

Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

**Ordinary Meeting by Conference Call
Draft Minutes**

27th March 2017, 6.30pm

Present

Robbie Douglas Miller, Chair (RDM)
Gregor Macleod (GM)
Richard Sankey (RS)
Michael Brown (MB)
Tom Inglis (TI)
John Green (JG)

Attending

Keith Williams, KSDSFB (KW)

Trustee Apologies

Steven Mackenzie

Absent

None

Welcome

RDM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Ordinary Trustees Meeting held 3rd November 2016 and Minute of Resolution 21st November – Approval and adoption

No comments. Minutes were adopted as accurate. Signed copies would be sent to the office by the Chair.

Election of Chairman

It was noted that at the November 2016 Ordinary Meeting and AGM no Chairman had been formally adopted. It was agreed that RDM would continue as Chairman.

Action Points / Matters Arising

1. No longer applicable to the Trust as a result of the Scottish Government's announcement that district salmon fishery boards were no longer to be abolished. RDM updated the meeting in respect of the announcements by the Government in relation to wild fisheries reform. However, hatchery costs are still relevant to Kyle DSFB due to impending negotiations with SSE in respect of the 1994 financial agreement.
2. Complete.
3. Carron fish counter report nearing completion. KW to circulate once complete.
4. Complete. GM asked if there was a final report of the Moray Firth Trout Initiative. KW to ascertain if a report was produced.
5. To be dealt with under Governance on main agenda.
6. KW advised that the deployment of the Carron temperature network was almost complete. TI asked how often KW intended to download the data from the loggers. KW suggested that initially he envisaged a download taking place every two months. TI considered that once a month would be better to prevent loss of data. MB suggested that GSM options be explored in the future. KW noted that the loggers being used were low cost and the use of more sophisticated options, whilst desirable, would have added significantly to the costs.
7. A MOA from UHI was still awaited in respect of the Henry Morrice Project. KW to contact UHI again to request MOA.
8. Complete.

Directors Report

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

GM asked for further information regarding the fact that the smolt work was to be undertaken in 2017 by SSE and not the Trust or Kyle DSFB. RDM explained that at the November meeting of the fishery board it became clear that the financial expectations of SSE and those of the Trust/DSFB in relation to this work were a considerable distance apart. As such he had declined the financial offer proposed by SSE. SSE were now undertaking the smolt trapping and trucking in 2017. RS added that at this stage it was unknown if the 2017 arrangements were an interim measure. Negotiations surrounding all financial arrangements between Kyle DSFB and SSE were imminent. JG asked why SSE had not been charged a full market rent for the hire of the traps instead of a nominal fee. KW explained that the situation had placed the Trust in a difficult situation i.e. it needed to balance its own financial position with the welfare issues associated with ensuring that SSE had appropriate equipment to trap the smolts. RDM reiterated that the situation may well be an interim measure.

The related issue of potential farm escapees in Loch Shin was discussed. It was anticipated that an update on the genetic testing would be available prior to the Kyle DSFB meeting on the 12th April. It was hoped that if it was confirmed that escapees were indeed present then monitoring by the farm(s) responsible would be required by MSS to demonstrate that escapes were not continuing. The issue was more important than ever given that SSE applied for a licence to MSS to introduce smolts captured in the Tirry and Fiag traps to the River Shin. As the traps at the Merkland end of the catchment were not being operated in 2017 KW considered the present situation to be low risk, however, a precautionary approach may need to be adopted in the future if new evidence is made available. KW to ask Charles Allan of MSS for an update on progress regarding the genetic testing.

Budget and Fundraising

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

KW noted that the financial situation had improved in light of a number of recent donations. The situation for 2017-18 looked less promising, but it was hoped that projects could be developed to help improve the financial situation.

TI noted that there was an error in the formula for one cell in the spreadsheet relating to the purchase of a turbidity meter. KW to amend spreadsheet.

The 2017-18 budget was accepted by the meeting.

Governance – KSF Policies for Review

KW and Kathryn Bennet are undertaking a thorough review of the policies. The aim is to group the policies into ones that need constant review such as grievance, health and safety etc. and those that need less frequent review such as operating structures. These would be placed in dropbox when the review was complete.

Office Lease

A lease was now in place and ready to be signed. KW to check situation regarding rental reviews and inform trustees of the relevant clause(s).

Wheelyboat

It was confirmed that the ownership of the Wheelyboat would transfer to Lairg Angling Club.

AOB

MB asked if KW was aware of the proposed plans to reintroduce native oysters to the Dornoch Firth as part of the DEEP project? KW confirmed that he was aware of discussions on this subject. KW would keep himself apprised of the development.

Next Meeting Date8th June 2017**Meeting Closed.**

ACTION POINTS				
Nº	Who	Action	Raised	Completed by:
1	KW	Complete Carron Fish Counter Study and distribute report.	November 2016	As soon as possible
2	KW	Ascertain if end of project report available for Moray Firth Trout Initiative.	March 2017	April 2017
3	KW	Obtain MOA from UHI regarding Henry Morrice project.	November 2016	As soon as possible
4	KW	Contact MSS to ask for update on Loch Shin genetic sampling.	March 2017	Immediate
5	KW	Amend 2016-17 budget spreadsheet.	March 2017	Immediate
6	KW	Place amended governance and related policies in dropbox.	March 2017	As soon as possible
7	KW	Confirm office lease clauses in relation to rent review.	March 2017	April 2017