

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust

Meeting No. 32

Friday 30th June 2017, 5pm

Fishery Office, Blackwood Estate

Present

Percy Weatherall – NCFT Chairman
Christine Carson - Director
Jim Henderson – Director
Peter Hutchison – Director
David Kempself - Director
Raymond Mundle - Director

In Attendance

Debbie Parke – Operations Manager/Biologist
Julia Mitchell - Administrator

1. Apologies

Stewart Cameron
Thomas Florey
Brian Lord

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

Financial Report

DP referred to the Financial Report Jan-Jun 2017 which had been circulated highlighting areas of note. All items are on schedule with income down £1,150 in INNS income budget due to not conducting INNS work this year as it had been difficult to get payment for last year's work. Fishing For the Future financial report for the same period had been circulated showing a more detailed breakdown. All items were on schedule. There was however, a major income deficiency if they were not awarded £7,000 from the Robinson Trust, which was in the hands of Thomas Florey. Tesco Bogs of Help funding applications was straightforward and could be an easy route for funding. Currently costed they will be able to deliver activities to 6 schools and 12 Youth Angling sessions. Without the additional funding will make things tighter but still deliverable as long as the Holywood Trust is happy. DP will speak to Richard Lye at Holywood Trust to ensure this will not be an issue. There will be a predicted loss of £4,300, however if we receive funds from Misses Robin Trust or are successful with TESCO funding this would be offset.

PH commented that they were running on a threadbare basis, hand-to-mouth but were getting through the programme for the kids. JH responded in saying the Fishing for the Future project required a lot of time from Board staff and that is what the Board wanted and so was very important

to support this activity especially as there was a high conversation rate. It had been a conscious decision to run on a threadbare basis as all consultancy goes through the Board. PH suggested the option to go to the Board for additional funding with the evidence of all that was being delivered. JH said funding can be raised quickly if needed through consultancy and so there was no need to go to the Board. DP said they can cope with current funds with additional funding being a bonus. PH said that they were satisfied with the progress of the Trust for the first 6 months and also with the projected activity for the rest of the year. CC asked what the practical running costs are for Fishing for the Future. DP responded £600 for Borderlines, £80-250 for transport and £100 for consumables per session. It was agreed the use of professional fishing coaches was best as they are dependable and provide excellent teaching.

4. Quarterly Report and project updates

DP referred to the Quarterly Report showing combined Trust and Board activity for the second quarter.

INNS - DP said funding had now ended for INNS work and so going forward would be focussing on the maintenance of previously treated areas that would only require a small budget for chemicals. PH suggested with there might be future work at Shambellie House due to their successful funding grant.

Estuarial Tagging – DP referred to the tagging techniques document that had been circulated. Floy tagging is useful to determine the exploitation rate in the river. We would anticipate setting the project up this year with it being conducted next year. It will involve the Haaf netters who are keen to be involved. This type of tagging is more difficult as it involves the handling of a live animal, requires a large number of fish to be caught, and the setting up of a work station. To be able to do this staff will need to refresh their floy tagging training.

MMS Armadale Tagging – DP said Marine Scotland (MS) had an acoustic tagging project involving the tagging of fish at Armadale. It was expected the fish would then travel down the East and West coast with fish being recorded at 30-40 rivers throughout Scotland by the placement of receivers in the mouths of each river with the Nith's receiver being installed the following Monday. PH said he had learned of this project and thought that as a pilot project was suitable but would be inadequate as a large scale project. This was due to the small number of fish that would be detected on the rivers and so statistically would not be significant.

Nith Fish Counter Project – JH said he had been given permission by the Board to proceed with planning permission for the fish counter. There were three sites currently being considered; Crawick, Scour, and Nith. This would provide data throughout the catchment. Planning permission would cost £400 for each with construction costs being at least £50,000 each. It was likely that planning permission would be granted by the end of the year and so construction on one site would commence next summer with others to follow in subsequent years. There are several potential funding opportunities due to ongoing projects with the Board; North Lowther Windfarm, Kier Mining and Scottish Government. There is also the option to use Board funds as well as consultancy income. There is also the opportunity for a consultancy project out of catchment which could raise funds for the counter. The Board would decide if this is appropriate.

5. A.O.B

JH said the Trust has received two donations for Susan McDowell totalling £95 raised through Trout Fishing Tickets being sold at Barburgh Mill, opposite Blackwood Estate. There is an ongoing issue between Susan and Closeburn Castle Fishing, would own the salmon fishing rights at Barburgh Mill and it would be a conflict of interest in receiving this donation. The Trust agreed that the donation should be returned to Susan.

JH said it would be adventitious for the Fishing for the Future project to have a guaranteed course fishing venue. There is the opportunity for the use of the pond next to the Fishery Office at Blackwood which would provide an excellent venue due to the teaching and other facilities. It would require a one off payment of £2,600 for the clearance of the pond with funding being sought from the Board. The Directors agreed this was an excellent proposal so to provide a venue where fish are almost guaranteed so to capture children's interest in fishing.

JH said he had been consulted on an issue regarding Himalayan Balsam treatment and subsequent plants on neighbouring land. His response will be sent to the owner, neighbour and SEPA.

CC said there had been a very interesting article published recently regarding drug giant collusion on sea lice treatment and so it was worth keeping an eye on publications.

DK raised concern about the ongoing gas pipeline project which was coming through one of the best pools and was unsure on how to make a claim. JH said he would be able to support him with this.

Actions resulting from Trust Meeting No. 32

Action points	Action by	Action completed
Update from Thomas Florey about Robinson Trust funding	TCF	
Certificates to be given to children taking part in fishing project next year	DP	
Return donation from Susan McDowell	JH	
Meeting between Derek Kempself and gas pipeline org	JH	

Signed.....
EPK Weatherall, Chair

Date.....