

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) Mark Williams (MW) Richard Greene (RG) Bob Kindness (BK) Graeme Wilson (GW) Ben Hadfield (BH) APOLOGIES: Angus Morrison (AM) Ian Fergusson (IF) Nigel Pearson (NP) Richard Wilson (RW)
PURPOSE:	TRUSTEES' MEETING	
DATE:	28 May 2009	
OPENED AT:	14.30	
CLOSED AT:	17.10	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Peter Cunningham (PC) Peter Jarosz (PJ) Mary Gibson (MG) Roger Brook & Callum Sinclair (CS) (RAFTS)	Peter Cunningham (PC) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Andrew Wallace (AW) ASFB Roger Brook & Callum Sinclair (CS) (RAFTS)

1. MATTERS ARISING

- 1.i **PC** said that there is still a need to identify a HC contact re obstructions/culverts.
 1.ii **PC** reported that there is a possible angling club representative from the Glenelg A C who is prepared to join the Trust.
 1. iii The minutes of the 24th March meeting were passed as read.

2. TRUSTEES

- 2.i Trustee were reminded that their interests (and any possible conflict of interest) should be recorded in the Interest Book (the Black Book). It was agreed that, in the interest of transparency, their resumes could be placed on WRFT's web site. Those present were happy with this approach but we need to check that all the trustees are in agreement, before doing so.
 2.ii See above 1.ii

3. FINANCE

- 3.i The Cash Projection has been re-arranged to reflect the six major sections of the Trust's activities – there was nothing to report on the contents for this first month.
 3.ii The Management Report is now grouped under the six sections of WRFT's activities as defined in the FMP. The M R has also been précised into just four pages for the Trustees – but covers 39 pages in total to monitor all projects that are current or have funds still in them.
 3.iii The income section of the M R has been grouped as per the 6 sections of the FMP.
 - Core income for 09/10 is similar in total to 08/09.
 - Restricted income has yet to be finalised with RAFTS' deadline fast approaching for project grant applications.
 - River Ewe RST project has not really started and the funding from RAFTS could be "rolled over" into our next financial year – **CS** gave approval for this to happen.
 - The Bruachaig project will need some additional funding to both bridge a shortfall for 08/09 year and to provide sufficient finance for 09/10 year. **PJ** to talk to **AM**.
- 3.iv The annual accounts 08/09 will shortly be submitted to our accountants.
 3.v Casual rates are to be increased by 2.5% and mileage payment to be brought in line with Inland Revenue rate of 40p/mile.
 3.vi **VM** and **PJ** to decide on amount of deposit money to go to the Clydesdale Bank to attract a better interest rate.

4. PLANNING AHEAD – BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

- 4.i The issue of whether (or not) electro-fishing reports should be put on our web site was discussed. A number of points were decided on:
 - It was agreed that summarised information rather than "raw data" could be posted but –
 - Individual landowners/proprietors need to be consulted and to consent before information on their rivers is put on the web site.
 - In principle, as a charity, whose work is funded (in the main) by public money, information from WRFT's work should be in the public domain – but with the approval of individual landowners.

4.ii In general WRFT electro-fish each river every other year though some of the rivers are electro-fished each year – **BK** stated that he electro-fishes his sites every year for the information he needs for his re-stocking programme.

4.iii The Tournaig Trap continues to be operated and had an early salmon this year – there is a need to apply a genetics project to Tournaig.

4.iv The Genetics' Biologist is now in place at FRS and samples will be analysed.

4.v Sweep netting has begun as well as some fyke netting in Dundonnell.

4.vi Gill netting of post smolts at the mouth of the River Ewe has occurred in previous years and, given the difficulties of sweep netting in this area, should it be re-established? There was general consensus that gill netting should be put back into this year's work programme.

4.vii The bio-security plan (which has £3.4K funding left) needs to progress but must follow the RAFTS' template.

- The Priority Species List (which has come from WFD and SG red list) must be adhered to and fleshed out accordingly.
- RAFTS has a co-ordinator and is providing a distribution list from which actions can be distilled.
- There is then a £1M fund for prioritised action projects.

5. AOB

5.i There was a discussion about sea-lice data – points aired were:

- Should Trusts be collecting data?
- Should Trusts be publishing data?
- TWG is not providing much strategic direction.
- There is a need for a reporting protocol.

5.ii **AW** reported that a new steering group for TWG is now in place and should resolve issues arising from different groups and provide more strategic direction.

5.iii There is still a need to resolve issues of confidentiality and approaches to collecting, using and analysing data.

- The next few weeks will show just how much the SG is committed to resolving issues.
- Ideally SG and TWG project manager should drive forward by setting protocols, reporting and publication procedures.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management Group meeting	26 June 2009	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustees' meeting	24 Sept 2009	WRFT Office	10.30
Management Group meeting	29 October 2009	WRFT Office	10.00