MINUTES OF WRFT TRUSTEES' MEETING		
Via Teams and in Harbour Centre	PRESENT: Mark Williams (MW) James Close (JC) Andrew D Barclay (AB)	Steve Kett (SK)
DATE: 27 th August 2021		Duncan Burd (DB) Alasdair Macdonald (AM)
OPENED AT: 13.30 CLOSED AT: 15.50	IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ)	Peter Cunningham (PC)

PJ welcomed AB to the meeting and asked for formal approval of his appointment as trustee. This was unanimously endorsed with SK approving and seconding JC this appointment.

1. Matters arising from minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2021.

There were no matters arising.

2. Approval of the minutes

PJ asked for a proposer and a seconder of the minutes of the 24th June Meeting. SK proposed and DB seconded - the minutes were approved.

3. Update on Various happenings including Appointment of Andrew D Barclay (AB) as a New Trustee

a) The appointment of AB was dealt with as an introduction to the meeting before matters arising. b) The letters of appeal to former members has now realised over £13K and we should record our sincere thanks to all that contributed so generously.

c) The WRASFB has been occupied with a meaningful response to the requirements of EMPS for the two new fish farm applications in Loch Torridon and have actively involved Peter C, FMS, a QC as well as the two aquaculture companies and have been seeking the involvement of MSS. There followed some discussion regarding the WRFT's involvement in the wild fish monitoring programme for Loch Toridon in particular about the use of the coastal fyke net.

c) Two grant applications have beeen made recently.

1. One was for Rhododendron ponticum eradication in the Kerrisdale area. We have just received £33K from SLCF for the Rhododendron project along with a further £10K from SSE. WRFT has no involvement in the fieldwork, but will get £5K for administration costs from this project's monies.

2. We were approached by WRF Ltd who had been in contact with the proprietor of the upper Rhidorroch about an issue on their section of the river, which is suffering extreme bank erosion. WRF wanted to know if WRFT were interested in assisting with a project for the improvement of that section of the river. Jonathan Farmer (WRF Ltd), AM, PC and PJ went up the Rhidorroch to examine the issue first hand. WRF Ltd had put together a draft proposal that included tree planting and fencing along with a proposal to bring in contractors for work to stabilise the river banks, in particular near to the East Rhidorroch Lodge. It soon became obvious to PC and AM that the problems causing the river bank erosion at that location originated from much further up. PC had previously completed a fishery management plan of the Rhidorroch river some years ago which identified this very problem as one that needed to be addressed at its source, which he then identified as headwaters related. WRFT has now applied to Foundation Scotland for a grant (from SSPO money) for a revised project that has retained the planned fencing and tree planting and for 60% of the grant funding to be for a detailed survey of the head waters of the river to identify and then quantify what work would be required to reduce/stop the problem. The project has now been awarded £4.5K for tree planting/fencing and just over £10K for the surveying work. PC is aware that there is some peatland restoration work taking place in the upper catchment area of the Rhidorroch river where a number of estates merge. By reducing the run off of surface

water into the river in the upper catchment area this work may well start to improve the existing problem on the Rhidorroch river. The intention of the survey work is identify just what complimentary work (to the peatland work) will further benefit the river.

d) PJ said that he had had a meeting yesterday with the CEO of Landcatch Natural Selection (LNS) (the hatchery near the mouth of the River Kerry). He wanted to make WRFT aware of what facilities that LNS had in the event that we might wish to utilise any of their facilities for any kind of project that WRFT might do that could involve the identification of the genetics of certain populations of wild fish or if there was a requirement for stocking. He was aware of the latest restrictions on stocking that are imposed by MSS but said that if, in the future, we sought and got permission to stock a certain river LNS was able to offer hatchery facilities.

4. SLRT Correspondence

There has been no further correspondence received since the last meeting. A further email has been sent to Nigel Pearson asking for clarification regarding the number of payments from the WRASFB that are recorded in the apportionment of residual funds calculation. So far no response has been received.

5. Biologist's Report

PC gave a précis of his biologist's report that had been previously circulated by email – and-further copies were available at the meeting. During PC's report there was some discussion about the fact that the River Carron had not elected to join in with the rest of the southern rivers as part of the SLRT area. Should we approach the Carron proprietors and see if they would join the new WRFT? The main discussion centred around 'do we want to have them in our area at this time' or should we defer any approach to them until we are better situated financially? This is a minor issue in monetary terms, but may establish an important precedent.

6. Finance

PJ had intended to present a budget for the coming year, but VM (our accounts person) has prepared Cash Projections and a number of copies were available. The figures show a reasonable income for the WRFT this first financial year of around £70K with some further £55K of project monies. PJ said that given the current financial projection, we should start to consider depositing some of our funds (say £10K) into a separate bank so that we commence the process of establishing a new reserve fund. This was agreed by the meeting.

PC suggested that we need to extend awareness into the community of the need for the work on Rhododendron ponticum eradication. There is a growth of ponticum on the land from the harbour to the golf course. A further project of eradication here, with accompanying interpretation boards, would raise awareness and be very visible. This would be the perfect opportunity for focusing the problem in the local community's mind. A local group, such as the group that looks after the 'Sit-ootery' along the harbour front, would be able to continue looking after the area to look for any regrowth of ponticum.

7. Conflict of Interest Book

PJ said that he has looked for and not found the original Conflict of Interest book, the presence of which is a legal requirement. It is not in the safe and not in any of the lockable filing cabinets. If trustees will consider the entry that they wish to record in the book, email that statement to PJ, we can then start to assemble a new Conflict of Interest book/file.

8 AOCB

i) Wording on our website should reflect an uptodate appeal to all groups (including vegans). AB will have a look at the wording that is currently used on our web site with a view to modernising the wording in line with our Aims and Objectives.

ii) Does our logo also need modernising? JC suggested making this a project for pupils in Gairloch High School and offer a prize for the winner of the project. DB said that he was happy to put up a donation for the prize money.

iii) AB said that the rather unstructured nature of the meeting showed that we need to have a chairman - MW suggested that AB be chairman on a temporary basis. AB agreed to be chairman of the WRFT on an interim basis.

iv) JC suggested that we should try to "recruit" a junior trustee (up to the age of 25) to represent the younger section of our community.

8. Date of next meeting

To be arranged via Doodle Poll.