

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

3rd November 2016, 7.15pm

Present

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

Attending

Keith Williams, KSDSFB (KW)
Michael Baird
Iain Gollan
Ashe Windham
Alex Hunter (AH)
Philip Blowers
Robbie Elliott (RE)

Trustee Apologies

Tom Inglis
John Green

Absent

None

Welcome

RDM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held 28th June 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 attempted to contact Carolyn Cook but had not received a reply. It was agreed that this information could likely be obtained as part of the ongoing transfer of netting assets and leases. RS to discuss with Crispian Cook.
3. A document is appended to the Director's Report.
4. Complete.
5. Complete.
6. Complete.
7. Updates had been provided to Trustees and JMG. A final MFTI meeting is planned. KW to update trustees on outcome of meeting.
8. Agenda item 7e
9. Agenda item 7d
10. Complete.

Directors Report

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

KW highlighted the recent departure of Audrey Denoon which had implications for the operation of the Trust. It was anticipated that arrangements would shortly be in place to ensure that the Trust's administration was efficiently dealt with.

KW indicated that he anticipated having a draft of the River Carron Fish Counter report completed by the end of the year.

Budget and Fundraising

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

KW noted that the financial situation was broadly in line with expectations. There had been a small overspend in work being undertaken to the basement.

MB asked if there was any anticipated income to the Trust resulting from the Diebidale project? KW replied that there was likely to be a small sum resulting from the project but it had not been budgeted for due to uncertainty as to what the amount would be. MB asked if funding was in place for the second phase of the project. KW responded that the original letter of award included funding for the second phase.

Governance – KSF Policies for Review

KW explained that during the summer it became apparent that the disciplinary and grievance policies were not fit for purpose. As an interim measure the ACAS guidance was adopted. The new policies were accepted. A recent review of risk assessments had been undertaken. KW to place in dropbox with time limit for comments. It has been agreed that Kathryn Bennet should be retained by the Trust and Board to assist with human resource issues.

Wild Fisheries Reform – Future of Trust

RDM noted that RAFTS was likely to disappear in its present form in the near future and that considerable uncertainty remained in relation to the future of fishery trusts. Of particular concern was the fact that FMOs were unlikely to fund trusts and that following the EU referendum vote funding from EU sources was likely to be unavailable in the future. The levels of uncertainty continued to make it difficult to plan for the future.

A discussion took place regarding the future of the Trust. RS stated that as it was impossible to see clearly the road ahead then it was best to continue operating the Trust as positively as possible and to remain engaged in existing projects.

Projects and Potential Projects

Moray Firth Trout Initiative

The project officer had now been made redundant and he has obtained full time employment with the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Fisheries Trust. For the moment the website was being maintained and the emails checked. A final meeting was required to conclude matters relating to finance etc. MB asked if the Trust had incurred losses as a result of the project. KW replied that losses were currently around £500 but the vehicle was still to be sold.

Upper Shin Smolts

RDM led on this issue as he had met with SEPA immediately prior to the Trust AGM. Upper Shin waterbodies had been included in the latest iteration of River Basin Management Plan with a view to undertaking remedial action. Trap and truck has now been identified as the appropriate course of action with the costs falling on SSE. Eventually new conditions were likely to be written into SSEs operating licence. AH asked what trap and truck involves. RDM explained that from March until June smolts were captured in traps and then transported downstream of SSEs dams. MB asked what would happen in relation to the current mitigation money from SSE. RS stated that there was an aspiration to close the hatchery. RDM added that the changeover point from present mitigation to future mitigation had yet to be established. RS noted that fixed traps would normally be used but they are expensive. SM asked what the efficiency of the traps currently used was. KW replied that 15-25% efficiency for rotary screw traps was considered normal but it could be higher in certain circumstances. A discussion took place on future use of the traps owned by the Trust. It was agreed that in future consideration would be given to the sale or renting out of the traps. RDM also pointed out to AH that consideration by the Carron would need to be given to their future SSE mitigation activities.

Diebidale

KW reported that the tender process for the second phase of the project was currently taking place. RDM reiterated that the role of the Trust was limited to facilitating investigations into the easement of the barrier. KW confirmed that Mr Forman Hardy is being kept up to date with progress.

Henry Morrice

Sufficient funds for the first year of the project had been secured. KW was awaiting guidance from Eric Verspoor in relation to formalising an agreement. It was anticipated that a break point after twelve months would be inserted into any agreement.

Carron Temperature Network

AH stated that he wished for this project to be taken forward by the Trust rather than individual proprietors.

AOB

RE asked what would happen to farmed smolts captured in the Shin trapping operations now that the trapping was the responsibility of SSE. RS added that the issue of farmed fish must not be allowed to fall off the agenda. RDM stated that Charles Allen from Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate was attending the upcoming fishery board meeting and more details would likely to be available. MB asked KW if the Fleet was part of the area covered by the Trust and the fishery board as he had previously raised a matter relating to fish passage. KW confirmed that this was not the case at present.

Next Meeting Dates

TBA

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	RS	Contact Crispian Cook re netting buyout map	November 2016	As soon as possible
3	KW	Complete Carron Fish Counter Study	November 2016	End of Year
4	KW	Update trustees on outcome of end of project meeting	November 2016	End of Year
5	KW	Place H&S policy in dropbox.	November 2016	As soon as possible
6	KW	Continue to develop Carron temperature network	April 2016	Ongoing
7	KW	Continue to develop Henry Morrice project	April 2016	Ongoing
8	KW	Confirm date of next meeting	November 2016	As soon as possible