

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board meeting held at Cromwell park, Almondbank, on Tuesday, 11th February 2020.

Present: David Brown (Co-optee)
Simon Furniss (Upper Proprietor – Mandate for Burnbane)
David Godfrey (Lower Proprietor – Mandate for Tay Salmon Fisheries Company)
Steve Mannion (Co-optee)
Iain McLaren (Convener and Upper Proprietor Mandate for Kinnaird Beat)
Claire Mercer Nairne (Upper Proprietor)
Tom Monaghan (Co-optee)
Cohn O’Dea (TGA rep)
Jim Perrett (Vice Convener and Upper Proprietor Mandate for River Earn Improvement Association)
Alastair Riddell (Upper Proprietor)
Alec Stewart (Co-optee)
Allister Wallace (Co-optee)

In Attendance: Inga MacGillivray – Clerk to the Board
Dr. David Summers - Fisheries Director
Nicki MacIntyre (SNH Representative)
1 member of the public

Apologies: Callum McGregor (SEPA Representative)
Councillor Andrew Parrott (Lower Proprietor Mandate for Perth & Kinross Council)

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest

3. Minutes from Meeting held 9th January 2020

The Minutes were then taken as being read, agreed unanimously and signed by the Convener.

4. Matters Arising

Stuart Middlemass Presentation

The Convener stated that Stuart Middlemass would be in attendance at the April Board meeting

TDSFB Email Addresses

ACTION: DS to update staff email addresses ASAP

Luncarty Weir

DS stated he would be meeting the landowner the following week to progress.

Water Abstraction – Ericht Fish Farm Intake Footage

ACTION: DS to continue to monitor the Ericht Fish Farm situation and report to Board.

Water Abstraction – Lochay

AS explained he had attended a meeting with SSE who were to monitor the situation and report to SEPA but that this would be a longer process than originally anticipated.

DS stated that SEPA had had the Lochay on their radar but due to higher abstraction priorities and other commitments the Lochay did not appear to be an immediate priority in terms of a standard abstraction licence review. He had been

informed there was to be a consultation on curbing abstraction during drought conditions which had been expected for nearly a year but was expected soon. It had been suggested this might be a better vehicle for reducing abstraction in dry weather, therefore the consultation process would be a prime opportunity to highlight this issue. He added that data from the 2018 drought should be used to press this issue and could be more widely publicised when the opportunity arose.

2020 Projects

IMacG stated that most Board members had expressed their views regarding projects for the coming year. ALL agreed the next step should be for the projects to be tabulated and for the Board members to take a vote.

ACTION: IMacG to tabulate 2020 projects and circulate for Board members to vote on.

Smolt Tags

DS stated that he had asked John Armstrong of MSS whether they would pay for part/whole of tag costs, to which JA had replied that MSS were not in a position to help at present. IMacG added that she had secured £2,500 from the TRT. DS explained that he thought a fundraising effort at the Pitlochry Dam might be a good idea, if SSE agreed, and could be done through the TRT.

C'OD added that the TGA may be able to help and they would invite DS to their next meeting.

MSS Stocking Policy

DS explained he had lodged an appeal regarding the Lochay but this had been denied. SM stated he had been in touch with MSPs on this issue and had been asked to give further information. He was currently collating a summary of the situation and would circulate round MSPs under his own name and not on behalf of the Board.

The Convener asked what the Board's intentions were for the new tanks and ALL agreed to plumb them in.

ACTION: DS/IMacG to arrange for tanks to be plumbed in and perhaps approach JA for funding.

C'OD asked if the Board would consider stocking smolts in the Braan to which DS replied this was unlikely to happen under current policy. DS explained that MSS were concerned about genetic problems which could occur with enhancement stocking and were clear that where natural spawning occurred, these places should have minimal intervention.

The Convener stated the hatchery required to be run well and stocking policy be able to withstand scrutiny, which he believed happened presently.

C'OD asked if the Board could set up a gene bank to which the convener replied the hatchery was our gene bank. DS was to send J Lapsley a copy of the Braan stocking paper

ACTION: SF to give DS J Lapsley's email address and DS to send J Lapsley a copy of Braan stocking paper.

6.TDSFB/TRT future relationship

Due to the member of the public being interested in this area of the agenda, the Convener agreed to discuss item 6 and revert to item 5 on agenda later in meeting.

