.0	AOCB	
11.1	No other business was discussed.	

Meeting closed at 7.00pm