



Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Ordinary Trustees Meeting at Kyle Fisheries Office Draft Minutes Monday 2nd October 2017 - 2.00 pm

Present

Richard Sankey, Chair -RS
Robbie Douglas Miller -RDM
John Green -JG
Steven McKenzie -SM
Michael Brown -MB

Attending

Keith Williams -KW
Alex Hunter -AH
Andrew Graham Stewart -AGS
Phil Blowers -PB
Finlay McCulloch -FM
Michael Baird -MB
Tom Inglis -TI

Apologies

Gregor Macleod
N Forman Hardy

Welcome

Richard Sankey welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

Minutes of Meeting held 8th June 2017 – Approval and Adoption

The minutes from meeting held on 27th March 2017 were adopted without amendment

Action Points and Matters Arising

- i. Carron counter report - completed
- ii. Consider UHI project using MFT data – KW had considered this but felt it unlikely that there was sufficient data for a project.
- iii. Place Governance policies in dropbox - completed
- iv. Ascertain insurance status of office for Trust - Review in hand for this month as renewal was planned for end of October 2017. **JH Action** -Renew insurance.
- v. Produce paper on Trustee and bearer rotation – TI completed and will be discussed in Governance item on agenda. **KW/RS Action**
- vi. Produce paper on future role of Trust – Due to the difficult fishery board negotiations with SSE this has not been completed. A meeting is to be held with SSE

on Friday 6th October where we will put our proposals to them and this will affect the direction of the Board and Trust. It was hoped that the science team would be enlarged in the future. MB suggested that the team should include an ecologist or someone with ecology experience as it would put the Trust in a good position to be able to tender for contracts. KW agreed.

- vii. Apply for funds for Peatland restoration study. KW updated the meeting. He had been speaking to individual proprietors but had little positive results to report. SM is concerned about sediment getting into the Oykel. RDM had personal experience of peatland restoration projects and noted that it entails an additional lot of administration for estates, is expensive and is financed on a reclaim basis. However, he felt that done well, such projects reduced the speed of run-off after rainfall quite considerably. **KW Action** -Continue to try and develop peatland restoration projects and develop water quality initiatives.

Governance

- i. Policy changes & Handbooks

A Review had largely been completed. Policies have been separated into handbooks: - Governance: Employee, Operational, and H&S handbooks. All policies have been added to Dropbox in this format. Only one policy still to be completed which is Disclosure - Child Protection. TI noted that at some point the Trustees need to review and adopt. **KW Action** -Time limit a review period for trustees to adopt policies.

Renewal of re-election of Trustees. TI noted that currently a third of the board are required to stand down at each AGM and are then eligible for re-election. He suggested that this be altered to trustees serving a maximum of two three year terms. This would ensure that the Trust doesn't become stagnant and brings in new blood. The exception is the Chair. This was agreed. **TI Action** -Produce a Special Resolution to modify Articles of Association ready for next AGM.

RDM left meeting.

Directors Report

A report had been submitted prior to the meeting.

Projects

- i. Diebidale – We have got to the end of phase 2. It is anticipated that Mr Forman Hardy to fly up to have meeting with KF and SEPA. SEPA will only provide funding if complete removal is enacted. TI asked how much the investigative work has cost to date. KW replied that from memory it was circa 55k.
- ii. Henry Morrice – signed agreement and sent back to UHI. Still looking for donations for this project.
- iii. Peatland restoration – covered earlier on agenda
- iv. Carron temp loggers - KW informed the meeting that downloads had taken place and he anticipated providing some early information to proprietors. MB asked if we should be monitoring rainfall. RS replied that already have gauges with data accessible from the SEPA website.

- v. Shin Smolts – Data continued to be collated. KW felt that the data would benefit from greater scrutiny, perhaps as part of a university project.

Budgets & Finance

A spreadsheet had been made available prior to the commencement of the meeting. Diebidale income had straddled financial years and budget periods. There was a need to identify new projects. As an example salmon exploitation rate requires research and the Kyle Fisheries area is potentially a good place to undertake this work. MB asked if catch and release was affecting overall catches. KW responded that floy tagging at recapture rates locally appeared very low. RS added that previous work on the Oykel suggested that it was as low as 1--2%.

SSE Negotiations

Covered in matters arising.

AOB

No other business

Meeting Closed

ACTION POINTS				
Nº	Who	Action	Raised	Completed by:
1	JH	Review of office insurance October 2017	June 17	31/10/17
2	KW/RS	Produce paper on future of Trust	June 17	March 2018
3	KW	Scope project on peatland and sediment issues on Kyle rivers.	Oct 17	March 2018
4	KW	Trustees review and adopt new Governance documents	Oct 17	March 2018
5	TI	Produce Special resolution and modify Articles of Association.	June 17	Next AGM