

Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board

Approved Minutes of Annual Public Meeting

Monday 13th June 2016, 9.30am

Kyle Fisheries Office, Ardgay

Present

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)
John Green (JG)
Nicky Griffiths (NG)
Alex Hunter (AH)
Michael Hasson (MH)

Attending

Michael Baird
Audrey Campbell, KOSDSFB (AC)
Tom Inglis, KSFT (TI)
Steven Mackenzie, KSFT (SM)
Keith Williams, KOSDSFB (KW)

Apologies

Ashe Windham, Co-optee
Richard Sankey
Gary Gruber
Calvert Stinton, KoSAA

Absent

George Skinner (co-optee)
William Paterson

Welcome

RDM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

Minutes of meeting held 8th April 2016 – approval and adoption

Minutes were approved as accurate and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

1. Ongoing. This should be addressed as soon as possible. A full list including netting stations and initial views on disposal or transfer should be sent to the JMG before the next meeting.
2. KW has now revised the existing document and produced a series of draft risk assessments. These documents are available in Dropbox. It was agreed to adopt the draft documents pending further review. This will be completed before the next Board meeting.
3. As item 2.
4. KW raised the issue of vicarious liability with the NFU last week and is awaiting their response.
5. The next SSE liaison meeting will take place on 5th July. KW will email relevant Board members nearer the time to ask if they have any housekeeping issues they wish to raise.
6. Complete.
7. Not complete.
8. KoSAA do not wish to lease ice house. KW feels that there may still be some use for it and will give it more thought.
9. Agenda item.
10. No longer relevant.
11. A permit is now in place covering Newton Point. This is issued by the owner free of charge. Regarding Board owned areas of the Firth, a permit has been drafted but is not in place. On the issue of possible Board permit charges, RDM noted that, at the previous meeting the KoSAA Chair stated that the club was content that a permit would not be considered an issue if it were charged at the same rate.
12. Due to time pressures this did not go ahead.
13. No longer relevant

14. Complete. There is a general perception that adult fish are not getting above the falls, however electrofishing data for the last 10 years show that there are fry present above the falls every year. KW has asked Richard Fyfe, SEPA to consider what measures they would be happy to allow, however data should be gathered to determine if there is actually a problem, eg genetic samples, fish counter data. AH reiterated that the Carron proprietor group are relying on science based guidance from KW. KW suggested that genetic samples could be collected from this year forward in the hopes that funding could be found for future analysis.
15. KW to follow up
16. To be completed during Autumn 2016

TI suggested that action points could be referenced with the date of the meeting at which they were raised.

Standard Items

Declarations of Interest in items to be discussed

RDM declared an interest in the Shin items on the agenda. No other declarations.

Complaints

None.

Health and Safety

No reportable incidents.

Governance

Policies for review were circulated prior to the meeting. AC highlighted minor changes to two policies, 18 and 21, these were agreed.

Government Consultations and White Papers

Following SG elections, Roseanna Cunningham has been appointed Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

Directors Report

A report was made available in Dropbox prior to the meeting.

JG, SM and RDM sought clarification about boat/canoe patrols on the Kyle. JG was anxious that the Board is seen to be fulfilling its duties, particularly as boat patrols have been stopped this year on the upper Kyle as KW advised that the small boat was uncoded. It was agreed that canoes would be the best way of conducting patrols and additional canoe training was identified as a priority. RDM requested that a minimum of two canoe trips per week are carried out during low water conditions but the Board did not want to prescribe the detail and were content to leave this to the Director.

SM noted that there were a number of legal fishing boats operating on the Kyle again this year. KW agreed to consult with the angling club and ask them to consider again the potential for numbering the boats of club members to allow easier identification. This would allow boats not being operated by club members to be more readily identified.

It is possible that the PIP project will extend, with Kyle staff carrying out ditch blocking and tree planting this coming winter. KW has stressed to project staff that this is highly weather dependent and the extension bid has been worded to ensure that the Kyle Board will not be held liable if the work is not completed.

