

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT: Johnie Parry – Chairman (JP) Colonel A Lindsay (AL) John Mackenzie (JM) Bob Kindness (BK) Richard Wilson (RW) Richard Greene (RG)
PURPOSE:	TRUSTEE MEETING	
DATE:	29 JULY 2008	
OPENED AT:	10.30	
CLOSED AT:	15.45	
APOLOGIES:	Ian Fergusson (IF) Ben Hadfield (BH) Nigel Pearson (NP) Angus Morrison (AM) Peter Voy (PV)	IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Gibson (MG) Peter Cunningham (PC) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Peter Jarosz (PJ)

1. MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the 26th June meeting were passed as read with the slight point that Richard Greene was shown to be BOTH present and not present (with apologies). File copy has been amended correctly showing RG as not present.

2. TRUSTEES

- 2.i WRFT will write to **PV** in order to finalise the offer of Trustee made to PV some weeks ago. - **PJ**
- 2.ii WRFT will approach the secretary of the Gairloch Angling Club in order to seek a nominated representative from within their ranks to become a Trustee. - **PC**

3. FINANCE

- 3.i SFCC subscription is £1233 (will be paid this month) for 2008/9 and the RAFTS subscription of £750 appears to be missing from our budget.
- 3.ii The WRFT newsletter can be put on the web site and also forwarded to those members whose email addresses we already have. This should reduce both publishing and posting expenses
- 3.iii Sweep netting (the main WRFT project) is currently on target but will continue to be monitored to ensure that the full income is claimed.

4. PLANNING AHEAD

- 4.i There is still some money in WRFT budget (approx £530) for habitat surveys but we could apply for more funds from LFTC.
- 4.ii RAFTS have up to £7K for the Trust to produce and consult on a management plan.
- 4.iii Some money will be requested for genetic work (employing a project officer) – this will come from money given to FTS from the Scottish Government.
- 4.iv Salmon in the Classroom project costs approx £1.25K per school (and a total of 4 schools = £5K) and could potentially be funded by SNH.
- 4.v WRFT have had the river survey contract confirmed (£2850) and the fieldwork will be done this Thursday and Friday.
- 4.vi WRFT have a variety of projects that need to be progressed with finance (for them) being sourced from grant providers. We should also clarify whether £5K is still available to us from Crown Estate. - **PC**
- 4.vii **Peter C** has been in contact with the owner of the Craigh River. Do we need to do a FMP to ascertain stocks?
- 4.viii There was discussion on the Management Plan with concern from AL that WRFT's aims/objectives should always be in line with the Trust's original main "aims" (as per its Deed) viz. the welfare of wild fish stocks. So there is a need to agree on:
 - Aims and Objectives
 - Core activities
 - Projects prioritising.
- 4.ix To this end, Trustees will offer their comments on aims/objectives of the Management Plan within

the next few days.

4.x Discussion of WRFT's on-going core activities followed:

- With the point being made by BK of the need for a seminar on sweep netting so that there could be agreed standardisation of sweep netting methods/techniques so that the resultant data becomes more meaningful.
- With the note that, as yet, WRFT have no funding beyond this year for the Tournaig Trap – do we consider the information obtained from the trap to be worth seeking funding for it in future years?

4.xi For the proposed (not on-going) core activities it was noted that FRS (and, indeed, most other) funding is diminishing so WRFT needs to carefully consider the best and most cost effective techniques for the future.

4.xii Regarding the proposed core activities, WRFT should:

- Support but not lead on loch surveys.
- Promote habitat restoration projects to proprietors and ghillies.
- Possibly set up a demonstration project on habitat restoration (to prove its worth). This would require a well thought through project which must be collaborative with a proprietor.
- Encourage Highland Council to tackle (river and burn) culverts and obstructions.
- Progress work on Artic Charr – only if funded (Scottish Water?) – WRFT needs to find out what BAP states.
- Give further consideration to a herring/coastal water project with a single meeting to gauge interest.
- Progress Salmon in the Classroom project with a grant application for funding.
- Loch Maree day will be on October 11th (with no fishing taking place) and with the need to advertise the event on our web site and in the local press.

4.xiii Trustees were asked if they considered there were any further projects that should be progressed. There was some discussion of a possible project related to redd wash out:

- Smolt runs
- Fry distribution

5. BIOLOGIST'S PROGRESS REPORT

6. AOB

- Copies of an email from Peter Voy expressing concerns about lice and Trust responses to fish farm planning applications were circulated. There was a lengthy discussion on the points he raised, particularly in terms of the TWG policy of not making public the sweep netting data collected by RDOs.
- JP will be replying to him and the Trust will write to TWG and RAFTS to urge publication of lice data.
- BK stated that the sea lice situation in Loch Carron was a fraction of the problem that was there 20 years ago. He went on to raise his concern that recent winter spates (in consecutive years) in certain West Coast rivers were probably causing as big or even bigger problem (to sea trout population) as the sea lice.
- It was agreed that in future the Board, as the statutory consultee, should respond to relevant planning applications with the Trust recommending the nature and terms of each response.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management Group meeting	27 Aug 2008	WRFT Office	10.30
Management Group meeting	25 Sept 2008	WRFT Office	10.30