

**MINUTES of the MEETING of THE RIVER DEVERON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD,
a Meeting open to the public within the terms of the Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 on
Thursday 7th April 2022 at 12 noon via at Avochie House.**

**This meeting was held in conjunction with that of the TRUSTEES of THE DEVERON, BOGIE & ISLA RIVERS
CHARITABLE TRUST. These 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 and all social media accounts along with a copy of the proposed Agenda. Any member who wished to attend was required to inform the Clerk.

Present: **Jim Cruickshank (B&T), Andrew Allwood (B&T), Frank Henderson (B&T), (Turriff Angling Association & Turriff Community), Gordon Morison (B), , Mrs J Player (B), Matthew Marsden (B), Robert Shields (B & T), Rory Cooper (B & T)**

In attendance-

Richie Miller (B and representative of DBI Trust). Jamie Mair (Ghillie), Tom McDermott, Trex Ecology.

{B = Board member; T = Trustee or representative}

Chairman: Mr Andrew Allwood

Apologies for Absence & Welcome C Richard Marsden (B), David Borthwick (B & T), Robert Copland (B), Andrew Higgins (B), Richard Breakell (B)

Mrs S Roebuck (Clerk to the Board and Administrator of DBI Trust);
Marcus Walters (DBI Trust)

Minutes of Meeting on 1st Dec 2021 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 Allwood reported that there were no changes noted to Board Members financial interests since 1st December 2021 meeting as applicable to the Board. No complaints against the Board had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

Talk by Mr Tom McDermott During spring 2021 the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust commissioned Trex Ecology to undertake a survey of the King Edward Burn and its tributaries to review the current status of the Burn and understand its potential for recovery. The identification of measures which could be taken forward for further consideration and potential works also formed part of this commission. Tommy McDermott (report author) gave a very informative presentation to the board on his findings.

Mr Andrew Allwood and members thanked Mr Tom McDermott for joining the meeting and discussing the contents of his excellent report.

Fishery Protection Bailiff Update

Fishery Protection- The appointed bailiff team have been increased in anticipation of the season, there are now three trained bailiffs and one more candidate to be trained in June. There is a clear fishery protection plan in place. Reporting will be essential and the WhatsApp groups are set up. Back up plans are also in place if required. It is to be hoped that with the reduction in the critical nature of covid, there will be less casual poaching as other pastimes will be more attractive.

Update on Financial Matters – Board

Richie Miller on behalf of Mrs. Roebuck reported the last quarterly accounts to 31st December had been circulated and the ones for March will be issued in May.

The Board was informed that there were no beat assessments outstanding, and thanks were expressed to all proprietors for their timely support

July Meeting

There was a discussion about the date of the next meeting. Namely the 7th July as it coincided with the school holidays. It was commented that there would always be reasons why particular dates in the future would be inconvenient for some members. As the dates were confirmed for 2022 in the 1st December 2021 meeting and contained in the minutes as such, it would not be sensible to change them as a result of the previous confirmation, especially as several members have already filled their diaries for this year. Therefore, unless a majority of members voice pressing reasons why the 7th July 2022 should be changed it will remain in the diary as planned.

The question of dates should form part of the planning when the dates for 2023 fall due for discussion.

The meeting then focused on Trust Business.

Update on Financial Matters – Trust

It was reported that the bank balances for the Board and Trust were healthy.

The valuation of the Trust investment held by McInroy and Wood was £154,485.

Report by Mr Miller & Mr Walters on DBI Trust work

Mr Miller, Director 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 e-mailed to all members (**Detailed report available on request from the Clerk**).

Topics discussed included:

- Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI)
- Fishery Protection
- Water Quality
- Bird Counts
- 2021 Rod Catch
- Lower Tributaries Project – King Edward
- Windfarms
- Moray Firth Seal Licence
- Glenkeith Weir Fish Passage
- River gradings
- River Opening Ceremony 2022
- Project Deveron – AST & Scot Gov. Collaboration
- Working with rivers- NatureScot Grant

- Sundown on the Deveron – 16th Sept 2022

Health and Safety

The DBIT health and safety policy continues to follow government guidelines in relation to COVID-19. The offices are now open to the public and all staff are hybrid working, homeworking where possible or carrying out fieldwork/patrols. Field staff are carrying out 2 weekly lateral flow tests for Covid-19. The Trust field team completed Kayak training in March (Personal performance award) to be able to assist with fish eating bird counts and fish tracking projects. Life jackets and all fire extinguishers have all been serviced.

Board and Trust – 2022 Meeting dates Thurs 7th July, Thurs 8th Sep (AGM), Wed 7th Dec.

Meeting closed at 3:50pm Mr Allwood thanked everyone for attending.
Next meeting – Thurs 7th July. Location to be confirmed.