

Subject: Beauly DSFB Board meeting  
 Date: 22 September 2022  
 Location: An Lochran UHI & Video Conference  
 Present: M Spencer-Nairn (MSN); V Rotheroe (VR); F Spencer-Nairn (FSN); G Purdie (GP); N Cameron (NC); T Waring (TW); G Haywood (GH)  
 In attendance: R Watts – Senior Biologist (RW); A Campbell – Clerk (AC); Alastair Skinner (AS); C Mackay (Bidwells)  
 Apologies:

## MINUTES

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ITEM	ACTION OWNER
<b>1.0 Apologies</b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from Jim Braithwaite.	
<b>2.0 Minutes from previous meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>	
2.1 Minutes of 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2022: - Paragraph 5.7 to refer to oral history.	<b>CLERK</b>
2.2 The minutes of the previous meetings were otherwise approved.	<b>CLERK</b>
<b>3.0 Matters arising</b>	
3.1 There were no matters arising.	
<b>4.0 Register of interest</b>	
4.1 There were no declarations made by Board members in respect of the items on the meeting agenda.	
4.2 The Clerk to forward a standard declaration form to GH for completion.	<b>CLERK / GH</b>
<b>5.0 Board Structure</b>	
5.1 Board Management	
5.1.1 The Board discussed the current arrangements of monthly operational meetings between FSN; MSN & RW; AS. TW confirmed he intended to attend these meetings. Formation of or altering the scope of the operational meeting to form a management committee was discussed. No agreement was reached.	
5.1.2 FSN proposed deferring further discussion until the Board meeting in December. TW & GH noted their disagreement to deferring a decision.	
5.1.3 It was noted that staff appraisals were overdue. It was agreed these should be progressed.	<b>FSN</b>

## 5.2 SSE Liaison Committee

- 5.2.1 It was agreed that TW should replace Jock Miller on the liaison committee, alongside FSN & MSN; RW & AC.
- 5.2.2 NC reported that SSE had indicated to Ness DSFB that they only wished to meet the Board Chair and Director.
- 5.2.3 NC confirmed that Ness DSFB had seen and commented on a draft funding agreement with SSE, but no revised version had been received or signed. The Clerk confirmed no draft agreement had been received by Beaully DSFB.
- 5.2.4 FSN to contact SSE (Andy Jacobs) ahead of the scheduled liaison committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November to confirm attendance and to enquire as to progress with a funding Agreement.

**FSN**

## 6.0 Financial report year to date

- 6.1 The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Board's management account as at 31 August 2022.
- 6.2 It was noted that contract income was under budget. This was offset by savings in contract labour (project expenses).
- 6.3 RW confirmed there had been no further contact from SSE in relation to the damaged smolt trap.
- 6.4 It was confirmed the next levy assessment invoices would be sent to proprietors at the end of the month.

**CLERK**

## 7.0 Senior Biologist's report

- 7.1 A written report had been circulated by RW prior to the meeting. This was taken as read. RW highlighted the following ongoing work.
- Electro-fishing surveys; currently being completed for this season
  - Invertebrate sampling and collection ongoing – coastal burns
  - Beaver habitat baseline surveys had been undertaken along with the Beaver Trust & UHI
  - Fisheries Management Plan. Following proprietor consultation, the next stage is to post the draft Plan on the Board's website. A presentation to be made at the Annual Public Meeting in December
- 7.2 VR reported that proprietors on the River Glass were opposed to introduction, with concerns over potential bank erosion.
- 7.3 Beaver Introduction. It was agreed the Board should respond to the Trees for Life consultation to state that although broadly supportive in principle, the Board could not support introduction at present until further information on base-line habitat data and potential impacts was available.
- 7.4 RW to draft a consultation response for FSN / MSN to review and sign-off. A copy to be circulated to the Board.
- 7.5 Dam fish pass counts. RW referred to the comments in her report. AI counters to be rolled out by SSE. No updated counts had been received from SSE since June 2022.

**RW**

**RW/FSN/MSN**

- 7.6 The coastal netting station at Longman was reported to have caught 57 salmon this summer. Ness DSFB is in discussions concerning potential for a buy-out. FSN suggested that N&BFT be used as a charitable vehicle for any buy-out. FSN to discuss with NC and Ness Board. **FSN**
- 7.7 61 scale samples had been collected by Lower Beaully ghillies for the Adult Sampling project. Further autumn sampling was to be done. Division of FMS income between the Board and LB Syndicate was queried. No agreement was reached on amending previous agreed arrangement (70%/30% LBFS/BDFB). Suggested this be reviewed in future years.
- 8.0 Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust**
- 8.1 Although currently inactive, the Trust still exists. Trustees due to meet soon and appoint a new Chair. A Board representative from Beaully DSFB is required to replace J Miller. Current Trustees FSN; JB; NC; Murray Stark of UHI. TW indicated willingness to join Trust as BDSFB representative. This was approved.
- 9.0 Bailiff report**
- 9.1 An updated report from AS and also further notes in the recent operational minute circulated prior to the meeting.
- 9.2 AS has recently undertaken a joint patrol in the firth with Marine Scotland, in their off-shore RIB. Nothing had been found, but concerns remain about activity in the firth. Active boats had been checked, but no salmon catch found. MS happy to help in future. **AS**
- 9.3 One incident had been submitted to the police, who determined no further action could be taken.
- 9.4 Most activity had been related to tourists without permits. AS had been advised of four local individuals active, but was warned not to approach them. AS to advise river ghillies. **AS**
- 9.5 Also issues with under-age youths on BAC water. Needs careful handling due to age.
- 9.6 Pike anglers has been noted on the River Glass and occasionally Lower Beaully. Noted that fishing for pike without a permit is a civil, not criminal offence and only the riparian owner can take action to prevent. Fishery Board has no statutory remit.
- 10.0 Office accommodation update**
- 10.1 TW reported that tiling was near completion, the vinyl flooring was down. Secondary glazing still to be fitted (perspex), along with threshold bar and brush strip. An electricity socket had been installed in the store room for Board freezer units etc.
- 10.2 Secondary electricity meter to be read (RW). AC to confirm last EICR checks. **RW/AC**
- 11.0 Any other business**
- 11.1 A response had been submitted on behalf of the Board to the SG conservation grading consultation, including the consultation on suggested nation-wide mandatory C&R.
- 11.2 TW asked when recruitment of a seasonal bailiff would begin to ensure the best potential list of candidates was available. It was agreed this should commence before end 2022.

## **12.0 Date of next meeting**

- 12.1 The next Board meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Annual Public Meeting will be in the evening of the same day.