

Subject: Beauly DSFB Board meeting
 Date: 9 June 2022
 Location: Video Conference
 Present: J Miller (JM); M Spencer-Nairn (MSN); V Rotheroe (VR); F Spencer-Nairn (FSN); G Purdie (GP); J Braithwaite (JB); N Cameron (NC); T Waring (TW); Neil Cameron (NC); Victoria Rotheroe (VR); Nick Jackson (NJ); Ruth Watts (RW); Alastair Skinner (AS); Jim Braithwaite (JB); Tom Waring (TW)
 In attendance: R Watts – Senior Biologist (RW); A Campbell – Clerk (AC); T Chetwynd (TC)
 Apologies: N Jackson

MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION OWNER
1.0 Minutes from previous meeting of 30 March 2022	
1.1 Paragraph 6.1 to refer to Trainee Fisheries Officer.	CLERK
1.2 The minutes of the previous meeting were otherwise approved.	CLERK
2.0 Matters arising	
2.1 Minutes of 8 December 2021: -	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 2.2 - netting stations Inner Moray Firth. FMS currently in discussions with Scottish Government. Netsmen have indicated they may fish for four weeks in 2022 but ultimately might sell. RW to continue liaising with Ness DSFB and chase FMS. 	RW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 7.2 - angling permits. TW confirmed this had been discussed within Beauly Fishing Syndicate. Written permits were not thought to be practical or desirable on Syndicate water. It was agreed the matter should be discussed outside the meeting. 	
<i>Post meeting note:- Agreed that AS should be given a list of principal timeshare owner names for each week, enabling him to confirm which party anglers belong to.</i>	TW
2.2 Minutes of 30 March 2022: -	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 6.7. RW to establish capacity amongst local proprietors to provide assistance with burn clearance. Remains outstanding. 	RW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 7.3 RW to discuss with AS and neighbouring fishery boards potential bailiff equipment requirements. Remains outstanding. 	RW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 9.2. Bidwells to prepare a licence to occupy for Board's occupation of Corff Building. Remains outstanding. 	AC
3.0 Register of interest	
3.1 There were no declarations made by Board members in respect of the items on the meeting agenda.	

4.0 Financial report year to date

4.1 The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Board's management account as at 30 April 2022. It was noted that the Board's cash reserves as at 30 April 2022 stood at £58,459. Income was slightly below budget with an initial grant payment for a trainee fisheries officer still to be received from NatureScot. Expenditure was around £5,000 below budget for the year to date.

5.0 Senior Biologist's report

5.1 A written report had been circulated by RW prior to the meeting. This was taken as read. RW highlighted the following points.

5.2 Following the damage to the rotary smolt trap at Fasnakyle, a third box trap had been put in place on the River Farrar resulting in one box trap below and two above Beannachran dam. Indications from the box traps were of smolts running from 5 April to 6 May, however SSE did not commence phase 2 operations under the smolt protocol agreement until 25 April, later than anticipated. A full report on this year's smolt monitoring to follow.

5.3 No feedback had been received from SSE in respect of the damaged trap.

5.4 TW queried if SSE had been generating at night as per the smolt protocol. RW confirmed they had, but that there had also been generation during the day this year, hence there had not been the same peaks and troughs seen in flows last year.

5.5 RW confirmed that she had met with SSE in late May and reviewed their analysis of smolt numbers in the dam gate slots and was satisfied at the methodology being used. RW to request enhanced access to check the gate slots in future years once all covid restrictions ended.

RW

5.6 A draft copy of the Fisheries Management Plan had been sent to all proprietors and some useful feedback had already been received.

5.7 The oral estuary project was progressing well but two or three more interviews were required. TW proposed some names and to liaise with RW.

TW/RW

5.8 A report on the hydromorphology substrate surveys was currently being written and would be available shortly.

5.9 RW referred to the proposal to translocate beaver from the Tay catchment. It was agreed that baseline habitat data would be important should this proposal proceed. In particular electrofishing data would be important to confirm any future impacts on juvenile fish that might be caused by beaver activity.

5.10 RW to prepare a riparian tree proposal map for Glen Strathfarrar, which will then be passed to Trees for Life to discuss with the relevant landowners.

RW

5.11 It was confirmed that a seal control licence had not been applied for this year due to a lack of nominated marksmen. However no fishery board in Scotland had been issued with a licence as NatureScot had stated that insufficient evidence was being provided to confirm all non-lethal control methods had been attempted. RW confirmed that it was her aim to gather better evidence during the current fishing season of any potential seal impacts on fish.

RW

- 5.12 RW confirmed that responsibility for checking for kelts had primarily rested with SSE this year, though the bailiffs had undertaken some checks where possible. It was agreed that future responsibility should be reviewed prior to 2023. **RW**
- 5.13 RW confirmed that one sawbill bird count had been undertaken in addition to ongoing collection of sighting records from Lower Beaulieu ghillies.
- 6.0 National Adult Sampling Project**
- 6.1 Scottish Government has allocated of £300,000 towards the National Adult Fish Scale Sampling Project, to be distributed amongst fishery boards. RW had discussed this with the Lower Beaulieu ghillies who were willing to assist. Funding of between £8,000 and £10,000 was expected for the Beaulieu area. RW awaiting delivery of appropriate kit and will then roll the project out with the ghillies in the next two weeks. **RW**
- 6.2 RW to review the extent of work required by Board staff and Lower Beaulieu Syndicate staff and propose a fair split of the project income. **RW**
- 6.3 A further £200,000 had been announced by Scottish Government towards the development of fishery management plans by district fishery boards. It was not clear how this might be distributed, but RW was monitoring with a view to making a claim in respect of the revised Fishery Management Plan for Beaulieu DSFB.
- 7.0 Bailiff report**
- 7.1 An updated report from AS was available in the draft annual report and also further notes in the recent operational minute circulated prior to the meeting.
- 7.2 AS to confirm with FSN the background to the three call outs on the River Farrar noted in the annual report. **AS**
- 7.3 It was noted that May had been a very busy month and in particular concern was expressed about the number of RIBs that had been seen in the Inner Firth. AS chasing Marine Scotland Compliance for assistance in monitoring this activity.
- 8.0 Proposed revaluation 2023**
- 8.1 The Board agreed that the Assessor's office should be asked to undertake a revaluation of the valuation roll entries in 2023. **CLERK**
- 9.0 Office accommodation update**
- 9.1 The electrician has completed most works and the plumber is currently working at Corff. Final wiring of the water heater, together with floor coverings and repainting to follow. It was estimated works should be completed in a month.
- 10.0 Any other business**
- 10.1 RW to chase SSE for current fish pass data, which has not been received to date. **RW**

10.2 In response to a request on behalf of the Beaulieu Fishing Syndicate, it was agreed that G Haywood be invited to attend Board meetings until the next triennial elections, at which it was proposed he would be nominated for election by Beaulieu Fishing Syndicate.

CLERK

11.0 Date of next meeting

11.1 It was agreed the next Board meeting would be held on 22 September 2022.