DS explained that the TRT were keen to sort out their future relationship with the board and indeed this would be in the best interests of both parties. He stated that the TRT were keen to formulate a model and present to the Board at their April meeting. He explained that he understood that some Board members were concerned with TRT priorities and projects not being salmon-centric but stressed that this was exactly why the two groups needed to discuss and agree a way forward.

The Convener stressed that he and AW were trustees on the TRT and would ensure the Board's interests were served well. AS mentioned that Peter Greig, a trustee on TRT and also involved with TLC wanted to move projects forward, in particular water quality and invertebrate study projects.

SF asked how trustees were appointed or terminated by TRT to which DS replied TRT had in its constitution a variety of organisations which could appoint trustees ie TDSFB has two reps, TLC one rep, TGA one rep, Scottish University one rep and Perth & Kinross Council one rep, with provision for Trustees to be appointed as the TRT saw fit.

DG asked to have sight of restricted funds of TRT

ACTION: IMacG to send out TRT restricted funds to ALL.

DB stated he was concerned with TRT lack of publicity, to which DS replied the TRT were now trying to rectify this but a key component of this was to establish working relationship with TDSFB going forward.

He explained that the concept was nothing new and indeed the Tweed operated as two separate but closely linked entities, whilst the Dee had a different model, being effectively rolled into one organisation.

AW explained the need for the responsibilities for both organisations to be spelt out in publications as well as an online presence. DG expressed the need for the two organisations to work together.

The member of the public stated he had wanted to gain information on what the TRT planned to do with the site but realised the TDSFB were not the purchasers of the site and were therefore not the best organisation to approach. The Convener stated the TRT wanted to work with the local community. DS stated that the TRT had explained the situation to the residents in a meeting in the summer.

(the member of the public left the meeting)

DG stated that he was concerned with the potential purchase and that the lease would need to be drawn up and agreed with TRT and that more representatives from the Board would need to be involved. The Convener suggested forming a negotiation/transition committee. There was some discussion surrounding the TRT/TDSFB negotiation process with the general feeling from the floor that the whole board should be involved in the discussions.

5. Financial Summary with Budget Consideration

IMacG explained she had previously sent out the Finance paper and it was taken as read. She explained she had all necessary documentation to hand.

She then presented the budget and the conclusions of the budget committee, to which ALL agreed. There was some discussion surrounding how to improve income with no clear decisions except to look into renting out old offices.

ACTION: IMacG to look into possible renting of old offices

7. Road repairs/TRT potential purchase of site update

IMacG gave a brief report on the impending site purchase by TRT and explained the options available regarding road repairs. It was agreed that one of the residents should be approached regarding the road works and impact on their land.

ACTION: IMacG to arrange meeting with resident whose land will be impacted by road repairs.

SM then called for harmony between board members and asked that a line be drawn under previous issues and ALL agreed with this sentiment.

(AR left the meeting)

DS and IMacG then left the meeting whilst salary details were discussed. Salary discussion ensued. DS and IMacG then rejoined the meeting.

ACTION: IMacG to action wage increase and inform staff

(DG & CMN left the meeting)

8. Marine Scotland Stocking Policy & Hatchery Update

Discussed under matters arising.

9. H&S Report

DS reported no notifiable incidents since last meeting.

10. Update on 2019 Projects and review of Priorities for 2020

This was discussed under matters arising for 2020 projects and DS was praised for his report on current projects which had been previously circulated and was taken as read.

11. AOB

Letter from PDAA

DS read out a letter from PDAA regarding potential funding from the SSPO to DSFBs and trusts. He explained his understanding that Fisheries Management Scotland had agreed to nothing so far and were committed as a priority to seeking the strengthening of regulatory processes over fish farms.

ACTION: DB to contact sec of PDAA and inform him that it is not appropriate for TDSFB to comment but that the PDAA should seek clarification from FMS on the subject.

ACTION: DS to give DB Alan Wells' email address

TDSFB/TRT Brochure

AW presented an idea to develop a brochure for next year which could be cost neutral and would showcase the work of the board and TRT and perhaps any other organisations. There was a general discussion and it was agreed this idea had merit and should be worked up.

ACTION: AW to mock up potential brochure idea for next meeting.

Game Fair

DB stated that the deadline had passed for booking pitches but he was willing to help in any way possible. There was some discussion and it was agreed that DB and AW would take this forward.

ACTION: DB and AW to liaise over game fair coverage

There were no further items, and the Convener thanked the Board for attending, and closed the meeting at 12:50pm.