

# Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

## Meeting No. 27

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6pm 9th December 2015

*NCFE office, Blackwood*

### **Present**

Percy Weatherall – Chairman  
Jim Henderson  
Thomas Florey  
Brian Lord  
Andrew Wood  
Raymond Mundell

### **In Attendance**

Debbie Parke

### **1. Apologies**

Peter Hutchison  
David Kempell

Meeting started 18:03

The Chair welcomed Raymond to the committee.

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

### **3. Matters Arising**

- Jim provided a list of all committee members working on WFR
- We were considering the options for vehicle replacement
- Other matters arising to be discussed in the budget

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

Jim updated the Directors on the process with the WFR. There has been no real progress. Draft legislation will be available in 2016 and it will be Autumn before consultation and for royal assent in late 2017. No designated FMO areas have been assigned yet. There are finance issues that need to be resolved. There would be a 2 to 3-year transition period for Boards/Trusts to move towards FMO's.

The proposals regarding Conservation Limits were discussed. The Nith has been categorised as a Grade 3 resulting in total catch and release for the entire river and a ban on net fishing outside of estuarial waters. The Board and the Trust put in a joint response to the proposal questioning the science behind the proposal and the categorisation system. SG are still processing the responses and we are awaiting a response. Debbie is attending a meeting with Marine Scotland to discuss science behind the conservation limits and how they are calculated.

Brian Lord asked for clarification on the proposed catch and release legislation by the Scottish Government. Jim stated that this was being driven by the Scottish Government and the Trust was complying.

Andrew Wood stated that it is likely to be a long drawn out process and asked if anyone was being re-reimbursed for the time spent dealing with this. AW believed that the SG had a fund for people putting in specialised information.

### 5. Progress Updates and project proposals

AW enquired about gold panning in the Wanloch and Mennock Waters. JH stated that there was an agreement with Buccleuch that no panning is to take place whilst there are salmon ova were at a vulnerable stage. The bailiff monitors the situation.

TCF stated that the increase in the consultancy was impressive

Dumfries Common Good committee have been approached for funding to continue the invasive control.

DP announced that the Trust was pursuing funding options for a fish counter project on the Nith. RM agreed that this was a worthy project.

AW enquired about the possibility of incorporating a counter into the Whitesands Flood Prevention scheme. JH agreed to look into it.

### 6. Agri-Environment Scheme

Jim and Debbie attended a meeting on the Environment Co-operation Action Fund. There are possibilities but at the current time there isn't enough benefit. Robert Schiller had requested for this to be looked into.

### 7. Finance and budget

AW enquired about the £250 still outstanding from Simon Duffin. JH to pursue outstanding balance.

DP circulated details of a Trustee training course in Edinburgh to all Directors and requested that they intimated their availability.

### 8. A.O.B

Meeting closed 19.11pm

### Actions resulting from Trust Meeting No. 27

Action points	Action by	Action completed
Counter incorporated into Whitesands Flood scheme	JH	
Outstanding payment from Simon Duffin	JH	

Signed.....

Date.....

EPK Weatherall, Chair

