

**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 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 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.

**Sarah Cruickshank** attended as a member of the Public along with **Sarah Roebuck**, the incoming Clerk/Administrator.

**Present:** **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **Mrs J Player** (B), (All Upper Proprietors), **Donald Galloway** (B) (Banff & Macduff Angling Association - Lower), **Frank Henderson** (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), **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);  
**Marcus Walters** (DBI Trust)  
{ **B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative**}

**Chairman:** Malcolm Hay

**Apologies for Absence & Welcome** C Richard Marsden (B), Matthew Marsden (B), Robert Shields (B & T), Rory Cooper (B & T), A Gordon Morison (B), David Borthwick (B & T), Richard Breakell (B).  
Mr Hay welcomed Mrs S Roebuck and introduced her as the successor to Mrs Paxton who will be retiring from Clerk to the Board and Trust Administrator at the end of December.

**Minutes of Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017** A draft of the Minutes of the Meeting 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](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

**Update on Financial Matters** Mrs Paxton reported that bank balances in both organisations were healthy. The last quarterly accounts to 30 September had been circulated and the ones for December will be issued in January. The valuation of the Trust investment held by McInroy and Wood was £131,924.

Mrs Paxton reported that only one Board assessment was outstanding and she would try and make contact by telephone. A second contribution amounting to £10,000 had been paid over to the Trust.

Mr Miller said that an IT proposal had been received from Paxton & Associates Ltd regarding the updating of the IT system, purchase of new machines and networking. He explained that very little had been spent on IT over the last 6 years and it was now time to bring everything up to date, particularly with the change in Clerk/Administrator and advent of the SISI project. Mr Cruickshank (Trust), with the support of all present, approved the project in principle. It was

hoped that it would be reviewed and carried out in stages.

**Report by Mr Miller &  
Mr Walters on DBI  
Trust work**

Mr Miller, Director and Senior Biologist of the Trust, and Mr Walters, River Operations Manager, had prepared a written report on the work of the Trust since the last Board Meeting and this was handed out (**available on request from the Clerk**). Both members went over the salient points and answered questions put by the members.

Mr Walters suggested the Trust carry out another smolt project in 2018 using a different type of receiver – anticipated cost of £11,000 plus his time. Tags would need to be ordered early in 2018. The Board were in favour of supporting based on max. of 50% funding by the Trust (improvement fund) and balance by donations. AST would be approached for funding as they assisted with the project that was done in early 2017.

Mr Miller said that a query had been raised by Mr A G Morison regarding the provision of a replica trophy to the winner of the Morison Trophy. This was discussed and the consensus was to present the winner with a personal photograph with the Trophy.

Mr Miller outlined a proposal he wishes to put to LEADER regarding the funding of hydro acoustic counters (sonar) to help validate information on fish activity on the river. Mr Hay expressed concern at the amount of work needed to interpret the results; Mr Miller anticipated 4-6 hours per week. The cost of the project would be around £95,000. Mr Cruickshank said that we must be able to prove that such a project would be of benefit to the river. All were in favour that Mr Miller proceed with his investigation and formation of a proposal.

A request was made that more information should be sent to ghillies and anglers on the work done by the Trust. Perhaps there should be more promotion – photos on facebook, web site etc. Publicity policy should be reviewed. Mr Miller will include more general information when he sends out his annual letter with the Conservation Code.

**River Deveron  
Conservation Code**

Some changes had been made and the final Code had been circulated to Members. One point had been raised by Mr Morison but it was agreed that the Code should stand as circulated. Mr Miller will liaise with the Clerk regarding circulation in early 2018.

**Appointment of  
Administrator/Clerk**

Mrs Sarah Roebuck will take over in early January but Mrs Paxton will be on hand to assist when needed.

**AOCB – FMS  
Conference**

Mr Hay had attended the conference. Peat restoration had been highlighted as there was substantial grant funding available. There could be significant benefits to the river through reverse drainage, re-wetting of peat land and removal of inappropriate tree planting. Mr Walters is to investigate which of our proprietors could benefit and draw their attention to the funding.

Mr Hay had also raised the question as to why netsmen were being zero rated, particularly in light of the substantial compensation they had received from government - this effectively amounted to a surrogate tax on riparian owners who had to fit the bill for the shortfall. The subject is being investigated by FMS.

**AOCB – Ugie**

There had been a meeting with the Ugie regarding the provision of bailiff services and contract work. Mr Miller has supplied a day rate and awaiting the outcome.

**AOCB – 2018 Meeting dates:**

**Dates are now confirmed as:  
Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> April, Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> July, Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Sep (AGM),  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec (change from original proposal).**

**AOCB – Haughs Redevelopment**

Mr Henderson drew attention to the possible work in dredging at the Turriff Burn. Modification work had been carried out before. Mr Miller to be kept informed.

**AOCB – Board Appointment**

Mr Hay drew attention to the fact that Mr Cruickshank, although Chairman of the Trust, was not a Board Member. He suggested that Mr Cruickshank be co-opted on to the Board as an Upper Proprietor with immediate effect, the appointment to be ratified at the AGM. All present were in favour.

**Meeting closed at 2.10pm**

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked Mrs Paxton on behalf of both the Board and the Trust for her unerring dedication and enthusiasm in steering both organisations through difficult and uncertain times during the aborted Freshwater Fisheries Review. Both Board and Trust had much to thank her for, and in particular the sound state of the finances of both organisations.

Next meeting – Thurs 5 April, 12 noon, Castle Hotel.