

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 6th April 2017 at 12 noon.
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.

Matthew Marsden attended as a member of the public (and proprietor).

Present: **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **Mrs J Player** (B), **A Gordon Morison** (B), **Robert Shields** (B & T), **Rory Cooper** (B & T) (All Upper Proprietors), **Frank Henderson** (B & T) (Turrieff Angling Association & Turrieff Community), **David Borthwick** (B & T), **Richard Breakell** (B) (Salmon Anglers), **Richie Miller** (B and representative of DBI Trust)
In attendance- **Mrs S D Paxton** (Clerk to Board and Administrator of DBI Trust);
Marcus Walters (DBI Trust)
{ **B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative**}

Chairman: Malcolm Hay

Apologies for Absence: C Richard Marsden (B), Jim Cruickshank (T), Donald Galloway (B) (Banff & Macduff Angling Association - Lower), Neil Stephen (Ghillies' Rep – DBI Trust)

Minutes of Meetings on 8th December 2016 A draft of the Minutes of the Meetings had been sent to all Members of the Board and Trust.

Mr Hay updated members on matters arising from these:

- Fisheries reform process had been abandoned and so Boards still exist for the foreseeable future. RAFTS has been abolished. In an ideal world there may be a preference for us to link with the Ugie and Ythan which may be of use to help with work, on a contract basis. Ythan are currently subcontracting bailiff work to the Dee/Don.
- FMS held elections and Mr Hay added that he had not been selected. Alastair Jack is the Chairman. Mr Miller and Mr Walters had attended the FMS Conference – River categorisation will continue; FMS were positive about the future; Boards can merge voluntarily; netting order at sea is still in place with no time limit.

The minutes were then 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.

Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 8th December 2016 as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

Report by Mr Miller on DBI Trust work Mr Miller, had prepared a written report on the work of the Trust since the last Board Meeting and this was handed out (available on request). He went over the salient points:

- River Opening - a success with presentation of the Morison Trophy by Colin Hendry and Robert Shields blessing the river.
- Piscivorous Bird licence for 2016/17 had been granted at same level as before. Mr Cooper asked if we can increase the numbers but this was thought not possible unless there was evidence to target specific areas.
- Smolt Tracking Project – very generous donations have been received and so the project is fully funded. Thanks were extended to members

and Atlantic Salmon Trust. Mr Walters reported that the receivers are in the river and fish are to be tagged next week. There will be 4 fixed receiving stations, and a mobile aerial which will be in a car. Mr Marsden asked if fish tagged last year will be picked up, but Mr Walters confirmed that this will not be possible due to battery life. The tag insertion will be carried out by Matt Newton of Glasgow University, who is also now employed by AST as tagging controller.

- The Trust were successful in their application to Tesco for a maximum £5000 through their 'Bags of help' funding. This will be used for invasive species control (in conjunction with Huntly Fishings) as no funding available now from SNH. The Trust will also work with farmers and landowners. Mr Morison asked if there was a river map which shows 'hot spots' – could this be published on the website? Mr Miller confirmed that the sheep used last year for hogweed control may be moved to a new site this year as the infestation has been severely reduced on the previous site. Any hogweed reappearing can be controlled manually. The Trust is working with SNH/FMS to secure a new funding bid. In the meantime Mr Miller will carry out some spraying - he has the necessary 'ticket' as has Colin Grant who works for Huntly Fishings. Mr Morison added that he has staff with tickets and perhaps could donate some manpower. Mr Cooper asked about Himalyan Balsam – Mr Miller said the treatment of it was not high priority and could be dealt with by strimming/pulling out in late spring/early summer.
- Deveron Trout Festival – 6th/7th May – booking through Henderson's Country Sports.
- Auction – booked for 10th June at Fife Lodge Hotel; £20 to include a 3 course hot buffet meal. Tickets are available from the Office (tel 01466 711388).
- There had been fishery protection issues at Avochie/Rothiemay. Cases had been dropped. Discussion on Trout protection orders but did not think an application would be successful. Brief discussion on Huntly Flood Protection Scheme and silt. Mr Borthwick said concern had been raised over the state of the bank near the Nordic Ski Centre. SEPA are aware.
- Nineveh Trust – funding of £2183 had been received towards schools education. Schools involved are Gartly, St Thomas, Markethill and Turriff (Primary).
- Clashindarroch Wind Farm extension is at scoping stage. Mr Morison drew attention to the re-instatement clause regarding roads etc which should come into effect in 2019 on phase 1 – watch the impact on the rivers. Mr Miller is working with Forestry Commission regarding planting near the river. Following on from electro fishing work, there is one area of concern on a culvert – Mr Miller is in discussion on changes required.
- Social media is being used as much as possible. The Field published an article on the Morison Trophy. This was publicised on social media and has been much commented on. Mr Miller was asked to write to the magazine to comment on some points
- Mr Shields asked when the Fishery Management Plan would be updated. Mr Walters advised that a template is being devised and only when that is finalised will a new plan be required. Rivers were not being encouraged to prepare a draft meantime.
- Mr Walters handed out a graph covering salmon rod & line catches 1952-2016

