

## **Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust**

### **Ordinary Meeting Approved Minutes**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 7pm  
Kyle Fisheries Office, Ardgay**

#### **Present**

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)  
Michael Brown (MB)  
Steven Mackenzie (SM)  
Gregor Macleod (GM)

#### **Attending**

Audrey Campbell, KSDSFB (AC)  
Keith Williams, KSDSFB (KW)  
Philip Blowers, Trust Member  
Calvert Stinton, KoSAA

#### **Trustee Apologies**

John Green  
Tom Inglis  
Richard Sankey

#### **Welcome**

RDM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

#### **Minutes of meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 – Approval and adoption**

Minutes were adopted as accurate without comment and signed by the Chair.

#### **Action Points / Matters Arising**

1. Ongoing
2. Complete. Appoint Gillespie McAndrew to draw up a straightforward lease.
3. Ongoing. KW trying to establish ownership through maps, deeds and Land Register. It is acknowledged that this is going to be extremely complex and difficult to resolve however the Board has a responsibility to do so.
4. Covered by point 3
5. Covered by point 3
6. Complete
7. Complete
8. Complete

#### **Directors Report**

A report was made available in Dropbox prior to the meeting. Highlights were covered by KW in the preceding AGM meeting.

#### **Budget and Fundraising**

The budget was made available in Dropbox prior to the meeting, this is currently reasonably healthy despite concerns. There will be some management income from the Diebidale project and a possible small NNIS project, these are uncertain and have not been included.

There was some discussion on possible funding for AS<sup>3</sup>IG project, this will be investigated once KW has presented recommendations for case studies to the Trustees. RDM cautioned against becoming swamped by large projects.

The Moray Firth Trout Initiative has now reached the end of its three year term. The project officer has requested funding to continue from all Board and Trust partners. This would commit the Trust

to an annual donation of £2000. It was acknowledged that the Trust has not benefited greatly from the project so far, but would like to continue working with the project in principle.

KW will work with the project officer to draw up a list of possible project actions in the Kyle area before circulating to Trustees by email for a decision on whether to continue funding.

### **Governance**

No KSF policies currently due for review.

### **Government Consultations and White Papers**

RAFTS have tended to ask for information to inform their responses at the last minute, leaving the Trust with little or no time to give a considered answer. This is unsatisfactory and will be brought up by RDM at the next meeting with Andrew Wallace, Chair of RAFTS.

RDM noted that it is difficult to anticipate the Trust's role in the future, this will be heavily dependent on the Scottish Government's handling of the whole process.

### **Upper Shin Smolts - 2016**

The Trust will continue to manage the project. KW has met with SEPA and SSE to negotiate next steps, resulting in a similar level of work in 2016 but with a slightly different focus. The SSE Shin dams have now been reclassified as impassable barriers by SEPA, lowering the ecological status of the Loch and its tributaries. This has triggered the inclusion of the Shin in the draft second round of the River Basin Management Plan. Options can now be explored to establish mitigation measures that could be realistically and economically applied to improve the ecological status.

It is important that the Board and Trust are fully involved in this process and the implementation of any solutions.

Historically the Board, Trust and Shin proprietors have contributed a great deal of funding towards the project. It is felt that they have carried out their responsibility to highlight and investigate the problem. Now that the issue is recognised RDM wishes to establish the principle that SSE will fund the process going forward. This will be brought up at the Board meeting tomorrow.

Now that the area has been included in the draft second stage of the RBMP, the regulator has until 2021 to identify and put in place a solution in order to comply with European regulations.

### **AOB**

SM suggested that due to a large number of the Trustees being unable to attend this month, the autumn meeting should revert to September. RDM agreed that a vote would be taken at the Board meeting tomorrow.

SM will take one of the two Trust places at the Board meeting tomorrow, no-one is available to take the other seat.

### **Proposed Meeting Dates**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March or Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

March preferred in order to create a better spacing of dates.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Agreed

AGM Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

To be decided in conjunction with Board members.

**Meeting Closed.**

<b>ACTION POINTS</b>			
<b>Nº</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed by:</b>
1	RDM/RS/KW	Develop more detailed draft of hatchery costs	By spring meeting
2	KW / AC	Appoint Gillespie McAndrew to draw up office lease.	As soon as possible
3	KW	Draw up options for AS <sup>3</sup> IG case studies with Marc Coulson and present to Trustees for decision	By spring meeting
4	KW	Draw up list of possible actions by MFTI project in the Kyle area and circulate to Trustees by email for decision.	As soon as possible
5	RDM	Raise issue of response times with RAFTS	As soon as possible
6	RDM	Discuss future funding of Upper Shin smolt project at board meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2016