

Subject: Beaulieu DSFB Board meeting
Date: 23 September 2021
Location: Video Conference
Present: Jock Miller (JM); Frank Spencer-Nairn (FSN); Michael Spencer-Nairn (MSN); Neil Cameron (NC); Victoria Rotheroe (VR); Nick Jackson (NJ); Ruth Watts (RW); Alastair Skinner (AS); Jim Braithwaite (JB); Tom Waring (TW); George Purdie (GP); Alastair Campbell – Clerk (AC); Claire Mackay (CM)

MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION OWNER
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 There were no apologies.	
2.0 Minutes of Board Meeting 10 June 2021 & Matters Arising	
2.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 10 June 2021 were approved.	CLERK
2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In relation to previous minutes 2.3 (Netting stations) – Netsmen, Inner Moray firth – there was no netting undertaken in 2021. Priority action – work with Ness BSFB and speak to C Conroy before his departure.	JM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(previous minutes 4.2.2) Smolt monitoring Project - smolt data cross-referencing with SSE generation. No generation data was received from SSE, SEPA data used in initial analysis. Chase SSE.	RW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(previous minutes 6.3) Chemical store. JB to liaise with RW / AS. Dependent on office accommodation outcome.	JB/RW/AS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(previous minutes 8.2) Schools liaison on hold due to time constraints / Covid. Potential to work with Beaulieu Angling Club on youth activities.	RW/JB
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(previous minutes 7.0) Farrar genetics sampling completed by R&LI for this year.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(previous minutes 8.4) Smolt screens, Beanachran dam. The dam is to be visited and checked once SSE confirms visits permitted.	RW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(previous minutes 8.5) SSE tour of catchment, new committee members. To be visited and checked once SSE confirms visits permitted.	
3.0 Senior Biologist's Report	
3.1 'Why NEPS' paper was circulated to the Board by RW prior to meeting.	
3.2 NEPS 2021 final contract income should be c£14k.	RW/AC/CM

- 3.3 NEPS sites were selected by MSS to inform conservation limit calculations and can vary year on year, although some sites are annual repeats. Year on year site comparison is up to Board. RW managed to incorporate 18 historic sampling sites and will continue to do so in future. 'Shiney app' developed by MSS can be used to assist.
- 3.4 NEPS contract payment was based on the number of sites, 2022 likely income to be confirmed, but may not know until spring.
- 3.5 If Board didn't do NEPS in hand, MSS would employ external contractors and knowledge and income would be lost to the Board.
- 3.6 2021 NEPS surveys took longer (5/6 days) as RW a new surveyor on the system and additional timed runs were required to validate results. Should be quicker in the future.
- 3.7 Himalayan Balsam clearance was very successful thanks to volunteers.
- 3.8 Adult scale sampling. Ultimately, there were only c15 samples collected (MSS request at short notice, too rushed?). MSS desire to anaesthetise at least 10% remains a cause of some concern for LBFS. RW to forward MSS document to Board. **RW**
- 4.0 Fisheries Officer / Bailiff Report (Confidential)**
- 4.1 ****redacted****
- 4.2 FO written report not to be circulated beyond Board, though a verbal summary can be given to proprietors/Angling Club. **ALL**
- 4.3 AS noted there have been several incidents recorded in Beaully Firth over the season. There is a possibility that Marine Scotland may be able to assist with boat patrols next year. **AS**
- 4.4 AS aims to arrange more joint patrols with Ness/Cromarty DSFB next year. **AS**
- 4.5 Discussion was had about permitting and how better enforcement could be achieved if AS was aware of which anglers were expected on the river. Bailiffing review to be done at the end of the season with recommendations to be made to the board. **AS/RW**
- 4.6 The Board noted considerable progress had been made in improving enforcement and thanked AS for all his efforts.
- 5.0 Priorities Action Plan 2022**
- 5.1 A draft action plan was circulated by RW/JM prior to the meeting.
- 5.2 The following comments were made by Board on priorities for 2022: -
- Finalise updated Fisheries Management Plan
 - Write up e-fishing report for 2021
 - Confirmation required from SSE/SEPA that smolt protection protocol is being followed. Ultimately should aim to have CAR licence varied to incorporate measures in protocol.

- Investigate Beanachran dam smolt passage. 2022 aim to trap above and below. Further ahead, implement acoustic tagging project to assess smolt movement through dam and beyond.
- Work with other Board/FMS on improving information on seal predation. Board noted no license issued by Scottish Government for current year due to 'lack of evidence'
- Pressure required on SSE to provide regular up to date dam count data (or access thereto)
- Addressing Inner Moray Firth netting station anomaly a priority.

5.3 Subject to above, the action plan was approved by the Board.

RW

6.0 SSE Liaison Report

6.1 Minutes of meeting 12 July 2021 were taken as read.

6.2 FSN queried if recent outage at Culligran power station had occurred. This had not been reported by SSE.

7.0 Office Accommodation

7.1 AC to contact Lovat Estate and local surveyors to enquire of any availability. Requirement for office: - space for 3 desks, meeting table plus access to kitchen/WC. Between 500 & 1,000 sq. ft.

AC

7.2 Corff storage may still be required? However, there is a lot of NBFT kit still there, which needs sorted / cleared.

RW / JM

8.0 AOB

8.1 AC to circulate updated financial report to Board.

AC

8.2 Monthly operational staff meetings. Board members welcome to attend. Let JM know.

8.3 SSE funding for 2022? Still no formal contract proposed by SSE, but all indications are funding to continue.

9.0 Date of next meeting

9.1 8th December 10.00am. Venue and format tbc, possibly hybrid in person / remote meeting, hosted by Bidwells.

ALL