Update on Financial Matters	<p>Mrs Paxton circulated a draft receipts & payments account for the Board for the year ended 31 March 2017. The results were down on that budgeted due to the gift of a vehicle to the Trust and a correction required between the General and Improvement Funds to reflect the true year end balance. A draft budget for the new year has been prepared but will not be circulated until ratings details are received from the Valuer.</p> <p>Draft accounts were also circulated for the Trust – again different to the budget prepared due to unexpected transactions during the year. These accounts have to be finalised before submission to the Accountants. The new budget has also been drafted but has still to be finalised. Mr Miller confirmed that a mileage log was in place to record business/bailiff mileage.</p> <p>As of 31 March the value in the Improvement Fund investments was £132,163. Included in that was a dividend reinvestment of £2,178 on 28 Feb.</p> <p>Mr Miller requested that funding be approved for the purchase of a new back pack for electro fishing –cost £5 -6,000. Mr Hay suggesting looking for sponsorship or match funding, using improvement fund. The Board/Trust were in favour of pursuing the purchase –Mr Miller to investigate.</p> <p>Mr Shields requested consideration of purchase of fish counter for Alt Deveron or Gartly weir, or if a new bridge is built at Banff. Mr Hay still concerned that Government may provide –but funding may be the issue.</p>
Health & Safety	<p>Mr Miller reported that Greens of Haddington had finished the preparation of a new handbook. Mr Shields noted that a drone had been lent by Longcliffe Quarries Ltd to the Trust to assist with mapping burns and viewing detail on the river. Insurance for its use to be investigated by Mr Miller. Mr Borthwick is to assist with instruction.</p>
AOCB – Extraction monitoring	<p>Mr Henderson asked how Scottish Water monitor their extraction and who monitors how much water is extracted? They have their own meters.</p>
AOCB – Thanks to Mr McConnell	<p>Mr Hay wished to record his thanks to Mr McConnell (Membership Secretary – Trust) for all his hard work and for assisting in obtaining donations from members for the forthcoming Smolt Tracking Project.</p>
AOCB – Lights at Banff Bridge	<p>Mr Marsden noted that the lights at Banff Bridge were very bright and wondered if there was an effect on the fish running. There is only a narrow channel so already some restriction. Mr Hay suggested that Mr Miller write to the Council to enquire if the lights had changed. Mr Borthwick will also enquire whether anyone on the Banff Angling Association can help.</p>
AOCB – DBI Trust Chairman	<p>Mr Shields advised all present that he will retire from being Chairman of DBI at the AGM in October but would remain a Trustee. He had spoken to Jim Cruickshank and he has expressed a willingness to take over. This appointment was proposed by Mr Shields, seconded by Mr Hay and all in favour.</p>
AOCB – Next meeting:	<p>Next Board/Trust meeting will be on Thursday 6th July 2017, Castle Hotel at 12noon.</p>
Meeting closed at 1.45pm	<p>Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending.</p>