

**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 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 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.

**Calvert Mckibbin** attended as member of the Public

**Present:** Malcolm Hay (B & T), Jim Cruickshank (B & T), Matthew Marsden (B), Mrs J Player (B), Rory Cooper (B & T), Frank Henderson (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), A Gordon Morison (B), Richard Breakell (B), Andrew Allwood (B), Richie Miller (B and representative of DBI Trust)  
In attendance- Mrs S Roebuck (Clerk to Board and Administrator of DBI Trust); Marcus Walters (DBI Trust) , Alan Reeve (DBI Trust), Karen Muller (DBI Trust), Neil Stephen (T)  
{ B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative}

**Chairman:** Malcolm Hay

**Apologies for Absence** Richard Marsden (B), Donald Galloway (B), Robert Shields (B & T), David Borthwick (B & T)

**Minutes of Meeting on 5th December 2018** 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.

Mr Hay enquired about the outstanding assessments from the previous meeting. Mrs Roebuck confirmed only one remains outstanding.

**Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013** Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 5th December 2018 as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

Mr Hay explained that he has a bank revetment project grant aided under AECS which will involve the Trust. This would hopefully go ahead in the summer. The budget is £21,000. The works will involve propping up a bank on the Markie Water that is eroding a track.

**Update on Financial Matters** Mrs Roebuck reported that previous Accountants (Faith Simpson) have gone into liquidation and so new accountants have been appointed, Cathedral Accountancy Ltd, based in Elgin.  
Mr Hay explained there had been a question raised by prospective new accountants whether or not a full Audit for the Board should be done; however a note from Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) explains that smaller boards do not have to spend the money to do that and that an examination is sufficient.  
The valuation of the Trust investment held by McInroy and Wood was £125,432.70 as of 04/04/2019.

**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 Reeve mentioned that Himalayan Balsam had spread in the catchment, and has asked proprietors to report how much they have if any within their areas. Mr Hay suggested a mail shot to proprietors explaining what the objectives are on INNs in general and what information is required by the Trust.

Mr Miller reported that there had not been a lot of activity regarding the proposed Clashindarroch wind farm extension over the winter but he has recently received communication regarding the environmental impact assessment. Mr Walters circulated the map showing where the extension is planned. Mr Miller explained that the Trust will work through the construction plan and the mitigation; but as they are going to be using a road that is already there to take the turbines in, the earlier problem of river crossings was largely eliminated. Mr Hay Reported that a letter had been received from Emma Plumpton regarding previous objectives to original proposal. There had been complaints about landscape, wild life and fisheries and the initial project had been reduced from 48 turbines down to 11.

Mr Miller reported that the Trust has asked to trial the sonar for a longer period of time. Trittech has quoted £4,000 for a month long trial on a rent to buy basis. The device itself costs £15,000. A software, computer and hard drive would still need to be purchased on top of which would mean the total estimated cost would be around £20,000. These figures do not include operational costs. The Board unanimously agreed to go ahead with a month's trial and to use funds from the Investment Fund if required. Mr Miller explained he would like ideally to have it in by May.

Miss Muller has asked that all anglers take photographs of fish caught and send them to her to post on social media and so encourage more anglers to come to the Deveron.

Mr Walters reported that higher than normal levels of cypermethrin had been found in the water sampling results. He confirmed SEPA are taking this seriously and are currently looking into whether they should be undertaking further tests and determining the potential source. Mr Hay has asked that Mr Walters keep pressure on SEPA to follow through. Mr Walters suggested extending sampling to the Bogie, above Huntly and the Isla. It would cost around £1,800 for 3 samples. The Board unanimously approved this.

**Deveron Fisheries  
Management Plan**

Mr Walters reported that a draft FMP has been completed and circulated. An executive summary will be drawn out where the focus will be on particular key performance objectives. Mr Hay had written up a list of proposed objectives and shared this with members. The aim was for the Trust to develop the actions needed to achieve them. Mr Hay suggested that the overarching objective was to maximise the numbers of migratory and native fish returning to and breeding in the Deveron catchment and the wider district.

Mr Hay suggested that the Trusts' activities for the next 12 months be measured by linking the actions being taken to these key performance indicators, for example, by comparing electrofishing results. Mr Hay encouraged members to send Richie Miller and himself any suggestions which they may have on this.

**Deveron Auction 2019**

Mr Miller explained that companies as well as individuals are being encouraged to sponsor and take tables for the event. Preparations are being made to raise awareness.

**River Deveron Paddler and Angler Guidance**

Mr Miller reported that canoeing is more of a regular past time on the river and that general guidance would be issued to both canoeists and anglers.

**Freshwater pearl mussels in the river**

Mr Hay suggested that a Freshwater pearl mussels objective for the river should be included in the Fisheries Management Plan.

**Health and Safety**

Mr Miller reported spot tracker devices have now been purchased and activated.

**AOCB**

Mr Hay suggested more informative updates for proprietors and anglers on what the Trust is doing might be desirable. Mr Miller explained that the Trust already has 4 social media accounts that are updated on a regular basis, a newsletter, minutes published on the website, an annual report and that it holds open meetings quarterly.

There was a discussion on how You Tube type short videos may help increase awareness on various topics such as how to handle fish, smolt traps, fish counters, spraying hogweed etc. Miss Muller raised concerns that this may be time consuming to edit in a professional manner. She agreed to look at what options might be available to make this possible.

**Meeting closed at 2.15pm**

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending

Next meeting – Thurs 4 July, 12 noon, Castle Hotel.