

NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**HELD AT FRIARS CARSE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL,
AULDGIRTH, DUMFRIES**

on

4th September 2007

1 PRESENT

Thomas Florey - Chairman
Sir David Landale
Mike Keggans
Ronald Clark
Gordon McGregor
Wally Wright
Robbie Cowan
Mrs Sophy Weatherall
Brian Lord
John Kingan

2 IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)
David McNay (SEPA)
Stuart Graham – (SNH)

3 APOLOGIES

Ivor Hyslop
Tom Brown

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

FD inquired of the Board what level of spending could he undertake before needing approval from the Board. The Board agreed that a level should be set at £3000 for the remainder of the year and reviewed annually thereafter. The minutes were put to the Board, the Chairman asked that they be moved as a true record. Mr Gordon McGregor moved acceptance of the minute which was seconded by Mr Mike Keggans.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Gyrodactylus salaris – FD advised that signage had been erected throughout the catchment at various fishing huts and popular accesses to the river. He reminded all those present that a Gs conference was being held at the Queens Hotel, Lockerbie on Tuesday 2nd October at 7pm, he reiterated that it was up to the Board members to let their organisations know of this upcoming event.

6. FISHERY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reference was made to the Fishery Director's written report.

FD referred to the Foot and Mouth (FMD) outbreak and informed those present that he had taken every step to ensure he did not cause any concern to land owners. Further discussion ensued regarding a potential FMD outbreak, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to SEERAD asking what help they would provide in the event of an FMD outbreak. Mr Mike Keggans put forward that the Minister of Environment, Mr Mike Russell be invited to attend the next Board Meeting. He had expressed an interest to Mr Keggans regarding this. It was agreed that Mr Keggans should invite the Minister.

Mr Keggans asked of interest why FD had been invited to attend a meeting with Moniaive Angling Club. FD went on to say that they had asked for his help regarding the proposed Blackcraig Wind Farm, after this initial meeting the club has asked FD to speak at a meeting in late September about the Works of the Board.

The Chairman asked what was happening with regards to the proposed Celtic Sea trout Project. FD gave an update to Board members regarding progress of this project.

7. ACCOUNTS

The Clerk made reference to the Accounts and noted that this was the first set of Accounts that the new accountants had produced (Gillian Reid, Carson & Trotter). Ms Reid will be invited to attend the next AGM of the Board. The Clerk

and FD explained some of the costs contained in the accounts. The Chairman commented that payments to ASFB would now change, the new levy would now be based on a per fish caught system.

8. SEPA REPORT

Mr David McNay referred to his written report. Mr Gordon McGregor inquired about the level of monitoring conducted by SEPA following heavy rainfall. Mr McNay stated that no samples were taken following recent heavy rainfall events.

The Chairman asked as a result of climate change were we likely to experience these heavy downpour events more often and could any thing be done to prevent discolouration. Mr McNay replied that the Habitat Enhancement work that is being done is helping but such forces of nature could not be totally controlled. He commented that the last heavy rain had seen a water course rise 6 feet in 15 minutes.

The Chairman asked if the Construction companies could provide larger siltation traps, Mr McNay responded with an example of Glenmuckloch OCCS, this is the newest construction in the area and their Lagoons are massive they are doing a good job.

Mr Gordon McGregor then asked Mr McNay if any radiation monitoring conducted in the Opencast Sites following the perceived fall out from Chernobyl in that area. Mr McNay replied that SEPA did not carry out this sort of monitoring in the Opencast Sites.

At this point in the Proceedings (1045am) Sir David Landale entered the room and expressed his apologies for his lateness.

9. SNH REPORT

Mr Stuart Graham made reference to his report. Mrs Sophy Weatherall asked regarding an article that had appeared in the previous Fridays Dumfries and Galloway Standard regarding Himalayan Balsam. FD advised that the Board had been mapping all of the invasive for the past 4 months, Mr Stuart Graham stated that this was infact a project that Solway Heritage were doing and that SNH as well as NDSFB and others were involved in financing this project. The next phase of this project would be to design a programme to deal with the problem. FD that it should be fairly easy to eradicate Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed could be severely curbed, however Himalayan Balsam would be more difficult to control.

Mr Gordon McGregor asked if any other Rivers had experience of this problem, to which FD replied that the Tweed had experience of this, this project is being dealt with through the Catchment Management Plan.

Mr Brian Lord asked if SNH would be able to help regarding the problems with Sea Trout, to which MR Graham replied that infact SNH had been working fairly closely with FD regarding the future Habitat enhancement works.

10. HATCHERY STOCK

FD asked of the Board their requirements for the coming hatchery season, after lengthy discussion FD recommended that the proportions of Salmon Sea trout remain the same as the Previous season at 1/3 Sea trout with 2/3 Salmon. The Board gave unanimous approval of this recommendation.

11. PROPOSED HABITAT SCHEMES

FD informed those present that he would be looking at a proposed new scheme tomorrow with Mr Stuart Graham; this site was the Upper Craiglearan site on the Craighdarroch Water, up catchment of Moniaive.

FD asked if the Board members would like to visit any of these sites to which the Board agreed, FD stated that he would arrange for this to be done.

Mr McGregor asked if it was possible to quantify the effect that the Enhancement works had been on the Cample Water, so that it would be easier to tell anglers what has been done.

ACTION FD

12. WEST CLUDEN HYDRO SCHEME

A DVD presentation as shown to the Board in respect of the Archimedean screw that is proposed at West Cluden, FD explained that the presentation was showing trials of smolt and the affect it had on them when passing through the screw. FD stated that there had been scale damaged from these trials but it was thought to have happened when the fish were being netted, and not from the passage through the screw.

The Chairman asked at what stage were the proposals. Mr David McNay stated that SEPA had an informal request from Planning regarding any concerns, he stated that he does have concerns and that there was still a lot of work to be done. FD stated that he was still considering this proposal.

13. TRUST

The Clerk referred to the Trust Sub Group Meeting minutes. He spoke briefly on the contents of the meeting. A discussion ensued and it was unanimously agreed that the Sub group continue to plan the set up of the Trust and report back to the Board.

14. WEBSITE

FD presented the new website to the Board for approval, he spoke briefly about the pages and links within the website, it was hoped that minutes of Board meetings would also be shown on the website. It was noted that permission would be sought from all organisations before any links were put onto the website. It was suggested that permission for a link to the SEERAD website also be put onto the website. All present agreed that the website was acceptable and it was suggested that the Chairman and the Clerk review all information before it is included on the website.

The Clerk made mention that the invoice for the NFIA Website had arrived and asked for direction from the Board regarding the payment. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the subscription would be paid this year and then reviewed.

15. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

It was established that a Budget meeting would be set for 2nd October 2007.

The Chairman suggested that dates should be set up for the coming year, they were agreed as follows:-

4th December 2007 – AGM

4th March 2008

3rd June 2008

2nd September 2008

2nd December 2008 – AGM

Mr Brian Lord asked if there would be possibility of having a fish counter on one of the tributaries. FD explained that fish counters were notoriously unreliable. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that until the manufacturing process got better then the Nith should not consider using a fish counter.

Thereafter the meeting closed at 12.35 pm