

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

Minutes of the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board meeting held at Birnam Institute, Birnam, on Wednesday, 12th December 2018

Present: Iain McLaren (Convener)
Simon Furniss
David Godfrey
Steve Mannion
Claire Mercer Nairne
Jim Perrett
Mike Smith
Alec Stewart
Cohn O’Dea (TGA rep)

In Attendance: Inga MacGillivray - Clerk
Dr. David Summers - Fisheries Director
Nicki MacIntyre (SNH)

Apologies: Councillor Bob Band
David Brown
Tom Monaghan
Brian Roxburgh (SEPA)
Allister Wallace

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

3. Minutes from Meeting held 20th November 2018

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

4. Matters Arising

Eden

ACTION: DS to ensure Eden stocked with 5,000 parr in 2019.

ACTION: DS to further explore feasibility of Ranunculus study on Eden by TDSFB drone.

Luncarty Weir

ACTION: DS /MS to work out plan for weir removal for next meeting.

Finance – FMS Expenditure

ACTION: DS to invite Alan Wells to a future Board meeting and perhaps Stewart Middlemass also.

Site Road

IMacG gave an update on the road situation.

TDSFB Plan for the Future

ACTION: DS to inform beats affected when stocked out so cover can be provided.

Allister Wallace paper

ACTION: IMacG to invite Craig Somerville to meeting in February 2019.

Website

ACTION: DG to invite Data couple to next Board meeting regarding weekly fishing report.

5. Financial Report & Dates for next meetings

Cash Account to 5th December 2018:

As at 5th December 2018, the Cash Account shows a small increase of £6,358, and the overall bank balance stands at a healthy £434,819, of which £150k is currently being invested.

Income

The appeal figure stands at £44,146 which comprises £34k assessor based knowledge, £5k Eden category 3 contingency, and a further £5k contingency for the assessor figures not yet processed. The Actual appeals figure of £6,381 relates to the Eden/Earn category 3 status from 2016, and we are expecting the figure to total £8,368 for the year.

The SISI project is now well under way, and the forecast has been increased to £2,293 which includes £1800 actual figures to end September, and a forecast of £400 for the final quarter of the year.

Expenditure

Salary and pension figures are pretty much in line with budget.

The vehicle cost at £28,753 comprises roughly £9k repair bills, £4k insurance and the rest in fuel costs (£13k) and sundries.

The rent, rates and general insurance total of £22,012 is predominantly made up of our annual insurance charge (£13k) as well as our monthly rates charge.

The roads issue is still ongoing and the spend to date of £2,265 includes £600 consultancy costs, with the rest being patch repair costs. The forecast shows a saving of £5k (there will be a further £1,500 expected consultancy charge), but it is not anticipated that the actual road repairs will take place in 2018.

Repairs actual figure of £12,430 includes the £4,800 lade repair bill, and the forecast reflects this.

Hatchery spend is £57,869 to date, of which £34k is salary related and of the remaining £24k, £14k was spent on fuel, £1.3k on food, £1k on chemicals and the rest on sundries.

Fishtay and website spend of £10,038 largely relates to the Fishpal invoices.

The cost of Opening day, Pitcastle project, smolt project and drone surveys total £2,371 against the £2k projects budget. The forecast has been adjusted to reflect the slight increase.

Capital Expenditure of £31,389 relates to £12,750 cost of new Jimny, £16,664 for the new hatchery boilers and £1,975 for the drone.

MS asked why subscription and levies had increased by £3k to which IMacG replied she would supply a full analysis in the near future.

ACTION: IMacG to provide analysis of subscription and levies for next meeting.

The dates for the next meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 12th February 2019, Tuesday 9th April 2019, Tuesday 11th June 2019, Tuesday 13th August 2019, Tuesday 29th October 2019 & Tuesday 10th December 2019.

ACTION: IMacG to circulate meeting dates to ALL

6. Health & Safety Report

DS reported no notifiable incidents since the last meeting.

7. TDSFB Plan for the Future

DS had circulated TDSFB plan and Fisheries Officers papers prior to the meeting, and these were taken as read. DS presented possible future projects which could be undertaken by the Board for their comments and approval. There was some discussion surrounding piscivorous birds with the following actions

ACTION: DS to circulate information from FMS predation meeting held November/December
ACTION: NMCI to circulate any details of Tay studies into eating habits of piscivorous birds.

Habitat improvement was another topic which was heavily discussed, particularly round the Fillan and Lunan areas, as was smolt passage. After some discussion, it was decided that Board members should pick their top 10 projects they would like included for 2019 and submit to IMacG.

ACTION: ALL to prioritise top 10 2019 projects and submit to IMacG before end of year.

There was some further discussion as DS explained the Fisheries Officers paper, and beavers were then discussed, with no clear actions being decided.

10. Steve Mannion Paper

SM asked that his paper be adopted and trialled from January 2019, to which there was a general consensus that this should be carried out. SM had circulated the main areas of responsibility and Board members had been identified to gain more knowledge of each area.

ACTION: SM to circulate revised paper and sub committees to meet in new year to agree way forward

8. Alex Stewart Paper

AS then asked that his paper be given consideration. The Lochay was taken from the paper as it had already been included in the list of projects to be considered, previously circulated by DS.

After some discussion, it was generally agreed that Board meetings should be kept as they are and that the Convener and DS should perhaps visit specific groups on the Tay at their AGM or other such meeting as this seemed a better way to glean what their issues were.

9. Allister Wallace Paper

It was agreed that as Allister was absent, this should be revisited at next Board meeting.

11. AOB:

Nasco Project

CMN asked that NASCO project be put on website.

ACTION: DS to supply NASCO Project information for website.

There were no further items, and the Convener thanked the Board for attending, and closed the meeting.