

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 5th April 2018 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, Calvert Mckibbin and Andrew Allwood attended as a members of the Public

Present: Malcolm Hay (B & T), Matthew Marsden (B), A Gordon Morison (B), Mrs J Player (B), Rory Cooper (B & T) (All Upper Proprietors), Frank Henderson (B & T) (Turrieff Angling Association & Turrieff Community), Richard Breakwell (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)
{ B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative}

Chairman: Malcolm Hay

Apologies for Absence Jim Cruickshank (B & T), Richard Marsden (B), Donald Galloway (B), Robert Shields (B & T), David Borthwick (B & T), Neil Stephen (T).

Mr Hay informed members of the recent death of Mr Andrew Tennant, a former Chairman, and paid tribute to his many years of unstinting and passionate interest in our river. He sent his sincerest condolences to family and friends of Mr Tennant.

Minutes of Meeting on 5th December 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) and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.

Mr Walters updated members on matters regarding peat restoration. There is a large amount of funding available to conserve peat land. Various projects have been run already within the catchment. Mr Walters had now managed to source a map which showed the location of eligible peat lands within the catchment.

Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 Mr Hay reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members Financial Interests since 5th December 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 Roebuck reported that bank balances in both organisations were healthy. The last quarterly accounts to 31 December had been circulated and the ones for March will be issued end of April. The valuation of the Trust investment held by McInroy and Wood was £125,929. Mr Hay reported that some of this may be utilised to purchase a fish counter should a viable machine be identified.

Mrs Roebuck reported a third contribution amounting to £9,500 had been paid over to the Trust.

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.

A reduced rate was offered by James Hutton Institute for water analysis and Mr Walters suggested he either routinely sample a couple of sites across the river and collect once a year, or complete four samples, a couple of times a year. The Board agreed he should take this forward.

Mr Walters explained that bookings for the Deveron Trust Fishing weekend (5-6th May) must be done through Mr Frank Henderson. Mr Walters reported that more large trout from the Blackwater had been tagged. Posters have been made up to put up in huts indicating a reward for anyone who can give information about the movements/locations of these trout.

Mr Walters reported that bailiff patrols had been increased in the Huntly Area due to reports of fishing without permits.

Mr Miller reported on progress in researching and testing possible fish counters. He raised concern at the significant expense of one particular sonar technology, and in particular the difficulty of arranging insurance due to its high value. Mr Hay suggested that self-insurance might be possible – i.e. putting some money aside each year to cover any future catastrophic loss. While the sonar could pick up on the number and size of the fish, it was not possible to identify the species.

Mr Miller reported that he had discovered an alternative system, manufactured by Trittech, based in Aberdeen. This company could supply sonars that could be used to identify the fish and were also considerably cheaper. He planned to trial these sonars in May.

Deveron Fisheries Management Plan

Mr Miller explained there is a new legal requirement for Boards to have a Fisheries Management Plan in place. Mr Walters has been appointed to work on this alongside Mr Miller with the aim to have it complete by the end of June. The Plan is required to document and show local pressures on salmonid stocks in a way that can be fed into a national database to help with national projects going forward.

Wild Fisheries Governance Fund

Mr Miller reported that this government fund of £700k is split into 2 parts: £500k is for more information to be fed into the conservation limit model – e.g. through electro fishing surveys or other research projects; the remaining £200k is to support the voluntary mergers of boards or the creation of new DSFBs.

AOCB - Nuffield Scholar Request Donation

Mr Miller reported that a Dr Jenna Ross had been in touch requesting sponsorship for her project on slug control. The Board felt that the impact of slug control methods in our catchment was fairly minimal, and in view of action already taken on water quality analysis and control, decided not to make a contribution.

**AOCB - OSCR –
safeguarding of info**

Mrs Roebuck reported on the importance to act with due care and diligence. Extra care will be taken to make sure policies and procedures are up to date and implemented throughout the charity.

**AOCB – Hatchery
Building**

Mr Miller reported that the Keith Show Committee had made an approach to buy the Hatchery building and restore the site back to normal. Mr Miller suggested we maintain the site rather than sell it as there could still be a need for it in the future, and ongoing maintenance costs were minimal. A unanimous decision was made to keep it.

**Meeting closed at
1.50pm**

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending and expressed his appreciation for the sterling work done by the Trust's Membership Secretary, Mr Robert McConnell, and in particular his very successful fundraising efforts for our various projects.

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