

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM)	
DATE:	11 October 2011	David Barclay (DB)	Barry Blake (BB)
OPENED AT:	10.30	Bob Kindness (BK)	Mark Williams (MW)
CLOSED AT:	14.00	Graeme Wilson (GW)	Richard Greene (RG)
IN ATTENDANCE:		APOLOGIES:	
Peter Cunningham (PC)	Jonah Tosney (JT)	Angus Morrison (AM)	Nigel Pearson (NP)
Peter Jarosz (PJ)	Ray Dingwall (RD)	Ian Fergusson (IF)	Ben Hadfield (BH)
		Richard Wilson (RW)	Mary Gibson (MG)
		Veronica Mullaney (VM)	

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i There were some matters arising from the 6th September minutes;

- MH has made significant concessions and assurances regarding their Loch Duich expansion application and as a result WRFT, acting on behalf of the proprietors, has withdrawn the objection letter and replaced it with a letter of concern.
- A reply to RAFTS re their draft “Code of Good Governance” was sent by the revised deadline date of Monday 19th September.
- **BB** asked for an update on JT’s continued employment – WRFT intends to support a second year of JT, and UHI are currently getting their finance in place for a second year.

2. FINANCE REPORTS

2.i There is little change in the healthy state of our finances – **PJ** mentioned:

- S&SE have supported the Bruachaig Project with a grant of £1.5K with the hint of further support next year.
- All the Southern River proprietors, WRF Ltd and MH have been sent (on 06/10/2011) their invoices for the current year.
- WRFT budgeted for **PC** to do contract work to the sum of £2K for year 2011/12 but Peter has already done two contracts that are worth three times our original budget figure.
- RAFTS have a further grant (of circa £4K from Crown Estates) on offer for work that has to be completed by 31st March 2011 – **PJ** will apply for relevant project(s).

2.ii We have just received a first draft of the annual accounts for 2010/11 and **VM** will check through these and report back to the accountants in the next week or two.

3. NON-FINANCE REPORTS

3i JM attended the RAFTS’ General Committee Meeting on 6th October in Perth and offered trustees the following observations:

- Other trusts are reporting indifferent cash-flow situations and that, in some cases, relations between trusts and their respective boards are not always congenial.
- The Scottish Environment Minister (Mr Stevenson) who is responsible for aquaculture and wild fish interests appears to be listening more intently to wild fish interests and is encouraging continuing dialogue between aquaculture and wild fish interests in all (local) areas.
- There is a Panorama programme being shown on 18th October that should be of interest to those concerned about wild fish.
- RAFTS have a working group producing a map defining suitable placement of aquaculture operations within specific areas.
- RAFTS are seeking possible finance from SEPA for work to overcome barriers to passage of migrating wild fish throughout Scotland.

4 BIOLOGISTS' REPORTS

4.1 Peter Cunningham's biologist's report:

- There was some discussion on stocking out options and BK said that if egg numbers were unlimited than stocking out with eggs was feasible. If, however, egg numbers were limited then stocking out with eggs will result in a poor return.
- PC said that there were good numbers of salmon on the river Ewe, Little Gruinard and river Carron but that grilse numbers were both late and less in number than usual. BK reported that sea-trout numbers on the river Carron were good.
- The continuing problems of sea lice were discussed with a case for research into their originals being considered.
- Whilst sweep netting is one of the most costly methods of data collection, PC pointed out that the data/information obtained by this method went far beyond sea-lice counting
- RD said that rod catches can also provide similar data/information and it was agreed that WRFT should collect data/information using rod catches. **PC/JT** should then design a programme for collecting data/information from rod catches for next year and present this to the Trust by the end of January 2012.
- Both a fish farm visits programme and a brief outline proposal for the Wild Trout & Artic Charr Discovery Week need to be produced for consideration by trustees. **PC/JT**
- It was agreed that further talks with WRF Ltd should take place in order to agree and write up a protocol for visits by the WRFT biologist to WRF Ltd's fish farms. This protocol (once formulated) could then be the basic protocol for agreeing visits to other aquaculture companies' fish farms in our area

4.ii Jonah Tosney's biologist's report:

- In exchange for the withdrawal of the objection MH have committed to a reduction in biomass at the Loch Duich site should lice numbers exceed agreed targets. MH also agreed to continue to welcome a WRFT biologist at lice counts and to collaborate on monitoring the impacts of lice on wild fish populations in Loch Duich.
- JT also reported that the electro-fishing work on Skye was almost complete and that about 50% of the work on the southern rivers within WRFT's area was also done.
- JT said that the meeting he and DB had with James Hutton Institute regarding the Angling Information Service had produced a (cost effective) positive prognosis for collaboration on this project
- Genetic samples have been collected from the Kishorn and Lair Rivers for RAFTS aquaculture project.

5. AOB

- The pan jet marker (that belongs to WRASFB) has not been used to date and a project using the marker now needs to be planned for next year. **PC**
- WRFT has collaborated with Gairloch High School to provide a week's work experience for one of the school's students. It was a valuable project for all concerned and a report should be arriving from the school shortly.
- Trustees (viz: NP; BK; JM; MW and GW) are due for re-appointment in November 2011. Those present at this trustees' meeting were asked to confirm that they intended to stand again. Those not present had been contacted by email asking them to confirm that they intended to stand again. All confirmed their willingness to stand again and were duly appointed for another term that will end on 12/11/2014.

NEXT MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management meeting	14/12/2011	WRFT Office	10.30