

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

Annual General Meeting 2017 No. 7

6.00pm Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Trust office, Blackwood Estate, Auldgirth

1. Trust members present

Percy Weatherall – NCFT Chairman
Thomas Florey – Director
Jim Henderson – Director
Peter Hutchison – Director
David Kempzell - Director
Brian Lord – Director
Raymond Mundle – Director
Christine Carson – Director
Stewart Cameron – Director

Members of the Public

Jim McKie

In attendance

Debbie Parke – Operations Manager/Biologist

Apologies

Andrew Wood, Ben Weatherall, Sophy Weatherall, Brian Fox, D. McMichael, John Celentano, Jo Miller, Maggie Gordon, Robbie Cowan, Simon Duffin, Roger Smith.

The Chairman, welcomed everyone to the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 14th March 2016 were approved as a true and accurate account.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.

4. Trust Update

DP presented an update of the work of the Trust stating that 2016 had been a tough year for the Trust as for many other Trusts due to the uncertainty created by the Scottish Government's Fishery Reform. Funding was a major constraint for all Trusts with many facing an uncertain future and possible collapse. It was because of this uncertainty funding was not secured in 2016 for Trust projects and so some activities such as the Fishing for the Future had been run at a reduced level. The Wild Fisheries Reform started in 2013 and it had taken considerable input from the Trust and the Board. An example is the research conducted by the Trust which had been vital in the recategorisation of the Nith from a grade 3 to a 2 following submission of data. Although this was a positive outcome it had taken a large proportion of resource to deliver this.

DP continued in stating that the Scottish Government had now decided there would be no WFR amalgamation and therefore the future of Trusts was now clear and so funding could be applied for. The closing of RAFTS with the creation of one umbrella organisation Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) would have a negative impact on funding available.

DP updated the Directors on other activities of the Trust: the control of invasive non-native species in the Nith catchment, with activities being constrained due to funding but with work continuing in key areas; a summary of the catch data received for the 2016 salmon and sea trout season; a comparison of electrofishing data collected at annual survey sites; introduction of Angler diaries assessing the effort going into fish captures; ongoing investigations into the use of a fish counter; and the Nith Young Anglers had been very popular with the first Grayling event at Blackwood being a huge success although it was using a large amount of resource to organise and run.

5. Accounts

The Chairman presented the summary accounts for the period 1st January 2016 to 31th December 2016 to the members present. The Chairman requested that the accounts were adopted, there being no questions. The accounts were unanimously agreed.

6. Election of Directors

There were no outside nominations with two members to stand down as required by the constitution but wished to be considered for re-election: Brian Lord and Peter Hutchison.

The Trust Directors for 2017 are:

Percy Weatherall - Chairman
Thomas Florey
Jim Henderson
Peter Hutchison
David Kempsell
Brian Lord
Raymond Mundle
Christine Carson
Stewart Cameron

7. Written Questions

No written questions had been received.

8. Any Other Competent Business

No items were raised.

The Chair thanked everyone for his or her hard work and closed the meeting.

Signed by Chair: