

Subject: Beaully DSFB Board meeting
Date: 10 June 2021
Location: Video Conference
Present: Jock Miller (JM); Frank Spencer-Nairn (FSN); Michael Spencer-Nairn (MSN); Neil Cameron (NC); Victoria Rotheroe (VR); George Purdie (GP); Tom Waring (TW); Nick Jackson (NJ); Simon Lovat (SL); Ruth Watts (RW); Jim Braithwaite (JB); Alastair Campbell – Clerk (AC)

MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION OWNER
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 There were no apologies.	
2.0 Minutes of Board Meeting 30 March 2021 & Matters Arising	
2.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 30 March 2021 were approved.	CLERK
2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two proprietor 2020 catch returns remained outstanding. The Clerk to provide the updated list to Board membersJM to check with SSE on nil catch returns for Fasnakyle	CLERK JM
2.3 In relation to 4.1.2 of the previous minutes (netting stations), NC reported that the Ness DSFB was awaiting confirmation from the netsmen if they would be fishing or not in 2021. The final Marine Scotland Science (MSS) report on the recent netting monitoring project was awaited. It was expected to confirm that the fish were from mixed stock origin. It was agreed this matter should be picked up with Ness DSFB / MSS and Scottish Government once the report was signed and publicly available.	JM
3.0 Register of Interest – Agenda Items	
3.1 No specific declarations were made by those present in respect of the agenda items.	
4.0 Senior Biologist's Report	
4.1 <u>Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)</u> . RW reported that drafting of an updated Plan for consultation was now planned for the coming winter.	RW
4.2 <u>Smolt Monitoring Project</u> . An initial summary report had been circulated prior to the meeting	
4.2.1 RW commented on the lower smolt numbers recorded than anticipated from the Abhainn Deabhag. Assessment of trap efficiency is required in future years.	

- 4.2.2 The project had provided very useful information on smolt run-timing to help ensure maximum passage through the dams. This needed cross-referenced with information from SSE on any smolts caught in the gate slots and confirmation of water flows through the dams. **RW**
- 4.2.3 The intention remains to place a trap on the Farrar in 2022.
- 4.3 Possible student placement. RW confirmed that Karla Ilic would be assisting with electro-fishing for 2 or 3 days a week from 12 July until 1 October. An expenses contribution of ****redacted**** had been offered.
- 4.4 RW confirmed that the NEPS project was going ahead. As a new contributor, RW is required to provide 15 three run surveys to quantify fishing efficiency as well as 15 x 1 run surveys and this would lead to additional time commitment. Potential additional assistance from a contractor (Lynn McKelvey) would be required. This would be paid for through the contract funding received for NEPS.
- 4.5 The surveys this year should include some river Glass main stem sites.
- 4.6 RW was also hopeful that Lynn McKelvie could assist with initial stages of a tree planting plan for the catchment, something she has past experience with.
- 5.0 Fisheries Officer / Bailiff Report (Confidential)**
- 5.1 A written report had been included in the draft Annual Report circulated prior to the meeting. A couple more incidents had been reported in the last week.
- 5.2 The Board noted that the level of reported poaching incidents was of significant concern, but the efforts of the bailiff team to tackle this were greatly appreciated.
- 5.3 RW confirmed that two cameras had been purchased for monitoring site activity and more were likely to be acquired.
- 5.4 It was agreed that regular reporting from the bailiff team would be helpful and that a Whatsapp group or similar could be set up. **CLERK / AS**
- 5.5 ****Redacted**** **JM / AS**
- 6.0 Office Accommodation**
- 6.1 NC reported that the Board's architect had struggled to get contractor tenders back, with one verbal quote of £54,000 which was not in line with budget.
- 6.2 It was agreed that the scope of works should be kept to the minimum necessary. TW offered to put NC & RW in touch with contractors he has personally used. This was agreed. **TW / NC / RW**
- 6.3 JB asked what arrangements were in place for a chemical store. RW confirmed there was one inside the building and that a full health and safety audit would be carried out once the team was working in the office. JB commented that any flammables should be kept outside and offered to discuss this further with RW. **JB / RW**
- 7.0 Farrar Genetics Project**

7.1 FSN gave an outline of the project he was part-funding with Rivers & Lochs Institute (RLI), looking at DNA profiling of salmon fry across 16 sample points on the Farrar from the Junction at Struy to the head waters. The project will start in 2021. It is anticipated the study will provide a genetic profile of the Farrar fish and any variations therein and will also give an indication of the health of breeding numbers within the population.

7.2 FSN confirmed that any reports and updates would be shared with the Board.

7.3 RW confirmed that genetic modelling had moved on some way since the earlier FASMoP project on the Beaully system and that the RLI project could provide very useful information on springer spawning areas, helping identify the spread of fish above and below Beannachran dam. FSN commented that distribution patterns above and below Culligran and Deanie power stations might also be identified.

8.0 Any other Business

8.1 TW proposed that the Board should consider putting in place an educational project, working with local schools to promote interest in salmon and the river system. He knew of one particular member of the Beaully Fishing Syndicate who had indicated a willingness to contribute to the costs of such a project.

8.2 RW agreed this would be an important area for the Board in future and that inviting school groups to an e-fishing or angling demonstration day would be well worth doing. FSN suggested starting with Teanassie Primary. TW agreed to introduce RW to the Syndicate member referred to.

TW / RW

8.3 FSN asked if SSE could be chased to provide updated dam count data.

RW

8.4 NJ requested that a question be raised with SSE about the smolt screens on Beannachran dam, to ensure these were working effectively.

RW / JM

8.5 It was suggested that a request be made to SSE for a further tour of their catchment system for new Board members

RW / JM

9.0 Date of next meeting

9.1 The dates of forthcoming meetings were confirmed as: - **23rd September; 8th December; 30th March 2022 and 9th June 2022**. It was proposed that an Annual Public Meeting be held on 8th December, probably in the evening.

**ALL /
CLERK**