

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

MINUTES FROM VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING 7pm Tuesday 12th January 2021

Present: Iain McLaren (Convener), David Godfrey, Toby Metcalfe, Andrew Parrott, Alastair Riddell, Jerry Saunders, Michael Smith, Nicola Thompson, Allister Wallace, Bobby White, Iain Wood

In Attendance: Dr. David Summers (Fisheries Director), Inga MacGillivray (Clerk to the Board)

1. Apologies

AW had previously intimated he would be 15 minutes late.

2. Minutes from meeting held 11th December 2020 and Matters Arising

The Minutes were taken as read and approved unanimously. Matters arising had been actioned save for one.

ACTION: IMacG to arrange induction session for MS

Raised by BW, there was some discussion regarding Opening Day protocol with the following actions noted:

ACTION: IMacG/DS to contact all proprietors regarding angling protocol utilising Scottish Government and Marine Scotland guidelines, taking River Dee communication as an example.

(AW joined meeting)

JS asked if item 4 on agenda could be considered prior to item 3, to which ALL agreed.

4. Election Process, EIR Request and confidentiality

Confidentiality

IMacG expressed her disappointment that there had been a few confidentiality issues since the last Board meeting, and the Interim Convener added that he was displeased to see himself quoted on Facebook. DG read out the Facebook statement.

JS suggested distilling the Code of Conduct paper into one page, highlighting any salient points and dealing with any major issues, such as staff protection and confidentiality.

MS and AR suggested the conversation had been sidetracked and asked to move on.

AP stated he was not in favour of rewriting the code as in his experience, it could take a lot of time, but he would recommend accepting the code with the addition of any pertinent clauses.

IW suggested a one page letter stating individuals agreed to be bound to the FMS Code of Conduct, plus any additional clauses agreed by the Board.

The Interim Convener asked JS and NT if they would be happy to take this forward, given their governance skills relating to their charity work to which they agreed.

ACTION: JS/NT to review and simplify FMS code of conduct, with input from IMacG/DS for April meeting.

EIR Request

IMacG had previously sent an email to all Board members, giving details of EIR request from TGA and subsequent correspondence and this was taken as read.

IMacG stated her concerns regarding confidentiality and conflict of interest regarding the EIR request. DG suggested declaring this segment of the meeting a non-disclosure section, to which ALL agreed.

IMacG updated the Board on the latest TGA EIR request news.

Election Process

IMacG stated she had encountered a GDPR issue with the election results, and had taken legal advice, to be told that the votes per candidate could be made public. She had prepared an election paper to be released.

ACTION: IMacG/DS to issue election newsletter featuring votes per candidate ASAP and place on website.

3. Election of Convener

IMcL and MS put themselves forward for the role of Convener. Both gave a brief summary of their aims and objectives.

Voting took place, with IMcL gaining 8 out of 11 available votes and MS gaining 3 votes. IMcL was declared the Convener.

The Convener then thanked all who voted and stated he agreed with what MS had said and hoped to move forward as a new Board.

5. Priorities for 2021

DS explained the past three years had been somewhat difficult in terms of agreeing a plan of action, as there had been much disruption and it had been difficult to impart the background information required to make any decisions. However, he felt Zoom provided the perfect opportunity to educate the Board on Tay catchment matters and proposed giving perhaps 2 seminars per week over the coming 2-3 weeks to get Board members up to speed on current and future issues facing the Tay Catchment. DS proposed to develop a strategic analysis and plan from which he could make recommendations to the Board for meaningful priorities and deliverables within resource constraints. He envisaged involving the TRT and TGA and any other related groups going forward.

TM thought the plan was really valuable and had suggested inviting Alan Wells from FMS along to one of the meetings (see agenda item 8).

AR congratulated DS on this initiative, stating it would be the single most important piece of work to be undertaken at this time. He also confirmed that with the Board's support and agreement it would provide DS with protection as it would be Board Policy.

The Convener suggested the TRT be invited to the seminars to which there was general agreement.

ACTION: IMacG to invite TRT to Thursday's seminar and all future seminars.

There was some discussion surrounding whether to make the presentations public, and NT suggested David give his presentation which could be recorded, then open up the floor to questions which could be discussed in private. There was general agreement from the Board for this suggestion.

ACTION: IMacG to record DS presentations on Zoom for public viewing.

6. Consideration of 2021 Draft Budget

IMacG had previously sent out the draft budget papers which were taken as read. She then presented the salient points of the budget, adding that the budget need not be agreed until February meeting and this was a preliminary document. She suggested setting up a remuneration committee, to which ALL agreed, and the following action was noted:

ACTION: IW, The Convener, MS and AW to set up remuneration committee to determine staff salary increments and report back at next Board meeting.

IMacG also raised the issue that it was important in budgetary terms to redefine the relationship between the Board and the TRT.

She then asked for assistance on repairing the road. There was some discussion surrounding the subject, with the following action agreed:

ACTION: IMacG to circulate road repair documents to Board members

JS praised the work put into the budget.

7. Consideration of future meeting dates

The following dates were agreed:

Tuesday, 9th February 2021 7pm via Zoom
Tuesday, 23rd March 2021 7pm Open Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, 13th April 2021 7pm
Tuesday, 8th June 2021 7pm
Tuesday, 10th August 2021 7pm
Tuesday, 26th October 2021 10am
Tuesday, 14th December 2021

Please note meetings will include SEPA and Naturescot representatives and Minutes will be made available to the public. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting

8. TM – Alan Wells and FMS future funding/direction

Discussed under item 5 on agenda.

9. Road Repairs

Discussed under item 6 on agenda.

10. AOB

Opening Day

MS brought up the issue of Opening Day – discussed under item 2 on agenda.

Piscivorous Bird Licence

MS asked when the licence would be renewed, to which DS replied he would send the application shortly to Naturescot. There was some discussion surrounding the licence and bird counts, with the general feeling from the floor that it would be advantageous for the Board and the TGA to work closely and positively on this issue.

ACTION: MS/BW to approach TGA with view to reinstating a good working relationship and report back at next meeting.

Staff Workload

AW pointed out that the staff were already under pressure with workloads and that Board members should be mindful of these pressures when determining action points.

MS stated the Board should take ownership so staff could focus on their day jobs. TM pointed out that this would be covered under the priority strategy as consideration would have to be given to resources.

The Convener thanked everyone for their time and the meeting closed at 9:51pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th February at 7pm via Zoom