

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER DEVERON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
being a Meeting open to the public in terms of the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013
held at CASTLE HOTEL, HUNTLY on Thursday 15th September 2016 at 3.30pm.
This meeting was held in conjunction with that of the TRUSTEES of THE DEVERON, BOGIE & ISLA RIVERS
CHARITABLE TRUST. The minutes cover both organisations.

At the outset the Chairman explained that in terms of the 2013 Act, all Meetings require to be open to the public. An invitation to the public was published on the Board's website along with a copy of the proposed Agenda. Any member who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

There were no members of the Public present.

Present: Malcolm Hay (B & T), Rory Cooper (B & T), Mrs J Player (B), A Gordon Morison (B), (All Upper Proprietors), Donald Galloway (B) (Banff & Macduff Angling Association - Lower), Frank Henderson (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), Richard Breakell (B) (Salmon Anglers), Jim Cruickshank (T), Richie Miller (B and representative of DBI Trust), Neil Stephen (Ghillies Rep – DBI Trust)
In attendance- Mrs S D Paxton (Clerk to Board and Administrator of DBI Trust);
{ **B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative**}

Chairman: Malcolm Hay

Apologies for Absence: C Richard Marsden (B), Robert Shields (B & T), David Borthwick (B & T).

Minutes of Meetings on 7th July 2016 A draft of the Minutes of the Meetings had been sent to all Members of the Board and Trust and unanimously approved by those who had attended. The minutes have been published on the Board/Trust's website (www.deveron.org) and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.
There were no queries nor matters outstanding.

Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 7th July 2016 as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

Update on Wild Fisheries Review: Mr Hay reported that he had attended a meeting in Perth the day before regarding the winding up of RAFTS (as no further government funding was available) and merger with ASFB. The intention was to offer RAFTS members (Trusts) an ASFB subscription at the same rate as currently paid. The Spey Board instigated a discussion on voting rights as this would be diluted with the amalgamation with Trusts. As there was not an agreement, the outcome was the withdrawal of the proposal above and the matter would be readdressed in November.

Mr Hay reported that most Trusts function like ours with a good relationship and involvement with the respective Board. However some are independent and have no Boards or want to operate totally independently ie West Sutherland who want to operate as an environmental organisation.

Draft legislation is still awaited and it may be as late as 2020 before anything takes effect, but more may be gleaned from Mr Laing's talk at the Annual Proprietors' meeting.

There is still a proposal to have a NE FMO but to date we have not been told that we can't remain independent. We are the only unit who have met with ASFB/Government as reported at our last meeting. The Trust would be independent and require to apply to FMO for funding for river support and maintenance.

Report by Mr Miller on DBI Trust work	<p>Mr Miller, Director and Senior Biologist of the Trust, gave a short report as most of his points were included in the Annual Report which had now been circulated to all Proprietors and other interested parties. Mr Hay complimented him on a professional and informative publication.</p> <p>In the last 2 years the Trust had held a volunteer trout/angling weekend (free) at which scale samples were taken. Wild Trout Trust had been in touch and so it was proposed to make it a bigger event. Mr Miller suggested 12 and 13 May, an evening event but anglers would need to contact proprietors first, pay a basic fee and then come to the event.</p> <p>Mr Miller mentioned the problem of poaching and there was a general discussion.</p> <p>Underwater cameras are going back in the water in the next 2 weeks. He is hoping to get the loan of a sonar device from Canada.</p> <p>Fish counters were again discussed for use in tributaries.</p> <p>Deveron obtained Category 1 classification again.</p>
Update on Financial Matters	<p>Mrs Paxton reported that statements had now been sent out for outstanding assessments from 8 proprietors. Contribution of £26,500 had been paid over to the Trust. Quarterly accounts to 30 Sep would be circulated at the end of the month. A dividend distribution of £1,424 had been received and reinvested in the Improvement Fund with McInroy and Wood. Current value is £127,477.</p> <p>Trust accounts will also be circulated at the end of the quarter. A rent agreement for the Office has been received from John Shields and this is being looked at. Rent of £1,850 pa is requested along with a service charge of £30pm, all backdated to 1 April 2015.</p>
Annual Meeting & Proposed Resolution on Improvement Fund	<p>A proposed Resolution had been circulated to all proprietors for discussion at the Annual Meeting. The idea is to transfer the Improvement Funds to the Trust for them to manage. The Fund is ring fenced and has to be used for the benefit of the river. Mr Hay is trying to confirm in writing with Accountants that there is no tax implication on its transfer.</p>
AOCB – Farson Digital	<p>Mr Hay said that he had been approached by Farson Digital to ask if they could locate a camera near Edinglassie. A new broadband line would be supplied in exchange. Mr Hay agreed.</p>
AOCB – Mink	<p>Mink had been spotted at New Aberdour Beach and at Macduff. We had been advised that if a female mink is spotted, she should be trapped to avoid recolonization as to date a good job has been done of eradicating them.</p>
AOCB – Hatchery	<p>Mr Cooper asked about the hatchery – it still exists but not used. Mr Cruickshank drew attention to a ‘Dee Hatchery Appraisal Project’ report and asked if anyone had seen it. He will circulate it in due course.</p>
AOCB – Next meeting:	<p>Next Board/Trust meeting will be on Thursday 8th December, Castle Hotel at 12noon.</p>
Meeting closed at 4.45pm	<p>Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending. The Annual Proprietors Meeting and DBIT AGM followed.</p>