

MINUTES of THE 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 via video conferencing using MS Teams on Thursday 2nd July 2020 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 of the public who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

- Present:** **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **Andrew Allwood** (B), **Matthew Marsden** (B), **Robert Shields** (B&T), **Rory Cooper** (B & T), **Frank Henderson** (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), **Jim Cruickshank** (B &T) **Richie Miller** (representative of DBI Trust)
In attendance- **Mrs S Roebuck** (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:** A Gordon Morison (B), Richard Marsden (B), Mrs J Player (B), David Borthwick (B), Richard Breakell (B)
- Minutes of Meetings on 9th April 2020** A draft of the Minutes of the Meeting had been sent to all Member's 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.
- Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013** Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 9th April 2020 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 Roebuck circulated draft statutory accounts for both the Board and the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The valuation of the Improvement Fund stood at £132,628.23 as at 1 July 2020.

Quarterly accounts to 30 June for both Board and Trust will be issued to all Members shortly.
- Budget & Fix Assessment** A draft budget was circulated for the Board. There was a general discussion on the levy rate in view of the budget figures. Mr Hay explained to the members that Mr Gordon Morison had been in touch expressing a wish for the rates to be reduced substantially from the suggested rate. The Board members present unanimously approved a rate of 42p in the £. Mrs Roebuck was asked to issue the notices to Proprietors.

All assessments for year 2019/20 are now paid.
- Report by Mr Miller and Mr Walters on DBI Trust work** Mr Miller and Mr Walters had prepared a written report on the work of the Trust since the last Board Meeting and this was handed out (available on request). Both members went over the salient points:

- **Water Quality:** Mr Walters summarised the latest water quality analysis from the sample collected in October 2019. The sample contained two insecticides Chlorpyrifos and Permethrin. A discussion followed about potential sources and impacts. It was proposed by Mr Walters to work with Craig Macadam from BugLife to produce a briefing. The briefing will be shared with local MSP Alexander Burnett to raise questions about how these chemicals are entering the river and what SEPA are doing to monitor and control these pollutants. It was also agreed that an additional sample should be taken further up the Cabrach to above any potential sources of these chemicals.
- **Bird Licence:** Mr Walters explained that last years' licence was completed at the end of May. The SNH licence to shoot as an aid to scaring 13 goosanders and 2 cormorants was fulfilled. Two further bird counts were conducted since, one in March and one in April. Mr Allwood expressed that throughout the months of November through to February there are higher number of birds and where possible a regular count through this period should be done. A bird count was done by Mr Allwood at Muireisk in January and counted 30 Goosanders and 6 cormorants. Mr Cooper explained that the Trust might be able to get information from individual owners and ghillies. Mr Cooper suggested this information might identify if the birds are in one part of the river rather than another.
- **Lower Tributaries Restoration Project:** The water samples have been collected. Discussion regarding these results are still to be had but it did not flag anything different from the lowest burn to anywhere else. These samples will continue to be included in future water samples. A quote was obtained from Trex Ecology to do a walk over habitat assessment that would also include a report with potential restoration solutions for the King Edward burn. Mr Shields questioned if the survey carried out in 1991 had any validity and suggested that it is used to re-evaluate the changes since that record. Mr Miller explained this might be valuable due to the King Edward system and the Fisherie burn that runs into being the area worst hit by the September floods when six bridges were severely damaged.
- **Communication:** Mr Miller reported that Karen has been working hard during the winter on promotion on social media but that has now slowed down. Miss Muller has been out controlling invasive plants, but social media presence is still ongoing, and the number of followers is continually building. Mr Shields expressed that Miss Muller has been doing a great job with the informative and amusing posts. Mr Marsden requested some leaflets to provide to fishing clubs.
- **Health and Safety:** This is reviewed on a weekly basis. Most of the Trust employees are working from home but are hopeful that the office will fully open soon.

Mr Shields suggested the use of the “What3Words” app when Trust employees are sole working. It defines every three metres square on the globe. This would be especially useful in the event of an accident. Mr Miller has opted to use this app.

- **The Crooksmill Burn Project:** The Trust was successful in securing a grant from the Towie windfarm to pay for the report on works to be done in the catchment.

Appointment of New Chairman

Mr Hay explained that he will be stepping down from the chairmanship and the Board in advance of the planning application being lodged for the proposed Garbet wind farm. Mr Allwood had agreed to take on the role of the Chairman. It was agreed that Mr Allwood will chair the next meeting, prior to the AGM when the appointment will be ratified.

Mr Cruickshank added that as the Trust is growing, it would be an advantage to have a vice chairman. Mr Cooper has agreed to take on this role. This was agreed unanimously.

AOCB – Freedom of Information

A guidance on Freedom of Information legislation was sent out by Mr Alan Wells to the District Salmon Fishery Boards. Mr Miller explained that both the Trust and the Board may be requested to pass over documents or e-mails and to be aware of the importance of how things are done and how information is stored. Mr Hay clarified that everything is on the website and it would be easy to supply the information should it be requested.

AOCB – Next meeting:

The next Board/Trust meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September 2020, at The Castle Hotel at 3.30pm, followed by the Annual Proprietors Meeting and joint Board and Trust AGM at 5pm.

****Please note this may change if there is any government restrictions imposed due to COVID-19****

Meeting closed at 1.30pm

Mr Allwood thanked Mr Hay for his effortless command, hard work and dedication over the last 10 years and wished Mr Hay well for the future.

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending.