

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: Johnie Parry – Chairman (JP) Colonel A Lindsay (AL) John Mackenzie (JM) Peter Voy (PV)
PURPOSE: MANAGEMENT MEETING	
DATE: 25 September 2008	
OPENED AT: 10.30	
CLOSED AT: 15.45	
APOLOGIES: Ian Fergusson (IF) Ben Hadfield (BH) Nigel Pearson (NP) Angus Morrison (AM) Bob Kindness (BK) Richard Greene (RG) Richard Wilson (RW)	IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Gibson (MG) Peter Cunningham (PC) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Peter Jarosz (PJ)

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

1.i The minutes of the 28th August meeting were passed as read.

2. **TRUSTEES**

2.i There were a number of items to report:

- **PJ** said that there had been no replies from Trustees for their suggestions of nomination for a new trustee.
- **JP** stated that he had written to Donald Rice invited him to consider becoming a Trustee and that we had received his reply declining.
- There was some discussion about a couple of names put forward as possible Trustee candidates – a retired scientist living locally and a(non local) who has been very supportive of WRFT. Either of these two could steer the scientific direction of the WRFT.
- **JM** suggested that we write/email all our members for their suggestions/recommendations for a new Trustee – **PJ**.
- We could, if we need to, advertise via both our website and/or the local press but there are distinct risk in that, no matter how carefully worded, any advert could be taken (by those reading it) as an invitation to become a trustee.
- It is also worth pointing out that three of WRFT's current trustees are due for re-appointment on 15th November 2008.

2.ii **PV** reported that he was still confident that one member of Ullapool Angling Club would take up the offer of Angling Club Trustee representative and may be able to confirm who (that might be) at the next meeting.

2.iii Trustees were reminded of the important need to be aware that when dealing with WRFT issues their other interests should not take precedence over their trusteeship responsibilities.

2.iv There was some discussion about whether or not WRFT needed to consider "honorary life membership" and, if so, what would be the criteria for such an appointment .This item will go onto the next Trustee meeting agenda – **PJ** will email the trustees an introduction to the item.

3. **FINANCE**

3.i **PC/PJ** will raise an invoice for the survey recently completed at Diabaig.

3.ii All three projects (50% funds for which are currently being claimed via SNH) also need to be claimed via RAFTS – **PC/PJ**.

3.iii We have received £1425 from Whitley Animal Trust.

3.iv Draft accounts 2007/8 were available for initial scrutiny.

4. **PLANNING AHEAD**

4.i The Salmon & Trout in the classroom is a project (funded equally by SE and SNH) which will again be run this year by Lorna Brown.

4.ii Loch Maree Open Day will go ahead focusing on the work of the Trust - again with joint funding from

SE and SNH. In future this could be linked with Gairloch High School and the Slattadale Centre.

4.iii Artic Charr Seminar need to be “worked up” prior to submission to SNH for part funding – **PC/VM**.

4.iv There are some funds available (via John Ogle) for further work on the Bruichaig project which, with further funds (from local proprietors) could continue this year with agreement from the Ewe proprietors and WRASFB.

4.v The Habitat Restoration project could be the subject of an application for Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

4.vi Consultations and Responses were again discussed, including the Loch Torridon planning application (for MH’s expansion) and possible response via WRASFB. With a view to clarify fish farm planning applications (and their perceived implications) in general and all current fish farms “situations” **JP** will write to James Bromham at Highland Council for their help on the facts.

5. **BIOLOGIST’S PROGRESS REPORT**

6. **AOB**

- All outstanding SEPA reports have been answered by a standard letter (by **PC**) stating that “we do not know the particular river but are willing to survey it if you wish us to do so”.
- Two possible fish farm escapees were caught on the River Ewe and will be given to Marine Harvest,(along with scales/adipose fin clips from other fish caught earlier in the season) for DNA testing. WRFT to be given the results. **PC** said he had had a recent meeting with Eric Verspoor who had recommended that a collaborative Genetic Study should be of priority to Fisheries Trusts (in the West of Scotland) to discover the true extent of farmed fish genes within the wild populations. £80K (estimated) was needed in order to establish a genetic database. Would Marine Harvest help fund such a project?
- At our next meeting we should set the date of WRFT’s AGM.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management Group meeting	29 Oct 2008	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustee meeting	12 Nov 2008	WRFT Office	10.30
Management Group meeting	15 Jan 2009	WRFT Office	10.30