

# Minutes

**BIDWELLS**

Client: Beauly District Fishery Board  
Project: Board Meeting  
Venue: Lovat Arms Hotel, Beauly  
Date: 4 December 2012  
Present: J Miller (Chair), M Spencer-Nairn, F Spencer-Nairn, J Whitbread

In attendance: K Williams (Ness & Beauly Fisheries Trust);  
A Campbell (Clerk)

Distribution: All Board Members

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Description	Action
<b>1 Apologies</b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from Michael Bennett, Kim Fraser and Paul Pacey.	
<b>2 Minutes of the Board Meeting 7 June 2012</b>	
2.1 The Minutes of the previous Board meeting of 7 June 2012 were agreed as an accurate record and approved unanimously.	
<b>3 Matters arising</b>	
3.1 Keith Williams confirmed that he had met the various river bailiffs individually but there had been no collective meeting at the start of the summer.	
3.2 The Chairman noted that there should be a future Agenda item entitled Fish Pass counter numbers.	Clerk
3.3 The Clerk confirmed that a second application had been made to Disclosure Scotland in respect of Donald Fraser's bailiff application as the initial application appeared to have gone missing in the post or with Disclosure Scotland.	
3.4 Alastair Campbell confirmed that reports had been made to the Beauly Angling Club concerning the sharing of costs of Lower Beauly Syndicate bailiff Robert Smart in order that he might cover the Angling Club water. To date no response had been received from the Angling Club.	
3.5 Keith Williams confirmed that during the year one arrest had been made for poaching with rod and line and this individual had been successfully prosecuted. Jane Whitbread reported that there had been a limited amount of poaching on the Glass, mainly holidaymakers and nothing of a serious nature. She confirmed that she would arrange for a Report to be	

# Minutes

Project: Beauly District Fishery Board: Board Meeting 4 December 2012

Page No: 2

submitted to the Board at future meetings.

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| <p><b>3.6</b> The Clerk to ensure that the bailiffs have each other's 'phone numbers.</p>  | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p><b>3.7</b> Keith Williams confirmed that there had been reports circulating of fish of dubious origin for sale in some unspecified local restaurants. The Clerk was asked to write to local hotels in the Beauly area outlining the law concerning sale of wild fish.</p>   | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p><b>3.8</b> Keith Williams reported that a submission had recently been made by the group representing Moray District Fishery Boards in response to a scoping request from Marine Scotland for the Moray Offshore Renewable Ltd development. The request for a response had only been sent to the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) as Marine Scotland considered that individual District Fishery Boards did not need to be consulted. The Board members present expressed disquiet at this statement.</p>                  |              |
| <p><b>3.9</b> Keith Williams confirmed that the Ness &amp; Beauly Fisheries Trust had met with representatives of SSE to discuss the proposed new electricity cable to be buried underneath the River Beauly adjacent to Beauly village. He confirmed that there were no immediate concerns regarding impact upon the salmon fishery following this meeting.</p>   |              |
| <p><b>3.10</b> The Clerk confirmed that he had been in discussions with Donald Fraser concerning the installation of a gate on the small track to the river immediately below Aigas Dam. Donald Fraser had undertaken to arrange this installation and the Clerk was asked to chase this matter up.</p>  | <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p><b>4 Ness and Beauly Fisheries Trust (NBFT)</b></p>   |              |
| <p><b>4.1</b> The Chairman confirmed that, following a request to all Board members, Frank Spencer Nairn had been the only respondent expressing an interest in representing the District Fishery Board as a Trustee of the Ness &amp; Beauly Fisheries Trust. Previously, Nick McAndrew had held this position, but following his resignation from the District Fishery Board, it was necessary to appoint a replacement representative.</p>  |              |
| <p><b>4.2</b> The application by Frank Spencer-Nairn to act as a representative of the District Fishery Board on the Ness &amp; Beauly Fisheries Trust was approved.</p>   |              |
| <p><b>4.3</b> Keith Williams confirmed that NBFT had now completed three years of electrofishing in the headwaters of the Belladrum, Brauich, Culburnie and Abhainn Deabhag burns following the cessation of hatchery stocking by the Lower Beauly Fishing Syndicate. A report will be prepared by NBFT consolidating the three years' results and this will be available early in 2013. This will not necessarily show what the impact of previous stocking was in terms of fish numbers, but will give an indication of where fish</p> | <p>KW</p>    |

# Minutes

Project: Beauly District Fishery Board: Board Meeting 4 December 2012  
 Page No: 3

spawning will naturally occur in the absence of any artificial stocking.

