

MINUTES of the MEETING of the

**NORTH AND WEST DISTRICT
SALMON FISHERY BOARD held on
THURSDAY 16th May 2019 at 2.10pm at
the MACPHAIL CENTRE, ULLAPOOL**

Present: Mr R Vestey (Convener)
Mr D Davies (Vice Convener)
Mr C Macleod
Mr A Balfour
Mr D Lindsay
Mr G Osborne

In attendance: Mr R Whitson (Clerk, Bell Ingram)
Dr S Marshall (WSFT)
Mr K Dunbar

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr A Adamson, Mr R Bradford, Mr C Marsham.

The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting and all those present wished to record their sincere condolences for Mr Anders Holch Povlsen and his family, following on from the tragic loss of their children in the Sri Lanka bombing.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No adjustments were required to existing Members declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th OCTOBER 2018

The Convener took those present through the meeting held on 10th October 2018 which were approved by the Board and signed by the Convener who chaired the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

All actions had been undertaken.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk took those present through the Financial Report.

All assessments had been paid, however, due to the timing of payments to WSFT and others, the surplus is greater than we would expect at this time of year. Once all payments have been made, the anticipated surplus at year end was estimated to be in the region of £15,000, which ties in with the Board policy regarding retained funds.

The subject of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) came up during the financial section.

Shona Marshall explained that whilst the Trust area has a FMP that all proprietors had agreed to, it is not in the format that the Scottish Government will be looking for going forward. That said, we are still awaiting clarification regarding the requirement to have a FMP in the government approved format, therefore no allowance has been made in terms of the upcoming financial year.

6. BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT – YEAR TO 28th MAY 2020

Having concluded all the appeals following on from the last revaluation, the revised rateable value of the Board area is settled at £86,000. The provisional budget that accompanied the meeting papers had been prepared on the basis of 45p/£, which would have resulted in a larger than necessary surplus. Having looked at the planned surplus for this year and the likely outgoings next year it was reviewed down to 42p/£, giving a total income of £36,120.

Small increments were agreed to the management of the Board and also to the West Sutherland Fisheries Trust grant, which will be increased to £15,000 per annum for the next financial year, resulting in a budgeted surplus of circa £2,000. The Clerk was instructed to reissue an amended budget with the Minutes which can be found appended to this document.

There was a slight deviation from the agenda at this point and the organisation known Sea Change was discussed and the work that they undertake in support of the wild fish sector. The Board was asked if it would consider making a contribution to their work. It was decided that they should be invited to attend the November meeting, and to make a presentation to the Board and Proprietors prior to any support being agreed.

7. WEST SUTHERLAND FISHERIES TRUST - REPORT

Shona Marshall took those present through her report both of work undertaken to date and proposed work planned for the coming year.

A question was asked as to whether juvenile surveys were being undertaken in the coming year, and Shona explained that the NEP programme was continuing to be followed, so 30 priority sites would be electro fished to help determine the conservation status of the rivers inside the Board area. Other electro fishing sites would be attended to thereafter.

8. BIO SECURITY

Shona Marshall emphasised the need to give increased priority to biosecurity, particularly with regard to non-native and other invasive plant species, such as Japanese Knotweed, Gunnera, and Monkey Flower. Much of the threat to the river and to its infrastructure is now coming from plant species not parasites; albeit Signal Crayfish and Killer Shrimps are still on the list of unwelcome species and we collectively have a responsibility to maintain our own biosecurity.

The Mink threat is not deemed to be serious at the moment, with one carcass seen recently, the first for some time. All are reminded to be vigilant as regards mink and to take the appropriate action in the event that their presence is discovered.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a request that Minutes be published on the website sooner after meetings, which the Clerk agreed to undertake.

The proposals from Loch Duart Ltd for a new salmon farm in Enard Bay project was discussed further by the Board and it was determined that no real judgment can be made until we have more information on the project and can assess any implications or risks in a more informed manner.

10. DATE OF AGM AND NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Board Meeting will be held at 17 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness on Wednesday the 6th November 2019. The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors will start at 12pm and be followed by the Board at about 12:30pm.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm.

ACTION PLAN

Adjust and re-issue budget	RSMW
Organise November Meetings	RSMW