The smolt season on the Upper Shin was very busy. Tagged smolts are still being recorded at the dam. KW is meeting with SSE and SEPA mid-July to discuss results and identify the way forward. MSS inspectors accompanied Board staff during the entire trapping period in order to collect samples from suspected escaped farmed fish and we now await the results of genetic testing. RDM asked that Board members consider how they might wish to respond to the test information when it becomes available.

RDM requested that Charles Allan be asked to clarify whether individual farms have genetically different stock. RDM also asked for clarification on measures MSS will take if testing confirms the existence and origin of farmed stock.

2016/17 Budget & Finance

Budget spreadsheets were made available in Dropbox prior to the meeting.

RDM was pleased to report that Glencalvie's contribution to the netting appeal will be received shortly. RDM has also contacted Nin and James Vestey, Benmore Estate, to ask when the Board can expect to receive their contribution. KW noted that SEPA have now formally written to the Vestey's proposing two options to resolve the issue of their pipe bridge, neither of which involves its enforced removal. MH has been in touch with a number of Cassley proprietors who have since paid their promised contributions. RDM agreed to write to the remaining shareholder in order to request their payment.

Transfer of Netting Rights

RDM expects a decision to be made by the JMG in advance of the next Board meeting.

Potential FMO Structure

Originally, two possible scenarios were investigated, one amalgamating the Kyle with the North West and the other with the Fleet and Brora. It was decided that, in order to create an FMO of suitable structure and size, the most practical option was to merge with the Fleet and Brora. It was noted that the Flow Country Board have already formulated their plan, which does not include the Brora, and have submitted it to government. As the Brora Board are currently undecided, KW has written to ASFB/RAFTS to confirm the Kyle's preference is to merge with the Fleet, hopefully to include the Brora in due course. RDM had hoped to be further ahead with formulation of a Kyle plan however this has turned out to be more complex than expected. TI noted that if Boards do not confirm who they prefer to amalgamate with, the government are likely to make the decision for them.

RDM noted that the new FMO organisations will have an 'all species' remit. He requested that KW begin the process of identifying a list of other fishing operators within our catchment in order to be prepared to engage with them in the future.

AOB

MH noted that the owner of Duchally is currently looking to lease the estate, this will include fishing rights. He felt that should be brought to the attention of the district assessor.

Date of next meeting

Friday 4th November 2016. It was noted that November is not convenient for a number of Board members. This will be taken in to account when the next round of meeting dates are set.

Meeting closed

ACTION POINTS				
	Who	Action	Raised	Complete By:
1	KW	Scrutinise asset register and identify how to deal with assets. Consult with proprietor group and draw up plan for disposal or transfer. Email plan to JMG	April 2016	November meeting
2	KW	Review draft H&S policy	April 2016	November meeting
3	KW	Follow up vicarious liability issue with NFU. Prepare training matrix.	April 2016	November meeting
4	KW	Email relevant proprietors prior to SSE liaison meeting	June 2016	Two weeks
5	KW	Investigate sale of vehicles and lease agreements. Report to JMG	April 2016	Immediate
6	KW	Advise plan for future use of ice house, if any.	June 2016	November meeting
7	KW	Finalise permit and returns system for Firth.	April 2016	Immediate
8	KW	Follow up with SEPA re measures that could be taken at Glencalvie falls	April 2016	Immediate
9	AC	Reference action points to meeting raised at.	June 2016	Immediate
10	AC	Update re-adopted KSF policies	June 2016	Immediate
11	KW	Implement Kyle canoe trips	June 2016	Immediate
12	KW	Contact angling club to discuss potential boat numbering system.	June 2016	Immediate
13	KW	Seek clarification re fish farm genetics and measures that will be taken if MSS confirm farmed escapes	June 2016	Immediate
14	KW/ All	Consider Board response to MSS genetic testing information	June 2016	By November meeting
15	RDM	Write to remaining Cassley shareholder to request payment of netting contribution	June 2016	Immediate
16	KW	Draw up list of all fishery operators in catchment	June 2016	Update by November meeting
17	AC	Advise district assessor re Duchally Estate fishings.	June 2016	Immediate
18	AS/S SE	Update KW on progress during maintenance. Email RDM with information on diversion outflow grills.	April 2016	Autumn 2016
19	KW/ AC	Arrange demolition of net store in Autumn 2016	April 2016	Autumn 2016