

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND FISHERIES TRUST



MEETING TITLE: TRUST ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Meeting Time: 16.30 pm

MEETING MINUTES (*Draft*)

Chair/Facilitator: Richard Sankey

Minute taker: Jacqui Hamblin

In Attendance

Trustees	Attending
Richard Sankey, Chair (RS) Ashe Windham (AW) Steven McKenzie (SM) Michael Brown (MB) Finlay McCulloch (FM) Robbie Douglas Miller (RDM)	Keith Williams (KW) Director Sean Robertson (SR) Member Michael Baird (MBrd) Member
Apologies	Guests
John Green	

1. Welcome & Approval of Minutes

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting

2. The minutes from previous meeting of 26th September 2019 were approved.

3. Open Actions B/Fwd.

No	Action Title	Actions	Owner	Raised	Complete by
1	SANDS	KW Contact local angling clubs, educators, and potential interested parties to determine interest. KW has spoken to local anglers. RS Iain Robertson is taking a more regional approach. <i>Parked due to Covid.</i>	KW	April 2019	Ongoing
2	SEDIMENT FINGERPRINTING	After many years of heavy sediment, the Oykel this year has clearer waters and very little sediment. Therefore, moved sampling to the Shin where the bed of the Shin,	SR	June 2019	Ongoing

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		Forestry, Pasture and Peatland will all be sampled. Draft report will be available by the end of 2019. SR: Heard from APEM should be pending. Early results indicate sediment coming from above the dam onto the main stem. Need to wait for report.			
3	HERITAGE NETTING PROJECT	SR advised that Development Trust is keen to be partners in the project and take an active role. SR visited the Ness to observe the netting and tagging. SR suspects that for our purposes it will be a combination of sweep netting and the old style. Parked due to COVID.	SR	April 2019	Ongoing
4	VICARIOUS LIABILITY	Liaise with David McKie. Action KW/JH. <i>JH contacted David McKie for possible dates and costs. Ashe going to approach to get webinar. JH send AW email trail.</i>	KW/JH	April 2019	ASAP
5	Governance - New Trustees	Action KW to speak to the development trust about bringing in new trustee. KW It has been hinted at with David Watson, Action KW to firm up.	KW	June 2019	Ongoing
6	Window replacement	The decision was taken by the Trust to go with the quote from ERG of Invergordon. It will require some amendments as the storeroom window was not included. Action JH – Progress quote to installation.	KW/JH	June 2019	Complete
7	Genetic Analysis	Action JH Change line in budget to say Genetics analysis (removing UHI) KW - source alternative provider.	KW/JH	September 2019	Complete
8	Shin Habitat project	Hamish Muir Study recommends possible options; modelling, introducing gravel and more <i>water</i> . Action KW ask HM for more examples. Action RS broach with SSE and	RS/KW	September 2019	Ongoing

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		<i>SEPA Action further up the tree. Priority has not allowed us to move forward on this. Will revisit when time allows.</i>			
9	Carron Radio Tracking	Require more tags & receivers. Remind river workers/anglers on the Carron not to take fish. Action KW project description.	KW	September 2019	ASAP
10	Bio-Diversity Challenge Fund	Tree Planting 5000 trees at Dalchork. Action KW – Progress with planting, chase Argyll and explore FC help and other funding opportunities. Only some tree planting monitoring left to do.			Complete
11	Schools Project	The Salmons Journey, lifecycle with Bonar Bridge School and teacher Lisa MacKenzie. Require funding for minibus to take kids to smolt sites. Action SR explore grant funding for minibus. The Trust will fund if not forthcoming. SR ran out of time on that, would be great for next year. Will be Covid dependant.	SR	September 2019	May 2019

RS: He noted the drone had been used to monitor the tree planting SR: Fantastic tool in our box. Used to help bailiffing as well occasionally. RDM: Could thermal imaging be used on the drone camera at night? SR: In basic terms you must maintain visual line of sight, so no. AW: Schools Projects, have you approached the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) for funding? SR: No but thanked AW for information. **Action SR (8) investigate further.**

Agenda Items

4. Governance

Documents being reviewed as an ongoing action. Should be ready for review by the Trustees by the Spring meeting.

