

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

**28th June 2016, 7.00pm
Via Telephone Conference Call**

Present

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)
John Green (JG)
Tom Inglis (TI)
Steven Mackenzie (SM)
Richard Sankey (RS)
Michael Brown (MB)

Attending

Keith Williams, KSDSFB (KW)

Trustee Apologies

Gregor Macleod

Absent

None

Welcome

RDM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held 7th April 2016 – Approval and adoption

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

Action Points / Matters Arising

1. Carried forward until end of 2016.
2. KW had looked at the netting buyout map and noted that incorrect information had been provided to Caroline Cook particularly in relation to the catchment area of the Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board. KW would contact Caroline Cook to try and obtain the GIS shapefile.
3. Completed.
4. Agenda point 7a – Moray Firth Trout Project.
5. Complete.
6. Agenda point 7d – Henry Morrice.

Directors Report

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

Trustees gave permission for the Oykel scale reading data to be provided to Marine Scotland Science in support of refining the conservation regulations classifications. A brief discussion took place on other information that could potentially be provided to improve data available for classifications. RDM suggested that it would be useful for KW to produce a brief document on developments regarding the classification process which should then be made accessible to proprietors. This should be updated as new information is received. This was agreed.

A brief update was given by KW on SEPAs recent decision regarding a culvert on the Oykel. It was anticipated that remedial action would be initiated shortly.

Budget and Fundraising

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

No comment was passed on the closing position of the 2015/16 financial year.

RDM noted that a figure had been included in the 2016/17 budget for potential smolt trapping work on the Shin. He cautioned that any work undertaken would need careful costing in light of the discussions to take place with SSE and SEPA on the 20th July. He further noted that the production of costings is further complicated by the capture of smolts allegedly of fish farm origin. It was agreed that further work was to be undertaken on this issue with a view to discussion at the November meeting of Trustees.

Wild Fisheries Reform

KW briefly described the present situation as he understood it. Of particular concern in the fisheries sector was the lack of clarity on the future role, if any, of fishery trusts. He noted that recently discussions as to the correct corporate vehicle for FMOs had included references to Community Interest Companies. RDM asked KW to try and provide some clarity as to the structure of Community Interest Companies.

RDM further added that there was likely to be a restructuring process at ASFB and RAFTS in due course. It was agreed that greater clarity on the future of the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust was required and that it should be included as an item on the agenda for the November meeting of Trustees.

Projects and Potential Projects

Moray Firth Trout Initiative

RDM suggested that an update for Trustees be produced by KW and Audrey Denoon every 4-6 weeks. Issues regarding the ownership and storage of data, equipment etc. needed to be resolved in discussion with the project steering group.

Upper Shin Smolts

A brief update was given as to the present position of the project. More information should be available following the meeting to be held with SSE and SEPA on the 20th July.

Diebidale

KW reported that progress was now being made to develop the second phase of the project which was to undertake further geomorphological investigations, produce a flood risk assessment and obtain some outline costs for possible dam removal. It was considered unlikely that SEPA would fund any option other than complete removal of the structure. It was agreed that the role of the Trust should be restricted to acting as a facilitator in resolving the fish passage issues. MB asked KW what Mr Forman Hardy's role in the development of the project had been to date. KW replied that Mr Forman Hardy had been kept fully up to date with progress on the project.

Carron Temperature Network

KW stated that time pressures had restricted his ability to develop this as much as he would have liked. Other potential Carron projects were being discussed.

Henry Morrice

Some progress had been made. KW had spoken to the family to seek approval for the project and some paperwork that was required had been signed. It was anticipated that further discussions between Eric Verspoor and KW would take place once the former had returned to Scotland from Canada.

AOB

It was noted that the Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board had adopted a number of governance policies at their recent meeting. Alterations had been made to some policies, for

example the pension policy. It was agreed that the Kyle of Sutherland Fishery Trust would adopt those governance policies adopted by the Board on 13th June 2016.

Next Meeting Dates

Thursday 3rd November 2016

Meeting Closed.

ACTION POINTS				
Nº	Who	Action	Raised	Completed by:
1	RDM/RS /KW	Develop more detailed draft of hatchery costs	April 2016	Reconsider at end 2016
2	KW	Contact Caroline Cook re netting buyout map	June 2016	Immediate
3	KW	Produce a document outlining river classification process	June 2016	As soon as possible
4	KW/AD/ RDM	Produce costings of potential future smolt work	June 2016	November
5	KW	Provide information on Community Interest Companies	June 2016	As soon as possible
6	AD	Include specific agenda item on future of Trust for November meeting	June 2016	November
7	AD/KW	Update trustees every 4-6 weeks of MFTI project progress Discuss ownership of data and equipment with steering group.	June 2016	Ongoing until end of October
8	KW	Continue to develop Carron temperature network	April 2016	Ongoing
9	KW	Continue to develop Henry Morrice project	April 2016	Ongoing
10	AD	Update governance docs for review	June 2016	Immediate