

Forth District Salmon Fishery Board

Public Meeting of the Elected Proprietors to be held on 25th June 2014, 12.00pm

Venue: Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan

MINUTES

Attendees: Fen Howieson (Chairman), Les Goodfellow (P), Dennis Toon (C), Ms C Duncan (on behalf of Mrs F Simpson (P)), Joe McGarvie (P), Sharon Shortt (on behalf of Hazel Barton (P)), William Anderson (Clerk), Kathryn Bontoft (Managed Estates), Lisa Lawson (Managed Estates)

(C – Co-optee, P – Proprietor or Rep)

Apologies: Tony Cameron, Ali Dickson and Roy Robertson

Guests: Alison Baker (RFFT), Joanna Girvan (RFFT)

In attendance: There were four members of the public present.

RFFT Update:

Mrs Baker and Ms Girvan gave a detailed presentation to the attendees on the works they had completed and planned on behalf of the Board. There were a number of questions raised, which the Board and Guests responded too;

TM – Raised a question regarding the creation of a Stocking Policy recommendation. RFFT – the existing advice on stocking including the RAFTS/ASFB policy were being reviewed. An advisory note has been drafted and would be issued to the FDSFB after approval by RFFT Trustees.

TM – Raised a question about the proposed Calair Burn works. RFFT – unfortunately whilst the easing of the weir in the Calair Burn was still a priority for the Trust, the owner appears to have undertaken repairs and to be periodically using the lade. The cost of easing of the barrier would in these circumstances not be eligible for SEPA WEF funding so alternative means of improving fish passage were being considered. This would be most probably be part of a larger catchment improvement scheme in the upper areas of the Teith. Money for such a project was not available at the moment but the Trust are looking to have a 'shovel ready' project on the shelf for when other funding streams come back on line.

LG – Raised a question regarding the River Leven. RFFT – the Trust currently has no data for the Leven. This was being addressed this year. After which any priorities would be fed into the management plan. SEPA have confirmed that the Leven was likely to be a priority catchment for them in the coming years so funding was likely to be available. The Trust was ensuring that it was best placed to take advantage of this funding when it became available.

LG – Raised a question regarding invasive species i.e. Crayfish and Mink. RFFT – both species are part of the FINNS six. Crayfish surveys of the whole District were undertaken last year and the sites were being monitored. The Trust are on the steering group in the National Park for Mink and a number of local mink initiatives had been set up e.g. Avon. Other INNS were not at this time seen as having a major impact on the water environment in the District but were being monitored.

TM – Asked if there was any update regarding the Loch Katrine compensation flows. The Chairman advised that no further updates had been given and the proposed date of June 2015 was still expected by the Board.

TM – Advised the Board about Vocational Qualifications. RFFT - the Trust are aware of the AFYD scheme and had spoken with them in respect of developing wider education information.

TM – Raised the question regarding the raising of the assessment, with 90% being raised on the Forth and Teith, however the majority of the works/improvements were being carried out elsewhere. This is due to the nature of funding at the moment, with funding being available this year on the Almond & Avon and next year the River Leven.

1) New Actions

Item	Context	Owner
Bailiff	TM expressed concerns regarding policing the Upper Teith catchment, this will be discussed with BC and added to the Districts Bailiff Strategy.	Chairman
Forestry Commission	TM to provide details regarding the fishing within the controls of the Forestry Commission.	Chairman
Meeting	TM raised a concern regarding the timings of meetings going forward. Mr Howieson agreed that in future the Public Meeting would be held in the evening, that communications would be posted on the Boards Website and announcements issued to the Districts Clubs. Mr Howieson agreed to hold a Board Meeting within the Lothian area next year to encourage further attendance.	Chairman/Clerk

2) Open Actions

Item	Context	Owner

3) Closed Actions

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