

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Ordinary Meeting Approved Minutes

**7th April 2016, 6.30pm
Kyle Fisheries Office, Ardgay**

Present

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)
John Green (JG)
Tom Inglis (TI)
Steven Mackenzie (SM)
Gregor Macleod (GM)
Richard Sankey (RS)

Attending

Audrey Campbell, KSDSFB (AC)
Keith Williams, KSDSFB (KW)
Michael Baird
Colin Gilmour
Alex Hunter (AH)
Calvert Stinton, KoSAA (CS)
Ashe Windham

Trustee Apologies

None

Absent

Michael Brown

Welcome

RDM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held 5th November 2015 – Approval and adoption

No comments. Minutes were adopted as accurate and signed by the Chair.

Action Points / Matters Arising

1. Action point relates to determining liabilities if the Trust were to take possession of Board assets. As new factors have arisen which may make future use of the hatchery irrelevant, this matter will be revisited at the end of 2016 when it is hoped there might be more clarity.
2. Gillespie McAndrew appointed to draw up a straightforward lease.
3. KW has been trying to pin down UHI without success. It is possible that one study could look at the River Fiag on the upper Shin. Consideration will be given to collecting genetic samples this year during electrofishing with a view to analysing them in the future.
4. Agenda point 7a.
5. Complete. The situation has improved somewhat.
6. Complete. Now that the Shin is included in RBMP phase 2, RDM has made it clear to SEPA that he considers Board and proprietors no longer have financial responsibility to demonstrate the problem or mitigate for the effects of the problem; this should now lie firmly with SSE.

GM asked about title boundary lines within the firth. KW advised that this is normally the medium filum unless it can be demonstrated that title has been historically different. With regards to illegal fishing issues on the firth, KW has received copies of some deeds and made enquiries through the land register but it is an extremely slow process. GM suggested that the lease documents of the Tain fishings might include a map. RS suggested contacting Caroline Cook as she had previously drawn up a boundary map for the netting buyout appeal.

Directors Report

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

Due to high printing costs, it was agreed to produce the Annual Report in electronic form only.

The future role of Fisheries Trusts following the formation of FMO's is still very unclear and this is causing a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty. As the Scottish Government has not provided any clarity about FMO structure and obligations, Trustees can only speculate and keep an open mind in preparation for changes ahead.

The Highland Council assessor has been provided with all the information he requires to carry out re-valuation. The Board have no further input in the process.

Budget and Fundraising

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

It was noted that the cost for Director/Admin support has been reduced for 2016/17. This is difficult to forecast and will be regularly reviewed by the Joint Management Group. KW has been conservative in his estimate for income, but is hopeful that he will be able to reduce the overall deficit forecasted.

Possible Aerial mapping has not been included. As there are unlikely to be any further donations received towards the office purchase, AC requested that the deficit be transferred from project to core funding. Agreed.

Governance

Trustees were advised of KSF policies due for review prior to the meeting. As the executive had not flagged up any issues Trustees agreed to readopt without amendment.

Projects – Current

Moray Firth Trout Initiative

KW summarised the history and current position including potential liabilities. It was agreed to let the project run until its natural end in October 2016, however a close eye should be kept on budget and HR issues. RDM suggested that a timetable of HR process should be drawn up. It is vital that IP rights of project material rest with KSF.

Upper Shin Smolts

A report was made available in Dropbox prior to the meeting. The smolt traps are deployed and PIT tagging is taking place at Fiag and Tirry. A Fish Health Inspector from Marine Scotland Science is accompanying staff to all traps every day during the smolt season. The inspector will examine on site any suspected farmed fish caught, prior removing genetic and scale samples for analysis.

Diebidale

KW acknowledged that not enough detail had been provided to Trustees about the project, the next stage of which is detailed design. It was agreed that the Trust should only act as facilitator. KW attended a site meeting this week with SEPA's geomorphologist who had reservations about the consultants preferred solution. All solution options identified are more expensive than SEPA had envisaged.

Projects – Potential

Carron Temperature Network

KW has spoken to the RCP about a possible data logger network. Individual ghillies are interested and willing to help. Materials are not hugely expensive however there is a great deal of work in identifying sites, installing and maintaining the network. AH confirmed that the RCP are happy to fund the project.

Aerial Photography

Documents were made available to Trustees prior to the meeting. The River Shin survey is being funded by SSE. It was agreed that proprietor groups will be approached to consider funding survey

of their own rivers. KW will put together a proposal outlining the advantages and costs, forwarding this to the river groups immediately for a decision.

Henry Morrice

A project proposal was made available to Trustees prior to the meeting. Trustees agreed to the project in principle, subject to funding being available. KW has already been offered private donations and will investigate how to raise the balance.

AOB

No other business.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday 13th June and Thursday 3rd November 2016

Meeting Closed.

ACTION POINTS			
Nº	Who	Action	Completed by:
1	RDM/RS/KW	Develop more detailed draft of hatchery costs	Reconsider at end 2016
2	KW	Check THC Tain fishings lease for title map. Contact Caroline Cook re netting buyout map	Immediate
3	KW/AC	Complete and circulate Annual report	As soon as possible
4	KW/AC	Obtain HR timetable re MFTI	As soon as possible
5	KW	Send aerial survey proposal to river group chairs	Immediate
6	KW	Progress Henry Morrice project. Investigate funding	Immediate