

**MINUTES of THE COMBINED ANNUAL MEETING of QUALIFIED PROPRIETORS of
THE RIVER DEVERON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY and ANNUAL PUBLIC OPEN MEETING
held at CASTLE HOTEL, HUNTLY on Thursday, 15th SEPTEMBER 2016 at 5pm**

- Present:** **A Allwood** (Muiresk), **Mrs M Burnett-Stuart** (Ardmeallie, Boat of Turtory), **R Cooper** (Mains of Auchingoul), **J Cruickshank** (Carnousie, Ardmiddle, Inverkeithny Glebe, Inverkeithny, Upper Netherdale, Lower Netherdale), **M Hay** (Edinglassie) also as mandatory for J G Brown's Trust (Coniecleugh), Glennie 2011 Settlement (Tillydown), Ms I Hofmann (Lesmurdie), **A G Morison** (Mountblairy and Bognie), **A Cheyne** (Mains of Mayen and Mayen & Garronhaugh), **A D Tennant** (Forglen), **Mrs D A Stancioff** (Dunlugas), **J Ingleby** (Cairnborrow & Blairmore), **Mrs P Ingleby** (Mains of Aswanley), **W Booth** (Duff House), **D Borthwick** (co-optee represents salmon anglers) as mandatory for Huntly Fishings, **F Henderson** (co-optee represents salmon anglers), **R Breakell** (co-optee represents salmon anglers), **D Galloway** as mandatory for Banff & Macduff Angling Association (River Deveron), **Mrs J Player** as mandatory for J player (Upper Inverichnie), **J Begg** as mandatory for Mr & Mrs D A Sharp (Corniehaugh), **M Crossley** as mandatory for Turriff Angling Association. Also in attendance: **Mrs S Paxton** (Clerk to the Board); **J Minty** (River Bailiff); **R Miller** (River Director); **six members of the public including members of the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, Ghillies, Estate Managers and Anglers.**
- Apologies for Absence:** **CR Marsden and MCR Marsden** (Duff House); **J G Brown's Trust** (Coniecleuch); **Glennie 2011 Settlement (Tillydown)** (per R Foster); **I Hofmann** (Lesmurdie); **Mr & Mrs D A Sharp** (Corniehaugh); **A Higgins** (Castle Fishings); **J D Player** (Lower Inverichnie); **Messers F M Stewart & Sons** (Gibston); **R Shields** (Avochie); **Mrs D Goucher** (Eden South, Lower Inverichnie); **Belcherrie Farms Partnership** (Lynebain); **C Innes** (Euchrie & Kinnairdy).
- Chairman:** Mr Malcolm Hay welcomed Proprietors, Mandatories, Ghillies, Members of the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, guest speaker (Alasdair Laing, Chairman of ASFB) and other members of the public. He advised that due to time pressures the Speaker would give his presentation first – an Update of the Wild Fisheries Review – and then he would leave and the meeting would continue.
- Presentation:** An informative talk was given by Alasdair Laing, Chairman of ASFB, followed by a question and answer session. Mr Laing confirmed that the WFR was not specifically legislated for 2016/17, but may be introduced in Sep 2017 for consideration in 2018 and possible introduction in 2020.
- Minutes of last Annual Meeting:** Having circulated the minutes in advance for the last meeting held on 9th October 2015, it was proposed that they be taken as read and were unanimously approved.
- Annual Report & Accounts:** Mr Hay presented the accounts to the meeting. During the year the Board had changed Accountant to Faith Simpson, Huntly. An abbreviated version of the Board's Accounts are included in the Annual Report for the Board and Trust which had been circulated in advance to all proprietors and interested parties. Mr Hay asked if there were any questions. Mr Tennant commented that it was good to note that expenditure was down. Mr Hay added that the Board had tried to keep the assessment rate at the same level as in the past. No other questions and so the Accounts and Report were adopted.

Future of the Board/Trust:	<p>Mr Hay indicated that the future was still uncertain as explained by the Speaker.</p> <p>Mr Hay invited, Richie Miller, Senior Biologist for the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust to give an up to date report on the work of the Trust for the Board. As the main activities are highlighted in The Annual Report, Mr Miller only gave a short presentation on the Smolt Tracking Project which was undertaken during the year and funded by the Board.</p>
Special Resolution regarding the Improvement Fund	<p>A special resolution had been circulated to Proprietors in advance of the meeting regarding a proposed resolution for the transfer of the Improvement Fund to The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust.</p> <p>The Chairman had drawn the attention of the Board and Proprietors to the fund of £123,871 (market value of investments at 31 March 2016, per statutory accounts) which has been set aside by the Board comprising specific Catchment improvement funding arising out of the surpluses on the one hand, and gifts from certain Proprietors and others on the other.</p> <p>In light of the proposed Scottish Government abolition of Boards, and the possibility that funds accrued for the benefit of the Catchment could thus be lost to the Deveron, it was proposed that the fund of £123,871 (market value of investments at 31 March 2016, per statutory accounts) be transferred forthwith to, and be supervised in the future by, The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust. It was resolved that the Chairman be authorised to arrange such a transfer and seek appropriate confirmation from the Trust without further delay.</p>
Question & Answer Session:	<p>The Chairman now welcomed questions and observations. Mr Tennant and Mr Allwood raised 3 questions/comments:</p> <p>on the subject of Sea Trout, asking the Board to write to the Government giving support for the inclusion of sea trout in their protection order for 2017;</p> <p>they thanked the Board and Trust for their work on the river and tributaries but suggested that the Government should be asked to help fund a project to try and find out what is happening after the smolts reach salt water;</p> <p>concurred with the move of the Improvement Fund to the Trust and suggested investing in fish counters. Mr Hay confirmed that this had already been discussed by the Board but particularly with reference to use in our tributaries. There was hope that there might be Government funding to install a counter in the main river, hence this was not being pursued meantime.</p> <p>Mr Hay added that the Deveron had again been classified as a Category 1 river and extended his thanks to Mr Miller and his team for all their hard work.</p>
Presentation: J Minty & R Vasey	<p>Mr Ingleby (Lord-lieutenant of Aberdeenshire) and Mr Hay presented Mr J Minty with gifts on the occasion of his retirement as Bailiff after 38 years of employment by the Board; a presentation was also made to Mr R Vasey on his retirement following many years of work with the Trust.</p>
Thanks:	<p>Mr Hay thanked Mr Laing and Mr Miller for their contributions to the meeting.</p>
Meeting closed	<p>At 6pm followed by the DBIT AGM.</p>