

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) Richard Greene (RG) Nigel Pearson (NP) Richard Wilson (RW) Ian Fergusson (IF) Ben Hadfield (BH) Graeme Wilson (GW)
PURPOSE: TRUSTEES MEETING	
DATE: 4 February 2010	
OPENED AT: 10.30	
CLOSED AT: 13.30	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Peter Cunningham (PC) Mary Gibson (MG) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Donna-Claire Hunter (DC)	APOLOGIES: Angus Morrison (AM) David Barclay (DB) Mark Williams (MW) Bob Kindness (BK)

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i There were no matters arising and minutes of the 24th January meeting were passed as read.

2. FINANCE

2.i WRFT's cash position is healthy although core costs for this year have so far exceeded core income (and will undoubtedly continue to do so).

2.ii The Biosecurity Plan is now ready in draft form. WRFT's involvement to date has resulted in an overspend of the RAFTS grant money. The "Training Days" and the "Debate on Invasive Species" costs were therefore met from core funds.

2.iii **JM** confirmed that WRASFB contribution for 2010-11 will be not less than the 2009-10 figure.

2.iv It was agreed that contributions from Southern Rivers, Marine Harvest and others should increase yearly by the RPI index, rather than remain the same for a number of years and then attract a much higher percentage increase.

2.v Budgets for 2010-11 will need to be produced (in draft form) for discussion and agreement before the end of March – **VM & PJ**.

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

3.i RAFTS has asked all Trusts to provide information/comment on fish farming in their areas. In particular we are asked to comment on the priorities for re-location and on areas where additional production might be acceptable. A draft response is in preparation.

3.ii **DC** gave an overview of the fish farm suitability assessment model that she has developed. She pointed out that additional data can easily be added to the model so, for example, WRFT could include this approach in formulating its response to RAFTS in relation to Loch Ewe relocation.

3.iii **DC** has some scope to develop this approach whilst acting as RDO, but further investment might be required to realise the full potential.

3.iv Perhaps the most useful further development of this model would be a sea lice dispersion data layer (over time and in relation to parameters such as temperature and wind speed). Producing such a layer would be expensive and complex and is currently some time away, but it would probably repay the necessary investment.

3.v The Biosecurity Plan includes a table of actions for WRFT that includes:

- Awareness generation
- Detection & monitoring of invasive non-native species (INNS)
- Database development and maintenance
- Control & eradication

3.vi Some work has already been done, especially on awareness, but there needs to be clarity on roles and responsibilities of the various "players" before WRFT can take on specific projects and actions.

3.vii A key priority is to generate funding in support of these activities, particularly given that much of this work is not central to WRFT objectives and does not warrant core funding. We should often assist,

but not always lead.

3.viii There is funding for one further year of sweep netting and sea lice data analysis/reporting. Preliminary data analysis from MSS suggests this is a worthwhile activity.

3.ix After discussion on the future direction of the Trust the following was agreed in principle:

- Little Gruinard FMP is a priority even though funding for it is unlikely from SNH t (some help may be available from the estate).
- The carrying capacity project is also a priority and should yield important data/results that can then be applied to other rivers within our area.
- The herring project is deemed potentially valuable and the initial results will determine future actions.
- Creation of a GIS basis for spatial analysis of fish production, lice burden and environmental factors was considered worthy of further exploration.
- Continuation of WRFT's primary and secondary school projects (Salmon & Trout and Living Lochs) was considered of primary importance and should continue.
- A "Loch Maree" seminar would need grant funding before proceeding, but the proposed stocking seminar would merit core support, being central to the interests of Trust stakeholders.
- "Brown Trout" and "Arctic Charr" surveys will not feature within the 2010-11 work programme unless support, for example in the form of volunteers or student projects, is forthcoming.

4. AOB

4.i PC and **BB** are working on a range of potential field work projects that may be suitable for students from Aberdeen University

4.ii Existing WRFT educational projects are carrying on (see **3.ix**) and new projects may become available pending the results of the RAFTS tender process to develop new educational projects.

5.iii The Tournai Trap will be funded for 2010-11 by Marine Harvest and they have requested a written report on the findings.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management meeting	15 April 2010	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustees' meeting	27 May 2010	WRFT Office	14.00
AGM	27 May 2010	Poolewe Village Hall	19.45