5. Directors Report

The directors report was circulated prior to the meeting and the PowerPoint was shown and KW spoke on the content.

- Trust may need to pay less for staff time to the fishery board as there has been less activity.
- RDM: Were we reimbursed by SSE for the work that we did during the smolt run? KW: It is part of our agreement and we are reimbursed. SSE normally provide a member of staff in addition to the funding but they are not obliged to do so. Due to COVID it was felt better not to mix SSE and Kyle Fisheries staff so we undertook the activities ourselves. We only did what we were contracted to do.

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- RS: Link to consultations folder did not appear to work.
Action JH (9) to re-visit with SR and send out.
- RDM: Is encouraged that Cooke Aquaculture (CA) registered our presence by a member of staff asking to attend the Boards meeting. What message do we want him to take away? We have an opportunity to send a message. RS: Most important message is recommendations from salmon interactions working group and we look forward to a new regulatory framework and working with it. CA are perhaps beginning to realise that they are working within a shifting policy and likely moving from a planning to a licensed framework. Environmental Management Plan (EMP) are likely to be required. For escapes, the costs of monitoring will include genetics monitoring. Costs will be substantial and will involve work undertaken by fishery trusts or consultants. Marine Scotland will probably be the main beneficiary of the funding.
- KW: Meanwhile Migdale smolts are in our view in breach of their planning consent as have not submitted a suitable EMP. Migdale were not happy to pay for monitoring costs inclusive of VAT and have not provided any funding as they wanted to make a donation. RDM: Has this been raised with Marine Scotland? KW: Raised with Highland Council (HC) RS: At the moment until the recommendations are turned into regulations we need to work with HC and with Polly Burns (PB) from Fishery Management Scotland (FMS). RS: Would like to see a binding agreement in the future. RDM: Have we told Migdale smolts that we have taken the case to HC? KW: We have not as no EMP has been accepted by HC. Monitoring is required in their planning consent as part of an EMP.
Action KW (10) to continue to work with PB of FMS, and HC

6. Budgets and Finance

- a. 2020-2021 Budget
- b. Fundraising – covered in the Director’s report. SMK – had previously touched on raising funds with KW including potentially the auction of fishing.
Action KW & SMK (11) to progress further

7. Projects

- a) Heritage project
- b) AST Smolt tracking; including potential Cassley project looking at migration issues
- c) APEM Sediment fingerprinting
- d) Shin habitat project & Potential Shin Genetics project
- e) Carron radio tracking project – next year needs to get this going and will need more staff to help.
- f) Biodiversity challenge fund
- g) Potential Oykel Tree Planting
- h) Pearl Mussel project on the Kyle

8. AOCB

RS: stated that the video conferencing was working well, the visual and sound quality was excellent.

RS: standing down as chairman and this will be his last meeting.

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RDM: Protocol going forward should be that those attending video conference meetings in a non-official capacity be on audio only. RS: Very good point and should have an etiquette strategy set up. Observers should be on audio only and everybody should use the hand function to signal that they wish to talk.

Open & *New Actions* C/Fwd.

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		<i>approach to get webinar. JH send AW email trail</i>			
5	Governance - New Trustees	Action KW to speak to the development trust about bringing in new trustee. KW It has been hinted at with David Watson, Action KW to firm up. Pick that up again.	KW	June 2019	Ongoing
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9	Consultations Folder	JH to ensure link working.	JH	Sep 2020	Completed
10	Migdale Smolts	KW continue to work with Highland Council & Polly Burns of FMS.	KW	Sep 2020	ASAP
11	Fundraising	KW & SMK liaise in fund raising auction	KW/SMK	Sep 2020	Dec 2020

Meeting closed at: 17:47pm

Date of next meeting: 25th march 2021