**4.4** Keith Williams confirmed that the literary review into sawbill populations which had been commissioned jointly by a number of Moray Firth District Fishery Boards had now been completed and that he intended to analyse this before distributing a brief report to the various Boards. He remained hopeful that there would be an opportunity to seek funds for a full research project into the sawbill population within the Beauly Firth and the River Beauly which could then be used to inform future applications for control licences.

KW

**4.5** It was confirmed that no seals had been shot within the River Beauly in 2012 to date.

**4.6** Keith Williams confirmed that the proposed clearance of artificial barriers in the Bridgend and Culburnie burns were now included within the next SEPA restoration funding round and that he anticipated these works being carried out in 2013.

**4.7** A discussion took place concerning the fish run during 2012. It was noted that there had been a short sharp grilse run in late July which had tailed off quickly into August. This was a pattern that had been repeated throughout the Highlands. The most recent fish pass figures received from SSE were:

- Kilmorack 4271 (5 year average 4084)
- Aigas 3731 (5 year average 4012)
- Beannachran 387 (5 year average 267)

**5 Scottish & Southern Energy Liaison Committee**

**5.1** The draft Minutes of the Liaison Committee meeting of 12 November 2012 had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

**5.2** The situation at Fasnakyle Power Station was noted.

**5.3** It was reported that there was a possibility in future that fish pass figures might be available via a web-based system, however this was still some time away.

**6 District Fishery Board Code of Good Practice**

**6.1** The Code of Good Practice issued by ASFB had previously been circulated to Board members via email on 11 October 2012. There were a number of points arising.

**6.2** It was agreed that representatives of both SNH and SEPA should be invited to the Board meeting and copies of the Minutes be forwarded to them in future. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the local community councils within the Fishery Board area informing them that the

Clerk

# Minutes

Project: Beauly District Fishery Board: Board Meeting 4 December 2012

Page No: 4

Minutes of the Fishery Board were available on the new website.

**6.3** It was agreed that a quorum comprising four Members should be set for any District Fishery Board meetings.

**6.4** The Clerk confirmed that the District Fishery Board had been registered under the Data Protection Acts.

**6.5** Following discussion, it was agreed that it was unnecessary to seek a return of fish catches from proprietors on a twice yearly basis as the spring run of fish was not considered large enough to warrant this. In future catch figures should be requested in compliance with the NASCO rod assessment tool. The Clerk to liaise with Keith Williams to arrange this for commencement in 2013.

Clerk/KW

**6.6** The members present confirmed that they were happy with the new Board website, other than the map of the Board area. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the names of the main rivers to be added to this and for the area to be extended to show the full extent down to the Beauly Firth.

Clerk

**7 Aquaculture & Fisheries Bill**

**7.1** The Clerk confirmed that a response had been submitted to the request for evidence from the Rural Affairs Committee of the Scottish Parliament.

**8 District Fishery Board Budget – Year to December 2013**

**8.1** Following a discussion concerning the budgeted contingency fund, it was agreed that the annual levy upon proprietors should be maintained at the same level as charged in 2012. It was anticipated that calls upon the contingency fund would include the Moray Firth Sea Trout Initiative, the request from ASFB for a contribution towards research into UDN head lesions on salmon and the NBFT's project for removal of non-native plant species.

Clerk

**9 Conservation Policy 2013**

**9.1** It was agreed that the Conservation Policy should remain unaltered from that in place for 2012.

Clerk

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

**10.1** It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and the next Board Meeting should take place on **Thursday, 6 June 2013**.

All

*John Miller*  
6/6/13