

# Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

## Meeting No. 26

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*6pm 14th September 2015*

***NCFT office, Blackwood***

### **Present**

Percy Weatherall – Chairman  
Jim Henderson  
Peter Hutchison  
David Kempell  
Brian Lord  
Andrew Woods

### **In Attendance**

Debbie Parke

### **1. Apologies**

Jim McKie  
Thomas Florey

DP stated that Jim McKie had contacted her with a letter of resignation. The Directors recorded their thanks for the effort that Jim McKie had contributed to the Trust over the years.

### **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. Raymond Mundall has complete a membership form and has been accepted as a co-opted Director who will stand in on certain meetings for David Kempell.

### **4. Wild Fisheries Reform**

Jim Henderson updated the Directors as to the latest news regarding the Wild Fisheries Reform. He has attended meetings with Scottish Government since the last Trust meeting and has been invited to sit on the strategic committee. There are currently two committees working on WFR. The Stakeholders Group consisting of all different fishing interests – Alister Jack Chairman of Annan DSFB represents the proprietors. The Strategic committee is looking at the future of fisheries. It will meet once a month until the end of the year and consists of professionals including Jeff Gibbons - SG, Fiona Hepburn - SG, Colin Bean, SNH, Alistair Dugan - SEPA, Simon McKelvey -IFM, Jim Henderson – Fisheries enforcement, Alan Wells – SG, Brian Davidson – ASFB/RAFTS, Ron Woods – Coarse Fishing and John Armstrong – Marine Scotland Science. Both committees will be meeting regularly. JH will

be feeding into future legislation. JH met with Aileen McLeod on the river during a youth fishing day that was held at Blackwood. PH requested a list of both committee members. Topics that are being discussed include sustainable fisheries, promotion of fisheries, enforcement and aquaculture.

Percy informed the directors that he had met with the Chairs of the Annan Board/Trust and Galloway Fishery Trust to discuss the future of Boards and Trusts in the Solway area and potential amalgamations. The Galloway Fishery Trust doesn't want to be involved in an Annan/Galloway/Nith area but the Annan and Nith are going to continue discussions.

The proposal to ban the killing of salmon and banning netting outside estuarial waters in 2016 was discussed. Peter Hutchison informed the Directors that the Scottish Salmon Netting Association, on which he sits on the committee, are trying to inform and educate the ministers but feel that this is unlikely to make any difference.

It was agreed that there is very little that could be done positively by the Trust at the moment other than what we are already doing but that it was good to have Jim Henderson sitting on the Strategic group and that he should continue to participate at those levels. We will continue to working in-line with government but the general feeling is that there is a top down drive.

Timescale – end of 2017 before Royal Assent is gained and anything can start to happen.

Brian Lord raised concern over the anglers not knowing what is happening. It was felt that everything is publicised on the website, via facebook and twitter and in the Trust's annual report therefore it was accessible to everyone.

## **Progress Updates**

Debbie Parke updated the Directors on the progress of the Trust for the last few months.

Fishing for the Future project – copies of the final report were distributed and extra copies to be provided to Directors who request them. The project has been a huge success and it was felt that it is imperative that we continue with education. Funding is to be sought to continue the project into 2016. It was suggested that DP approach DGAA to use river and Drum Loch for 2016.

INNS – The work to control invasive species continued through the summer of 2015 and the Trust employed Amy Fergusson for this. During the three months, Amy re-treated all stands of Japanese knotweed on the River Nith and started treatment of the Japanese and Giant knotweed along the New Abbey Burn. It had been noted that the wet summer appeared to have promoted regrowth of some stands. Amy was assisted by Emily Burnet, a 6<sup>th</sup> year student from Wallace hall Academy, who was gaining work experience with us over the summer.

The Galloway Country Fair went well this year and it was felt that by not running any raffles or competitions it enabled staff to engage members of the public more easily and spend time speaking to them about issues on the river.

At the last meeting, David Kempzell had raised the issue of large numbers of rainbow trout being caught in the Cairn Water. Jim and Debbie conducted electrofishing of the Cairn to determine the extent of the problem and caught good numbers of adult sea trout and one 8lb salmon but no

rainbow trout. The owner of the fish farm upstream was informed of the situation and was keen to rectify the problem.

Sea trout event – overall the event was a success and a reasonable number of sea trout were caught over the 8 weeks. Anglers enjoyed having the chance to fish beats that they hadn't fished before and the response was positive. The event has resulted in some tickets being purchased. It was felt that if this was run again in the future then it would be for a shorter period.

BBC Autumn watch will be filming with Jim for the show in October and Debbie will be speaking to them about lamprey in the Nith.

PH stated that it was remarkable what our small team accomplished.

## 5. Finance

Debbie Parke presented the financial records for the Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015. We are under budget but have had to request a £20,000 loan from the Board to cushion cash flow whilst the final claim goes through for the Fishing for the Future project. There has been a lot of commercial work conducted over the summer and it is projected that the Trust will have a surplus of £30,000 by year end. It was agreed that the Trust should look at replacing the vehicle. DP to look into Trustee training. It was agreed that budget be allocated for invertebrate training course for DP. DP is to look into funding for continuing the Fishing for the Future project into 2016.

## 6. A.O.B

Jim has met with the new Buccleuch gillie, Erin Hunter who previously worked on the Tweed

Meeting closed 19:33

### Actions resulting from Trust Meeting No. 26

Action points	Action by	Action completed
Provide a list of committee members to PH	Jim/Debbie	
Funding to continue Fishing for the Future	Debbie	
Trustee training	Debbie	
Look into replacing vehicle	Jim/Debbie	

Signed.....

Date.....

EPK Weatherall, Chair