

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 5th December 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.

- Present:** **Malcolm Hay** (B & T), **A Gordon Morison** (B), **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 & Welcome** C Richard Marsden (B), Matthew Marsden (B), Andrew Allwood (B), Robert Shields (B & T), Rory Cooper (B & T), David Borthwick (B & T), Richard Breakell (B), Mrs J Player (B), Frank Henderson (B & T) (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), Neil Stephen (Ghillies Rep – DBI Trust)
- Minutes of Meeting on 13th September 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) 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 13th September 2018 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 and both budgets have been updated due to various changes. First VAT return had been submitted and approved by HMRC in September.
- 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 £122,213.99.
- Mrs Roebuck reported that two Board assessments were outstanding, totalling £1,564.50 and a final reminder was sent.
- A donation from the Board amounting to £26,500 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.

Mr Morison enquired about the investigation regarding Scottish Water's current abstraction rate from the river Deveron at Turriff. Mr Miller explained that he had inspected the treatment works, and that Scottish Water were now taking out a higher level of water than in the past due to an increased abstraction licence. This was due to the long spell of dry weather and the consequent public demand for more water. Mr Hay noted that there had been other abstractions in the past which had exceeded the regulated amount and suggested the Board record what is coming out of the river should this be required as evidence for any future enquiry.

Mr Miller explained that Dr Alan Reeve and Karen Muller have made good progress eradicating hogweed on the Rosy Burn. He explained that Dr Reeve had organised a group of farmers and landowners in the area who have agreed to contribute towards the cost of engaging a contractor to complete the works.

Mr Miller explained that we are still waiting to see the results for the sonar fish counter compared against the government's alternative counter. He reported that the government have employed two people to look at the counter situation across Scotland as a whole and that the Trust had been asked to present its own trial to the government; this will be completed early next year.

Mr Miller reported that SNH had agreed to extend Karen Muller's post to three days a week, which would leave two days a week for her to work on PR and communications. Karen has already been posting Trust activities on social media, but plans to use other platforms as well as getting out and speaking to people. Mr Miller reported that there is a fly-fishing fair in Munich which could be a good opportunity for Karen to promote our river to new anglers. Mr Hay agreed it would be beneficial to book a stand at the fair. He also supported the creation of vouchers which anglers could redeem against the cost of fishing trips to the Deveron. Karen will also be attending the Scottish Fly-Fishing Fair with Hendersons Country Sports.

Summarising the past season, Mr Miller reported that an unusually cold spring had kept fish in the lower regions of the river. This had been exacerbated by a prolonged dry and hot summer and autumn causing many fish to linger in the lower regions until the very end of the of the season. The catch returns show the poorest rod catch on record for the Deveron, a situation mirrored across Scotland as a whole. As of the date of the meeting, three beats' returns were still outstanding.

On Health & Safety, Mr Miller explained that the staff had created a group chat facility for lone working and had also downloaded the OS Maps app which sends the group an exact location of where each staff member is located. The Trust is also looking to buy two or three "Spot Trackers" for staff when out with mobile reception. "Spot Trackers" work using satellite rather than mobile masts.

**River Deveron
Conservation Code**

Small amendments have been made to the code and the final version will be circulated to proprietors early in the new year.

**AOCB – Retirement of
Robert McConnell**

Mr Hay suggested the Trust start to think about who might take over from Mr McConnell as Membership Secretary before he retires so as to familiarise themselves with the excellent work he does.

**AOCB – 2018 Meeting
dates:**

**Dates are now confirmed as:
Thurs 4th April, Thurs 4th July, Thurs 12th Sep (AGM),
Wed 4th Dec.**

**Meeting closed at
2.20pm**

Mr Hay thanked everyone for attending.

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