

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) David Barclay (DB) Richard Greene (RG)	
DATE:	21 April 2011		
OPENED AT:	10.30		
CLOSED AT:	14.30		
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Peter Cunningham (PC) Mary Gibson (MG) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Jonah Tosney (JT) Donna-Claire Hunter (DC)		APOLOGIES: Angus Morrison (AM) Bob Kindness (BK) Nigel Pearson (NP) Mark Williams (MW) Ian Fergusson (IF) Graeme Wilson (GW) Richard Wilson (RW) Ben Hadfield (BH)	

1. MATTERS ARISING

- 1.i The minutes of the Management meeting of 1st February were adopted as read.
1.2 PC was nominated as WRFT's representative on the RAFTS' Aquaculture Project Steering Group.

2. FINANCE

- 2.i The Cash Projections show a healthy financial position with:
- £3162 from SG and £2325 from CE to come in via RAFTS.
 - £3.5K still to arrive from invoiced contract work and no new contract work (from this source) will be started until these outstanding amounts are paid.
 - £40K+ received in 2010/11 for restricted projects with £45K+ of core income.
 - No invoices (from UHI) were received in 2010/11 for JT but the first invoice for £4.5K (approximately) has just arrived.
 - It was decided that WRFT's healthy financial situation would permit a second year of funding for JT subject to the Trustees full agreement on 1st June.

2.ii Expenditure this year:

- In what has to be considered a difficult financial year, WRFT has still managed to end the year showing a strong financial result which, in part, is down to an increase in contract work.

2.iii Budget for 2011/12:

This year's core income is £54K, including a one-off donation from WRASFB of 7K.

Restricted project monies are (to date) less than last year with:

- £6K for survey/monitoring related projects.
- £14.5K for stock conservation and improvements projects (including genetics) – S & SE has been initially approached for funding towards the Bruachaig project.
- £9K for a constraints to production project (viz sweep-netting which was £15K in 2010/11).
- There are no new monies for the carrying capacity project, however some £4K of core money remains unspent from last fy so this will roll-over into this year for continuity work on this project.
- The RAFTS' over-headed rate for this fy will now be £65/hr.
- £10.5K for outreach projects includes £2747 from the Nineveh Trust (a newly sourced funder).
- WRFT's overall budget for this year is £94.5K and it should be noted that income over £100K means a more in-depth report to OSCR.

There is still some more work required on the budget – core expenditure needs to include costs for JT of approximately £17K and further estimates are required for some of the restricted projects.

- WRFT's commitment to the Anglers' Information project needs further consideration.
- Is there more that could be done on bio-security issues?
- The overall balance of monitoring and research for this year is good but is there scope to do more in relation to the marine environment?
- With new licensing on seal predation now in operation, all sightings need to be monitored and fed back to MS as part of the evaluation of this scheme.

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

3i In the presence of the former RDO (DC) it was recorded that WRFT had fully met its reporting obligations to TWG, and PC was congratulated on the quantity and quality of work completed.

3ii It was agreed that the lead on response to the SG Permitted Development Rights consultation paper was best led and coordinated by Alan Wells of RAFTS.

3iii A costed draft submission for development of an angling information system has been received from a consulting organisation "Substance". It was agreed that the costs were high, and the likely role of

WRFT required further thought. **DB** offered to discuss development of GIS elements with Macaulay Institute and to liaise with **JT**.

3iv A range of formal and informal responses have been made to planning applications by both **PC** and **JT**. There appears to be some move on the part of farming companies to consult with wild fish interests prior to lodging an application. This is to be encouraged (but see 5i below).

4. BIOLOGISTS' REPORTS

4i Peter Cunningham

- PC submitted a comprehensive report prior to the meeting (attached here) and also reported on the RAFTS AGM/conference (see 5i below)
- Under the new SG aquaculture project WRFT will be paid to sweep net three sites: Kanaird, Boor Bay and Flowerdale Bay. PC again suggested extra sites should be sampled by net or rod under core funding. He was asked to produce a justified and costed programme for consideration (**PC**).
- The Ullapool lice review meeting held by Wester Ross Fisheries gave a useful insight into the strategies used and issues faced by WRF in lice control. It also provided an opportunity to meet Highland Council planners to whom our planning responses are directed. Unfortunately WRFT (**BB**, **PC**) were the only wild fish representatives

4ii Jonah Tosney

- In addition to the planned electro-fishing, there may be scope for supporting the Skye Trust in sweep netting.
- **NP** has asked for support in seas lice monitoring in Loch Long. It was agreed **JT** should support
- It was agreed that **JT** should provide support to Loch Milton (Applecross) survey work although the project organisers should be asked to at least cover transport costs (**JT/PJ**)
- It was agreed that **JT** should support the Balmacara Biodiversity Day, and that WRFT should purchase a kick sampling net for this and other work (**PJ**).
- Informal requests for advice on fish farm developments are continuing, and this reflects the role of WRFT in taking up the AMA slack post-TWG.

5. AOB

5i The RAFTS AGM and conference was attended by RW and PC -

- Andrew Wallace is the new Chairman of RAFTS (with a turnover in excess of £1million).
- A new Orkney Fisheries Trust is imminent.
- RAFTS now has £4.1 million worth of bio-security work
- **DC** reported that, on the subject of AMAs, a letter (from RAFTS) would shortly be going out detailing procedural options for (the re-formation of) local AMAs.
- Although the Torridon Marine Harvest expansion plan was rejected by the local council, that decision was reversed by the SG.
- The Broad Bay application has been rejected by the local council and the SG view is awaited.
- Stocking on the Spey has seen a return of only 1% on rod catches for an investment in 1.5 million eggs per year.

5ii **JT** reported that the electro-fishing gear on site at the Carron is the property of the Carron owners. WRFT may use the gear, but it is 15 years old and must be thoroughly tested first. Meantime we will pursue LEADER funds for new equipment (**PJ**).

5iii **JM** reminded the meeting that the Loch Ewe nettings lease was under negotiation, and the Trust would be liable for modest legal fees.

5iv The meeting considered a letter from Mr Guy Linley-Adams to **JM**, again raising the question of the potential for conflict of interest. **JM** was asked to leave the meeting whilst the remaining Trustees (**RG**, **DB**, **BB**) discussed the matter. It was decided that the Trust, rather than **JM**, should reply to Mr Linley-Adams (**BB**).

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Trustees' and AGM meeting	01/06/2011	WRFT Office	10.30