TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

MINUTES FROM VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING 7pm Tuesday 13th April 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) Nicki McIntyre (Nature Scot), Calum Innes (Tay Rivers Trust Chairman) (Part) and one member of the public.

The Convener stated that item 4 would be moved to the end of the agenda.

1. **Apologies**
   There were no apologies.

2. **Declaration of Interests**
   The Convener and JS declared they had accepted a fishing invitation at Stobhall from IW.

3. **Minutes from meeting held 9th February 2021 and Matters Arising**
   The Minutes were taken as read and approved unanimously.
   FMS Policies for Adoption Update
   AR stated he had not had time to sign the Personal Declaration Statement.

   ACTION: AR to sign the Personal Declaration Statement and return to IMacG.

   Consideration of 2021 Draft Budget
   IMacG had sent out the updated valuation roll to all Board members and explained that to avoid duplication of work she had been awaiting the latest figures to incorporate into the Budget before compiling, hence the delay. The Convener asked why there were two columns of figures, to which IMacG replied the first column was the draft budget figure and the second line depicted the latest figures including all appeals.

   Ghillies Virtual Lunch

   ACTION: IMacG to arrange virtual Zoom lunch once Board priorities have been decided.

8. **Governance – Policies and Procedures Update**
   NT gave a brief governance update, stating that she and JS were working through various policies and procedures which could be considered once the Board's River Plan had been agreed.

   She added that the slight amendment to the Parental Bereavement Leave Policy to pay usual rates instead of statutory rates had been agreed by the Board.

   JS added that he and NT had sought HR and legal input wherever necessary.

5. **Tay Rivers Trust Presentation by Calum Innes (Chairman)**

(CI joined the meeting)
The Convener introduced Calum Innes (TRT Chairman) to ALL. CI had previously circulated a paper which was taken as read.

CI presented his paper, explaining that he had sought information from TM and IW about how other Boards interacted with their Trusts. He stated that there were lots of positives and a vast array of knowledge on both sides which could be capitalised to the benefit of both organisations. Indeed, he saw the move towards a joint website as being a very positive step.

He stated that the TRT should have a mechanism to report to the Board, with both agreeing separate business plans but liaising closely.

The Convener thanked CI for his presentation and stated that he would like to see the TRT being a standing item on the Board's agenda, with a member of the TRT being co-opted to the Board. He asked if CI would be willing to act as co-optee to which CI agreed.

BW was in favour of this movement and expressed his agreement.

DG asked what the TRT strategy was for the future and raised concerns regarding lack of fundraising in the past. CI replied that fundraising had been discussed and that the TRT was still in the process of defining its objectives. DG expressed the need for the two organisations to be closely aligned, to which CI gave his assurance that the two organisations were largely joined at the hip, with perhaps the TRT having a wider remit.

JS added that the TRT needed a clear strategy in order to raise funds and although the process was in its infancy, he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the Trustees. NT explained that she and JS had been invited to join the TRT as associate members for their fundraising experience, and that she had already drafted a fundraising paper.

Peter Hutchinson asked what the plans for the site were and if there was scope for the TRT to work with the local community regarding their ideas for the site, to which CI replied the TRT were meeting shortly and the site was on the agenda, and that the TRT was receptive to hearing about local ideas. MS stated he liked CI's concept.

(MS experienced connection issues and left the meeting briefly)
TM asked if a Memorandum of Understanding could be drawn up between the two organisations, stating it would be a good way to secure the nature of the relationship.

ACTION: CI/DS to produce Memorandum of Understanding between TDSFB and TRT

Peter Hutchinson asked if there was an update on the road repairs and more specifically if there was a timescale, to which CI replied the road repairs were on the TRT's agenda but he was unable to give a timescale at present as the project had not reached the stage where a timescale could be defined.
The Convener explained the road was a priority.
(MS rejoined the meeting)

MS stated he liked CI's concept and understood DG's concerns and that he was concerned about the science element in that he feared things could potentially be duplicated or "fall between the cracks". CI explained that the science element would sit with the TRT as had been outlined in his paper. AP expressed his agreement with CI concept.

DS stated that the Board had to have two types of co-optees, salmon angling representatives and tenant netsmen representatives. There was no tenant netsmen's representative currently because none had sought membership. He explained the TRT could be co-opted as a tenant netsman as the TRT is the tenant of a large amount of netting in the district.

ACTION: CI to be co-opted as tenant netsman to the Board.

(CI left the meeting)

6. **Finance Update**

IMacG had previously circulated finance papers which were taken as read.

She then proceeded to explain the salient points in the finance papers.

AP asked if the there was to be a plan for recovery from the COVID pandemic, rather like the Council were drawing up, to which IMacG explained the board's income status and stated it would be a tough year financially as proprietors had taken a hit. AP commented that things seemed slightly more positive this year. MS echoed that it would be a tough year for beats with many overseas customers not travelling.

TM asked what the situation was regarding furlough, to which IMacG replied DS was still partly furloughed and the Hatchery Manager was continuing to shield, so the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Grant would not be as applicable in 2021 as it had been in 2020.

JS expressed his concerns surrounding the Board being light on staff and not being able to get on with the "day job" due to other distractions, to which the Convener agreed.

7. **Website Update**

IW gave a brief website update, stating he had received the Castabroad template that morning.

ACTION: IW to circulate Castabroad template to Board members

He explained the timings were to have a draft content for the end of the month and he would be working on this, although DS had already completed the bulk of the work from the current website content.

NT asked if he needed any help, to which IW replied he really needed good quality photographic images. He explained he had set up a drop box account for stakeholders to upload any content. He suggested perhaps setting up a photo competition on the river. JS asked NMcI if Nature Scot had any images, to which she replied if she had a list of what the Board required, she would see what was in the Nature Scot library. AW suggested David Hay photographs.

ACTION: IW to circulate drop box account details
ACTION: ALL to try to supply/source good quality photographic images

JS thanked IW.

9. Priorities for 2021

DS had previously circulated a paper.
He explained he thought it may be useful for the Board to understand how the Scottish Government pressure tool worked and then went on to demonstrate it. He explained the theory behind his model and that he thought the Marine Scotland model would give a similar answer to his own model.

The Convener highlighted the importance of setting out the river plan and suggested it might be discussed at a separate Zoom meeting the following week.

JS thanked DS for his presentation and his idea of equating possible actions to number of fish caught but wondered if DS could quantify costs associated with each action, to which DS replied he could. The Convener stressed it was also important to consider the negative impacts eg if Gyrodactylus were to take hold

AP congratulated DS on his excellent piece of work, as did AW.

ACTION: DS to circulate priorities listing by end of week.

JS asked how the Board would roll out the plan and suggested IMacG circulate her ideas on the matter

ACTION: IMacG to forward draft plan of circulation of Rivers Plan by end of week.

10. AOB

Timing of Minutes and Board Papers

MS asked that Minutes and related Board papers be sent timeously to all Board members with Minutes being distributed within 7 days and other papers at least 5 days prior to Board meeting. IMacG stated that the Minutes were sent out timeously, and the Convener accepted MS's point but stated that sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances, staff had other priorities that diverted their attention.

IMacG, PH and NMcI then left the meeting

4. Tay Ghillies Association – Formal Complaint Level 3

This section of the meeting was discussed by the Board in private.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th June 2021 at 7pm via Zoom