

NITH DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL PROPRIETORS MEETING
HELD AT FRIARS CARSE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL,
AULDGIRTH, DUMFRIES

on

24 March 2015 at 10.00 am

PRESENT

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Nick Brown – Friars Carse
Wally Wright – Netting Representative
Robbie Cowan – Caerlaverock Estate
David Kempself – Dumfries & Galloway Angling Association
Peter Landale – Dalswinton Estate
Peter Hutchison – Netting Representative
Nick Wright – Closeburn Castle Fishing
Richard Gladwin – Blackwood Estate
Thomas Florey – Smiths Gore

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Brian Fox – P.O.F.R.
Simon Kelly – P.O.F.R.
Jeff Walters – Closeburn Castle Fishing
Ed Baxter – Closeburn Castle Fishing
Roana Clark – Dumfries & Galloway Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Roderick Styles – Clerk
James Henderson – Fishery Director (FD)
Deborah Parke – Nith Catchment Fishery Trust (FB)
David McMichael – Senior Water Bailiff
Shona Kennedy – PA/Secretary

The Chairman welcomed those attending, introduced himself and opened the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL PROPRIETORS MEETING 25.3.14

The Chairman made reference to the last Annual Proprietors Meeting Minutes of 25th March 2014 and asked all present if the minutes were a fair and accurate record of that meeting. The Meeting Minutes were unanimously ratified.

2. ANNUAL REPORT - (reference the draft annual report)

The Chairman referred to the draft Annual Report and asked FD to address the meeting, summarising the last season. FD gave a brief summary of last season to all those present. Peter Landale referred to a meeting held at Greta and outlined the essence of the meeting, expressing that all Solway rivers experienced the same problem of a poor season. FD agreed and he extolled the merit of such meetings as a shared voice is useful. Peter Hutchison stated that the Nith Catchment is in the best

condition holistically it has ever been and acknowledged the achievements of the last year. Simon Kelly asked FD if the electrofishing surveys conducted mirror these achievements. FD responded by confirming that the river system is very healthy and juvenile fish numbers are good, the water quality is good and the species diversity is good. The Chairman agreed the water quality is good as is apparent by the number of grayling in the river system as they are more sensitive to water quality.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – (reference the draft Annual Report)

The Clerk referred to the accounts and his notes thereon in the draft Annual Report, published on the website, requesting any questions. The Clerk stated that the draft Annual Report and accounts was not in its final form in order that any issues that might be raised during this meeting, could be taken account of. The Chairman confirmed the Board finances are healthy. The Clerk and FD have discussed changing the way the consultancy income is recorded in the accounts and will take guidance from the accountants.

The Clerk advised that in circulating notice of the Annual Proprietors Meeting he had also asked for advance written notice of any questions or issues that anyone might competently wish to raise in order for such questions and issues to be properly addressed and dealt with as fully as possible. The Clerk advised that no questions had been submitted and asked for any comments/questions/queries from those present regarding the draft Annual Report. None were raised.

The Clerk asked for approval of the draft Annual Report and the Accounts. The draft Annual Report and Accounts were unanimous agreed by all present and the draft Annual Report and Annual Accounts were accepted to be taken forward to the Annual Public Meeting.

The Annual Report is produced in electronic format in an attempt to save money, any hard copies can be provided if requested.

4. MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR AND THE NEAR FUTURE – (reference the draft Annual Report and Fishery Management Plan)

The Chairman asked FD to address the meeting in regards to the Management Plan and Prescriptions. FD referred to the quarterly management plan report and that it can be found on the website. The Chairman asked for any questions, in regards to River Management. No questions were received.

The Chairman referred to the possible proposed changes as outlined in the Wild Fisheries Review conducted by Andrew Thinn on behalf of the Scottish Government. A varied and useful discussion ensued to bring every one up to date on developments thus far. Following the discussion the Chairman summarised that FD should continue represent the Nith at ASFB and that the Board would wait and see what decisions or actions the Scottish Government decide to take forward from the review before making our views known.

5. A.O.C.B.

FD requested a budget of £1000 for the Nith Sea Trout Event as it is planned to hold an opening event here at Friars Carse, this was unanimously agreed. FD asked if the Board would be employing a Seasonal Bailiff this year, FD recommended this as it is appropriate for protecting stocks. No objections were received this was unanimously agreed.

On the matter of the Scottish Government's consultations on licence to kill salmon and carcass tagging and other matters that would develop out of consultation on Wild Fisheries Review, with tight timeframes being imposed for responses to consultation, FD and the Clerk recommended that in order to meet deadlines set, they could between them formulate draft responses for circulation to and response from Board members and proprietors by specific dates, it being understood that if no

responses were received this would be taken as acceptance and endorsement of the draft responses. This was unanimously agreed upon as the practice to adopt in respect of future consultations.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.39