

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

Meeting No. 25

6pm 15th June 2015

NCFT office, Blackwood

Present

Percy Weatherall – Chairman
Jim Henderson
Peter Hutchison
David Kempell
Thomas Florey

In Attendance

Debbie Parke – Operations Manager

1. Apologies

Robert Schiller
Andrew Wood

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous Directors meeting were taken as true and accurate.

3. Matters Arising

The matters arising from the last meeting were reviewed.

4. Wild Fisheries Reform

Jim Henderson updated the Directors to the latest news regarding the Wild Fisheries Reform. Percy Weatherall, Peter Hutchison and Jim Henderson had attended a meeting in Perth with ASFB and RAFTS. Percy Weatherall raised the doubts that the Nith Board and Trust have about the WFR process at the meeting. ASFB/RAFTS are advising that everyone should go along with the proposals that Scottish Government are making and the try to get the best out of the reform. The Directors raised doubts regarding the line of thinking. It was noted that other rivers are feeling the same way and that it is not just the Nith having these doubts. Different scenarios were discussed. Jim Henderson continues to attend meetings on behalf of the Nith and will continue to put our position forward and update the Directors on any progress. It was generally felt the entire WFR was a retrograde step and that the Nith didn't feel it could support it.

5. Progress Updates

Debbie Parke updated the Directors on the progress of the Fishing for the Future project stating that all of the sessions had now come to an end and the project was starting to be wrapped up. There had been a great response to the project and it had been a very positive experience. There were

hopes to continue the projected in a reduced form into the next year but it would depend on funding and time.

The Trust had started its season of invasive species control with treatment of the Giant hogweed. Over 4500 hogweed plants had been treated successfully. This is a decrease on previous the year which is positive. The Trust has received funding from the SEPA's Water Environment Fund to treat the Japanese knotweed in the New Abbey area. Amy Fergusson has been employed to carry out this work and to re-treat the stands on knotweed along the Nith.

Overall there seems to an increase in the number of salmon and sea trout being seen in the river which is encouraging.

6. Finance

Debbie Parke presented the financial records for the Trust from 1st January to 31st May 2015. To date the Trust is running at a small loss but this will even out once money has been received for the Fishing for the Future Project. The projection for the rest of the year is positive as there is a lot of consultancy work scheduled for the summer. The potential to pay overtime for any consultancy related work was discussed and it was agreed to it as long as it was well documented and transparent.

7. A.O.B

There had been a request from Raymond Mundel to become a member of the Trust with the potential to being more involved with the committee. It was agreed to co-opt Raymond Mundel on to the Directors.

David Kempself stated that some of his members had been catching numbers of rainbow and tiger trout in the Cairn Water. It was agreed that the Board and Trust should carry out electrofishing in the Cairn to determine the extent of the problem and the source. A report would be submitted at the next meeting.

Meeting closed

Actions resulting from Trust Meeting No. 25

Action points	Action by	Action completed
Co-opt Raymond Mundel onto Directors		
Electrofishing cairn to assess rainbow trout problem	DP/JH	

Signed..... Date.....

EPK Weatherall, Chair