

Subject: Beauly DFB – Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors
 Date: 8 June 2023
 Location: Laxford House, Inverness and by video conference
 Present: Frank Spencer-Nairn (FSN); Victoria Rotheroe (VR); Mike Spencer-Nairn (MSN); Tom Waring (TW); Gavin Haywood (GH); Rob Whitson (RWh)
 In attendance: Neil Cameron (NC); Ruth Watts – Senior Biologist (RW); Ali Skinner (AS); Jim Braithwaite (JB); Alastair Campbell – Clerk (AC); Sarah Farquhar (SF)

MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION OWNER
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 Apologies were received from Tom Chetwynd and Nick Jackson.	
2.0 Matters arising	
2.1 The meeting noted with regret and sadness the recent death of former Board Chair Nick McAndrew and expressed condolences to his family.	
2.2 FSN noted that a casual vacancy had arisen on the District Fishery Board following George Purdie’s resignation on sale of his fishing interests. It was confirmed that any nominations to fill this vacancy should be submitted to the Clerk by 1 August. The term of office for any appointed person will be until the next triennial election due in June 2024.	
2.3 FSN noted that Trees for Life had published a report on their consultation on the reintroduction of beaver to the Beauly catchment, the full application has not been submitted to NatureScot. The requirement for this was questioned as it was noted that there is already a resident beaver population in Strathglass.	
3.0 Annual Report	
3.1 A draft copy of the Annual Report had been circulated to proprietors prior to the meeting. The Clerk thanked RW and AS for their contribution to this.	
3.2 FSN noted the increasing roles and responsibilities of District Fishery Boards in general and the increased time requirement for office bearers and Board members arising from this.	
3.3 The Annual Report was proposed by TW, seconded by VR and approved for distribution and publication on the Board’s website.	CLERK
4.0 Annual Accounts to 31 December 2022	
4.1 A draft set of accounts had been circulated to proprietors prior to the meeting.	
4.2 In response to a question from RWh, it was noted that the Board’s cash reserves remained at a healthy level. This had been discussed previously by the Board and whilst it was acknowledged that the Board should not carry an unnecessary high level of reserves, it was felt the current level was appropriate, given the Board’s potential liabilities.	

4.3 The Annual Accounts were proposed by TW, seconded by VR and approved by those present. The Clerk to arrange a final copy of the accounts for signing and publication.

CLERK

5.0 Any other business

5.1 In response to a comment from GH on the recent alert issued by SEPA on water scarcity, a discussion followed regarding the level of compensation flow in the river and the difficulty of ascertaining what this level might look like at any point in the river due to changes in river morphology. It was noted that SSE has a legal obligation under its CAR licence to maintain at least compensation flow and must report any potential breaches to SEPA, but that there is no independent way to verify this, with SSE effectively being self-policing.

5.2 It was proposed that the next Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors, together with the triennial election of the Board should take place on **6 June 2024**.