

**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 at THE CASTLE HOTEL, HUNTLY on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 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 of the public who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

**Calvert McKibbin** attended as member of the public.

**Present:** **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **Andrew Allwood** (B), **Matthew Marsden** (B), **Rory Cooper** (B & T), **Frank Henderson** (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), **Neil Stephen** (Ghillies' Rep – DBI Trust), **Jim Cruickshank** (B & T) **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)  
{ **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), Robert Shields (B&T)

**Minutes of Meetings on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019** 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](http://www.deveron.org)) and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.

Mr Miller explained Canoeists guidance will be distributed shortly.

**Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013** Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 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 will be circulating draft statutory accounts for both the Board and the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The valuation of the Improvement Fund stood at £133,250.59 as at 4 July 2019.

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. The Board unanimously approved a rate of 43p in the £. Mrs Roebuck was asked to issue the notices to Proprietors. One Assessment remains outstanding for year 2018/19.

The budget for the Trust was also circulated.

**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:

- Tritech Sonar has been deployed for the past 3 weeks. The Trust encountered some problems with the battery supply and solar power but are working with Tritech to resolve the issue. The sonar is covering 23m width. Mr Miller explained that he is yet to determine whether the device has adequate image resolution to allow the accurate measurement of fish. The Trust is looking to combine its own information from the trial and meet with the Scottish government and ask to include the information in the classification process.
- Deveron Gin is due to go on sale 27<sup>th</sup> July for one day and interest has been outstanding.
- Crooksmill Burn was surveyed back in 2013 and for various reasons work could not be done. The Trust has since held a workshop with local landowners to discuss proposals. As it's been a few years since the last survey, the burn needs re-assessing and an estimated cost for this would be £5,000. Mr Miller explained he would need to meet with landowners to discuss options; he also went on to explain he would be looking to find a grant to cover the cost.  
Mr Hay enquired about the progress of habitat improvements of the Turriff and King Edward burns and suggested that a report on the three burns should be included in the next newsletter to highlight any progress.
- Mr Walters discussed the latest position on the water sample that had been taken last season for water quality and which showed high levels of cypermethrin. The testing is part of an agreement with JHI going forward for the next 2 years and the Trust will continue to take samples from the 3 existing sites and probably some more as they interpret what is coming in. Another sample has been taken since, in April and the JHI have said that some cypermethrin was still detected. SEPA has taken this seriously and is now doing its own investigations.
- Mr Walters informed members that the Fishery Management Plan text is complete and geology land use maps are being produced. Mr Miller and Mr Walters have been in discussion to come up with a detailed plan that will be presented to the December Board meeting to explain the strategy for the coming year. This will include details of projects being worked on and how they fit in with key objectives.

A list of key performance indicators was handed out by Mr Walters to evaluate the success of the work the Trust is doing on the river. This is available on request.

## Smolt Project

The Glasgow University team tagged 100 salmon smolts and 25 trout smolts from the Allt Deveron and Blackwater in April. The Atlantic Salmon Trust provided 50 salmon smolt tags including 25 predator tags which change signal when digested by a predator. The 25 trout tags were provided as part of the MORL offshore wind monitoring requirement. The trust provided 50 salmon tags at cost of £10,000. Mr Hay praised Mr Robert McConnell's efforts in raising enough money to cover the cost of 50 Salmon tags.

- Deveron Auction 2019** The Trust has organised a charity dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The evening will include an auction to raise funds for future conservation initiatives and to sustain existing projects. Tickets to attend the auction are now available. The evening includes a welcome drink and two course meal at Banff Springs Hotel (Banff).
- AOCB – Honorary Membership Secretary** Mr Hay explained to the members that Mr Robert McConnell would be looking to step down from his duties as membership secretary and we needed to look into who might take on the role. Mr Miller suggested that Mrs Sarah Roebuck, the current Administrator for the Trust might take on the general administration. Mr Miller also explained that someone out with the Trust might be better placed to take on the role of Honorary Membership Secretary as it would ensure independence from the main river management functions.
- AOCB – Next meeting:** The next Board/Trust meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at The Castle Hotel at 3.30pm, followed by the Annual Proprietors Meeting and joint Board and Trust AGM at 5pm.
- Meeting closed at 2.40pm** Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending.