

Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board



MEETING TITLE: Board Annual Public Meeting

Meeting Date: Friday 26th March 2021

Meeting Time: 9.30 am

Meeting Place: Via Video Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES *(Draft)*

Chair/Facilitator: Ashe Windham

Minute taker: Jacqui Hamblin

In Attendance

Board	Attending
Ashe Windham (AW) Chair Richard Sankey (RS) Robbie Douglas Miller (RDM) John Green (JG) Rob Whitson (RW) Keith Williams, (KW) Clerk Nicky Griffiths (NG) Alex Hunter (AH) John McCrorie (JM) William Paterson (WP)	Steven Mackenzie (SM) KSFT Sean Robertson (SR) KSDSFB David Watson (DW) KSDT Naveed Bhatti (NB) SSE Alan Youngson (AY) Michael Baird (MBrd) Public
Apologies	
Gary Gruber	

- 1. Welcome – AW welcome everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies.**
- 2. The April 2020 Annual public meeting was postponed due to restrictions on public meetings. The previous meeting was held on 5th April 2019.**
 - Adoption & Approval. Minutes from meeting held on 5th April 2019 were approved.
 - Open actions and matters arising – There were no open actions.
- 3. Presentation – Community Resilience Project - David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust**

DW explained about the community development function of the Trust and how this last year has been about prolonged community resilience. The community have been magnificent in engaging with developing an emergency plan. However, general plans for Covid etc. did not fully consider the geography and distances involved in our region. It needs a more holistic approach. Often plans sit on a shelf and when you come to use them, they are not up to date as contact details have changed, for example.

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DW explained that with the advent of the Kyle Chronicle updated information can be produced every three months. DW thanked KW for offering the skills and assets of KSFT. Indeed, the first people to respond as volunteers in an emergency are often the farmers, ghillies, keepers and other workers on the rivers.

Key points that needed consideration and cooperation are:

- Safe places to gather in an emergency: for example community halls, Oykel Bridge Hotel, lodges etc. DW asked for river and lodge owners to make their assets available so that they can be incorporated into the emergency planning process.
- Generator hook up points.
- Placement of defibrillators.
- Network of first responders formulated and recorded.
- How to raise funding.

AH- Asked about training on defibrillators. SMK advised that it essentially tells you what to do and would not shock the casualty if it was not required.

RS- Excellent plan and Upper & Lower Oykel happy to engage and offer support.

NG- The Carron as well; Braelangwell Lodge would be a good place for an emergency building/muster point.

4. Presentation – Climate Change Fishmongers’ Project – Sean Robertson, KSFT

A PowerPoint presentation was made by Sean Robertson KSFT – A copy of which will be circulated with the completed minutes. **Action SR (1)**. A Q&A and discussion session followed.

NB – What species of trees were required? SR- A mixed native broadleaf woodland - right trees in the right place.

RS- Quite a number of work streams are looking at riparian woodland as there is no existing funding streams. Government is looking at this seriously.

KW- Forestry plans often exclude the riparian zone. In consultation responses we often ask for broadleaf trees as buffer strips and for the development not to deliberately avoid the riparian zone. The message is not always getting through.

RS- Important to get the process kick started and engage with ready to go projects.

AH- Easter Ross Deer Management Group has had input from specialists such as Victor Clements. To what extent are we able to access other advisory groups? RS- Yes, the whole process is about joining up with other interest groups.

AY- Where are the trees going to come from etc? SR- Supply and availability are long term issues. Mixed approach of natural regeneration, although growth much slower, may be of additional value.

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RW- Tree breakages/damage are important cost considerations. SR- Long term costs as with fencing repair.

WP- Many leaves will be produced, could this lead to pollution damage of rivers? SR- Leaves degrade and are generally of benefit to the aquatic environment. Evidence of this is the Evelix which has lots of trees and supports large numbers of juvenile salmon and trout. RS- It increases ecological status and results in a higher abundance of aquatic life.

5. 2020 Draft Annual Report

Keith Williams- Director, KSDSFB. Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Items discussed by exception.

- i. NEPS did not receive the funding therefore we were not able to carry it out.
- ii. P19 Electrofishing. Issues with past data compatibility. Tools now developed will allow us to put in place a proper monitoring network.

6. Question and Answer Session – no further questions

7. AOCB – no other business

Meeting closed: 10.27am

Date of next meeting: TBA

New actions carried forward.

No	Action Title	Open Actions	Owner	Raised	Complete by
1	Climate change presentation	<i>SR to provide presentation to the Board</i>	SR	March 2021	Immediately