

## Forth District Salmon Fishery Board

Board Meeting of the Elected Proprietors held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 2.00pm

Venue: Linlithgow Burgh Halls

### MINUTES

Attendees: Fen Howieson (Chairman), Craig Gardner on behalf of Les Goodfellow (P), Scott Mason on behalf of Les Goodfellow (P), Ali Dickson (P), Tony Cameron (P), Alison Baker (C), Scott Nisbet (C), George MacIntosh (C), William Anderson, Lisa Lawson & Kathryn Bontoft (Managed Estates)

(C – Co-optee, P – Proprietor or Rep)

Apologies: Joe McGarvie, Roy Robertson, Fiona Simpson

Others Present: Brian Davidson (ASFB/RAFTS)

#### 1) New Actions

Item	Context	Owner
<b>4b) Consultation on the proposed introduction of licensing system</b>	<p>Alison Baker gave a brief summary on the Consultation which is due to be published in April 2015. Various concerns were expressed by the Board.</p> <p>Brian Davidson advised the Board that ASFB will issue a briefing over the next week or two.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that any points of concern should be sent to Alison Baker who in turn can respond to the consultation on behalf of both FDSFB and RFFT.</p> <p>It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to discuss the response to the Consultation. To be present at the meeting are the Chairman, Alison Baker, Tony Cameron, George MacIntosh and Scott Mason. Alison Baker to arrange.</p>	<p><b>All/Alison</b></p> <p><b>Alison Baker</b></p>
<b>5 – Clerk's Update</b>	Printed report was circulated prior to the meeting and William Anderson gave a brief summary.	
<b>5b)</b>	The Board were advised of the two proprietors who have been overcharged due to successfully appealing their rateable values. It was agreed that the two proprietors should be refunded.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>AOCB</b>	<p>George MacIntosh would like to see some leeway on Catch &amp; Release on the Avon to satisfy anglers. Alison Baker suggested that George should write to her, as advisor for the Board, regarding this.</p> <p>Ali Dickson asked Alison Baker to look at the smolt screen at Deanston. She agreed to do so.</p>	<p><b>George MacIntosh</b></p> <p><b>Alison Baker</b></p>

#### 2) Open Actions

Item	Context	Owner
<b>9 – Management Plan</b>	Alison explained that the Management Plan is being revised to a Forth District Management plan. It should be completed and issued to the Board mid March.	<b>Alison Baker</b>

<b>11 – Governance c) Relevant Financial Interests</b>	The Register of Relevant Financial Interests was passed around and signed. The Register was left with Scott Nisbet to complete and return to Managed Estates.	<b>Scott Nisbet</b>
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### 3) Closed Actions

Item	Context	Owner
<p><b>2 – Minutes of Last Meeting</b></p> <p><b>4 – Chairman’s Update</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved by the Board and signed off.</p> <p>This was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that Bill’s vehicle requires a new clutch and is off the road until Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> March).</p> <p>The Chairman also advised that four people were going for bailiff training during March 2015 – two from Stirling Council, one from the Trust and one from Dunbar.</p> <p>The Chairman and Bill Cunningham had discussed a training day – the Board will fund the venue and Bill Cunningham will host. Bill Cunningham also agreed to attend any Club/Association meetings.</p> <p>Bill Cunningham is currently updating the Bailliffing Strategy and Register of Wardens.</p> <p>The Chairman raised the matter of a request from Jo (RFFT) for the Board to consider a £5,000 donation towards the cost of a fish ladder and counter to be installed on the Carron at Frankerton. The total cost is £45,000 (£20,000 to buy and £25,000 for the imaging technology).</p> <p>George MacIntosh stated there are lots of fish below Frankerton.</p> <p>Tony Cameron asked if this is the best area for the counter.</p> <p>Ali Dickson said that no counter had ever increased fish numbers and asked if the money would be better spent on improving the habitat. Although he was fully in support of the ladder.</p> <p>George MacIntosh said that a counter would produce data.</p> <p>The Chairman felt this was a good case study.</p> <p>Ali Dickson felt this was not the Board’s responsibility.</p> <p>Tony Cameron asked if fish start to go there, will it be detrimental to other areas? The Chairman explained that Jo (RFFT) thinks that below the dam is overpopulated and Alison advised that there are better spawning areas above the dam.</p> <p>Scott Nisbet asked if having a counter would save on biologist’s time. Alison felt that it would not save on time but would provide better data and therefore be complimentary.</p> <p>Tony Cameron asked if the counter would count smolts going down. Alison Baker advised that resource is not available at present.</p>	

<p><b>4a) Catch Returns</b></p> <p><b>6 - 2015/2016 Budget &amp; Levy</b></p> <p><b>7 - Alison Baker Management Proposal</b></p> <p><b>8 – Bailliff’s Update</b></p> <p><b>10 – Salmon &amp; Trout Assoc. Request</b></p> <p><b>11 – Governance</b>  <b>a) Code of Good Practice</b>  <b>b) Complaints</b></p>	<p>The Chairman advised that he felt that politically the Board should be supportive.</p> <p>Craig Gardner asked if SEPA would provide funding. Alison Baker advised that SEPA would not provide funding.</p> <p>The Chairman asked for an indication – Ali Dickson said he was against the Board paying for it. George MacIntosh said he was supportive. There were no other comments.</p> <p>The Chairman has asked Jo Girvan to attend the next Board meeting to provide a presentation with regards to the salmon ladder and counter.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the catch returns had now been collected, collated and submitted to ASFB (with the exception of a few proprietors who had failed to return their data. It was agreed that the Board would continue to use Marine Scotland catch data for reporting on the Website.</p> <p>The budget was circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman gave a brief summary.</p> <p>The Chairman recommended the assessment level remain at £1.60.</p> <p>Ali Dickson expressed concern about the Clerk’s cost and the level of assessment. He suggested the Board should adopt austerity measures and asked if the assessment level could/should be reduced.</p> <p>The assessment level was adopted by the Board.</p> <p>The proposal was circulated prior to the meeting. The benefits of ABC/Managed Estates providing the Services of the Clerks roll was discussed. The Chairman stated that the current practise, whereby he is picking up some of the Clerks role was unsustainable.</p> <p>Tony Cameron asked who would be responsible for production of the Annual Report. Alison Baker will add it to her list of duties.</p> <p>The proposal was adopted by the Board and will commence 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.</p> <p>Tony Cameron expressed thanks on to Managed Estates on behalf of the Board for stepping in at short notice in 2014.</p> <p>This was circulated prior to the meeting. Tony Cameron asked about the two cases that are currently at Court. The Chairman advised that Bill is in correspondence with the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Board are not in a position to contribute to the buyout.</p> <p>The final signature on the Code of Good Practice was obtained.</p> <p>There was no change to the register.</p>	
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**AOCB**

Alison Baker advised the Board of the forthcoming RAFTS Conference to be held in Perth.