

Subject: Beaulieu DSFB Board meeting  
Date: 23 September 2020  
Location: Video Conference  
Present: Jock Miller (JM); George Purdie (GP); Frank Spencer-Nairn (FSN); Michael Spencer-Nairn (MSN); Neil Cameron (NC); Victoria Rotheroe (VC); Nick Jackson (NJ); Simon Lovat (SL); Ruth Watts (RW); Alastair Campbell – Clerk (AC);



## MINUTES

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ITEM	ACTION OWNER
<b>1.0 Apologies</b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from Paul Pacey.	
<b>2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</b>	
2.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 4 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.	<b>CLERK</b>
2.2 There were no matters arising.	
<b>3.0 Register of members' interests</b>	
3.1 The Clerk, JM & NJ made a declaration of their interests in the Lower River Beaulieu Syndicate (as managing agent and committee members, respectively) in relation to item 7 on the meeting agenda (relating to discussions on office accommodation).	
3.2 No other specific declarations were made by members present in respect of the agenda items.	
<b>4.0 Senior Biologist's Report</b>	
4.1 A copy of RW's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. RW ran through the detail of her work plan for the coming months.	
4.2 The Board agreed that external advice should be sought in preparation of a Health & Safety Manual.	<b>RW</b>
4.3 RW reported that 10 volunteers had been recruited to assist with the electro-fishing programme. Sites visited were those previously undertaken by NBFT in past years, the Marine Scotland Science NEPS programme not being run this year.	
4.4 Future potential research projects identified include impacts of hydro schemes on sediment management and spawning habitat, and smolt run timing and survival (building on studies to date on the Conon system): RW to develop and discuss with SSE who may be willing to contribute to project costs.	<b>RW</b>

4.5 NJ queried if further 'balloon tag' studies may be worthwhile, building on the past study by SSE. NC stated that a recent study on the Garry had suggested survival of around 80%. NJ commented that the impact on the Beaully was cumulative over two dams.

RW

4.6 RW had attended a meeting organised by FMS relating to marine renewables in the Moray Firth. There remains insufficient research or information on the impacts on wild salmon and FMS is seeking funding from developers for this to be undertaken.

## 5.0 Financial Report

5.1 AC circulated an update on year to date income and expenditure against budget. This indicated a likely additional surplus at year end against budget because of savings arising from later than anticipated staff recruitment. As a result, the Board's cash position heading into 2021 was likely to be stronger than initially anticipated, which had been an important consideration when setting the proprietor assessment.

5.2 AC emphasised that the budget as drafted did not include potential capital outlay relating to office building works, which still remained to be clarified.

## 6.0 SSE Liaison Group Report

6.1 A meeting of the Group had taken place on 17 September 2020. Draft minutes of that meeting are attached to this minute.

6.2 JM updated the Board on the problem SSE was experiencing with the Mk 12 counter software. Installation of a 'Gro-Pro' camera is being considered for 2021 to assist with count verification. *A subsequent statement and letter from SSE has been circulated amongst Board members and proprietors – Clerk.*

6.3 The Group had discussed compensation flows and in-river marker posts with SSE following concerns expressed by anglers and proprietors during the summer. Current markers exist at Cannich (adjacent the road bridge above Fasnakyle power station) and on the Misgeach on the Farrar. It was noted that the CAR licence requirement is a daily flow minimum, not a constant minimum flow rate. Calibration would also be required regularly.

6.4 The Board agreed the following: -

- Additional markers should be considered for the Farrar below Culligran and for below Aigas & Kilmorack dams. A discussion to be had with SSE on costs.
- A copy of the annual CAR report on flow rates should be requested from SEPA.

RW

## 7.0 Office Accommodation Update

7.1 NC updated the Board on current assessment of the Corff office and proposals for improvements, including installation of a second internal entrance door; installation of storage heaters; installation of thermal underlay to the floor and secondary glazing. Upgrading of the WC facilities was a priority. Reconfiguration of the store room (shared with Lower Beaully Syndicate) is also required. Vermin control needed improved.

7.2 The Board agreed that the installation of storage heaters, thermal underlay and secondary glazing could go ahead. It was noted that a lease had still to be agreed with Lower Beaully Syndicate as landlord.

NC / RW

- 7.3 The Board confirmed that appropriate building warrant / listed building consent should be sought for works to install an internal partition and door and for proposed upgrade of the WC facilities. **NC / RW**
- 8.0 Bailiff Recruitment**
- 8.1 JM updated the Board on recruitment of a fisheries officer / bailiff; a potentially suitable candidate had been identified in the first round, however had since withdrawn their interest. More recently another application had been received and was being considered. The Board agreed to re-advertise the position. **CLERK**
- 9.0 Any Other Business**
- 9.1 AC reported that, during discussions with a solicitor on employment contracts, it had been suggested the Board might consider if a subsidiary entity should be set up to employ staff and undertake works etc. The personal liability of individual Board members was not clear from the legislation, though AC confirmed that Directors and Officers insurance cover was in place. It was agreed further advice should be sought from FMS on the matter. **CLERK**
- 10.0 Date of next meeting**
- 10.1 It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be held on **8 December 2020** at 10am. Advice from FMS to be checked regarding the holding of an annual public meeting in current circumstances. **ALL / CLERK**