

**MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING of the  
NORTH AND WEST DISTRICT  
SALMON FISHERY BOARD held on  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
At 2:30pm At The Macphail Centre,  
Ullapool**

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

In Attendance: Mr R Whitson (Clerk, Bell Ingram)  
Ms A Young (Bell Ingram)  
Dr S Marshall (WSFT)  
Ms L Richardson

The Convenor welcomed everyone to the 2023 Board Meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr T Kirkwood, Ms S Harkins and Mr C Macleod.

**2. TRIENNIAL ELECTION INCLUDING ELECTION OF CONVENOR**

As previously intimated, the statutory period of three years had elapsed since the last Board election which took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

Prior to undertaking any further business, it was necessary to elect a new Board. The meeting was therefore handed over to the Clerk to oversee the election in line with the 2003 Act.

The Board was dissolved, and The Triennial Election then took place. The following Members were elected:

Upper Proprietors.

Mr R Vestey (Mandatory for the EH Vestey Marriage Settlement Trust)  
Mr D Davies (Mandatory for Polly Estates)  
Ms S Harkins (Mandatory for Sarah N Barr Trustees)  
Mr T Kirkwood (Mandatory for Braesgill Ltd)  
Mr R Bradford  
Mr G Osborne (Mandatory for G&R Osborne)

Lower Proprietors

Mr D Lindsay (Mandatory for Fourth Duke of Westminster's 1964 Settlement Trust)  
Mr A Balfour (Mandatory for Scourie Estate)

Co-opted Members

Mr C Macleod  
Mr K Dunbar

Convener and Vice Convener

Mr R Vestey was elected as Convener  
Mr D Davies was elected as Vice Convener

**3. LOCH DUART LTD – SEA LICE CONTROL UPDATE / FUTURE PLANS**

A presentation was given by Mark Warrington and his staff from Loch Duart Ltd, regarding production, present challenges and sea lice control measures.

It was made very clear that there are a number of significant challenges associated with salmon production and openness, transparency and trust are key to all parties having a workable relationship.

In response to question from DD, the MD of LDL stated that he felt the future of Salmon farming lays in closed containment, but the technology is not yet reliable.

Mr R Vestey confirmed Mark's attendance was in response to the Laxford letter

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. COMPLAINTS**

KD reported that a complaint from the former Scottish Director of Wildfish (formerly Salmon and Trout Association) had been made over delays in publishing the meeting minutes on the website.

**6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

All matters arising had all been dealt with in the intervening period since the last meeting.

**8. FINANCIAL REPORT – BUDGET/ACTUALS**

The Clerk gave the meeting an overview of the present financial position.

The cash position at the date of the meeting was £7,170.57. The budgeted expenditure to the date of the meeting was £30,750, the actual expenditure was £31,909, giving an overspend of £707.92 at that date.

A total of £14,281 is still outstanding from unpaid assessments.

**9. REVALUATION, BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT – YEAR TO 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

The budget was reviewed and agreed with the assessment set at 38p/£ for the coming year. This would result in a small planned deficit, which would reduce the amount of surplus cash in the account.

**10. WEST SUTHERLAND FISHERIES TRUST REPORT**

Ms S Marshall's report had been circulated with the meeting papers.

Ms S Marshall confirmed the Fisheries management plan is completed. Phase one has been submitted and phase two is still outstanding. It was agreed that a further £1000 was to be allocated towards this project from the Board account.

**11. LAXFORD PROJECT UPDATE – CHRIS CONROY**

A very interesting presentation followed by Chris Conroy, from the Laxford Project regarding the progress with the restoration on the Laxford to date.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that more work is required on biosecurity, particularly regarding Marine Harvest at Ardbay.

Ms A Young was introduced as the future new Clerk. She will shadow the next few meetings in order to learn more about the workings of the Board before taking over.

Ms L Richardson mentioned potential for a landscape scale restoration project at Wildlands.

### **13. DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was provisionally set for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm on Teams.

Bell Ingram  
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RSMW/NW/1  
May 2023