

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT:
PURPOSE: TRUSTEES' MEETING	John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM)
DATE: 24 September 2009	Barry Blake (BB)
OPENED AT: 10.30	Mark Williams (MW)
CLOSED AT: 15.30	Bob Kindness (BK)
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Cunningham (PC) Peter Jarosz (PJ)	Ian Fergusson (IF)
	APOLOGIES:
	Angus Morrison (AM)
	Richard Greene (RG)
	Nigel Pearson (NP)
	Richard Wilson (RW)
	Graeme Wilson (GW)
	Ben Hadfield (BH)
	Mary Gibson (MG)

1. MATTERS ARISING

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

2. TRUSTEES

2.i There has been no further progress on the recruitment of an Angling Club Representative as a WRFT Trustee. There was a suggestion that WRFT approach Dave Barclay with a view to filling this role. Although he is not an angling club member he is a keen fisherman and a prominent scientist. **PJ** will approach him initially.

3. FINANCE

3.i The Cash Projection file now have explanation notes (listed below the two main pages) for items that are made up of more than one entry. **PJ** will check the total figure (formula) of "Anticipated Year End" column.

3.ii **PJ** reported to the Trustees that it was now very obvious that "traditional" grant funders are more discerning/selective/demanding over their acceptance of applications and their decision making is based more on the "quality/deliverability" of the actual project than on its annual repetitiveness.

WRFT needs to be as "professional" as possible in both its project selection and grant application approach.

3.iii WRFT will purchase (from core funds) an additional "tank" for the Salmon & Trout in the Classroom project for this year – five schools to visit both this and next year.

3.iv **IF** said that small (annual) increases on the Southern River proprietors' invoices are preferable than one large percentage increase every so often.

However, as proprietors in the Board area were being levied at the same rate as last year, it was decided to leave the Southern River invoice figures the same as last year's and henceforth WRFT should "keep in step" with the Board's levy increases.

When invoicing this year, **PJ** will send copies of all the invoices through to **NP** for his information.

3.v There were no queries on the management reports.

3.vi **VM** said that the draft accounts had just been received that morning and that it was therefore too soon to report anything of substance about them. Trustees were advised of a late change in the system of allocation of the RAFTS monies for 2008/9.

4. PLANNING AHEAD – BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

4.i WRFT has received a number of e-mails from the Skye Fisheries Trust that (taken together) were not obviously quantifying the amount of work on Skye that could be available for a second WRFT biologist.

4.ii The amount of "additional" work within WRFT's yearly programme was also not easily quantifiable.

There was some discussion on the merits of electro-fishing all rivers on an annual basis (something that is not achievable with WRFT's current resources).

BK said that there is case for electro-fishing rivers more than once a year as the measuring of smolts is a key area and, at the moment, remains a very "grey" area.

4.iii It was agreed to maintain a watching brief on the second biologist issue for at least another month to allow the position of future TWG funding to become clearer.

the projects were currently situated.

4.v The initial “skeletal” report of the Biosecurity Plan needs to be completed and returned to RAFTS by the end of December 2009.

Chris Horril’s plan for a “multi-Trust” involvement in Biosecurity projects is an issue for a Trustees’ decision.

5. AOB

5.i Following on from point **3.ii**, Trustees decided that both Peters must be involved in all new opportunities and that all new projects should go out to Trustees for approval/critique.

5.ii The bullet points of RAFTS’ documented appraisal of the TWG were discussed and Trustees were in complete agreement with all the points.

5.iii **BB** e-mailed RAFTS confirming WRFT’s unequivocal support on their TWG issue.

5.iv **PJ** will ‘phone Callum S re what progress has been made on the Health & Safety document that is being written (by Argyll F T) for Fishery Trusts. Meanwhile, **PC** reported that he is completing risk assessment forms before all field operations

5.v Both Peters gave a brief update on the initial report from the River Conservation Centre on the Tollaigh and Taagan burns which form the basis of the River Ewe/Loch Maree Habitat Restoration Project.

5.vi **PC** stated that there are a number of Hydro Scheme projects “on the table” at this time.

He will be going to the Hydro Project Fisheries Response Workshop before attempting to report on any of the current hydro scheme surveys..

5.vii The Stattic Point issue, as raised by Ewen and Jenny Scobie, was discussed in some detail. There appears to be an inadequacy/economy of the facts in the reports from both SNH and Highland Council that perhaps should be addressed. It was agreed that **this matter should be referred to** the Board.

5.viii **PJ** will be in Australia from 4th November 2009 to 9th January 2010. He will produce a list of weekly work that will need to be covered by **VM** or **BB**.

5.ix **PJ** will e-mail **IF**, **RW** and **NP** with a request for their feed-back/input as to a date in the first week February 2010 for our next Trustees’ meeting.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management meeting	29 Oct 2009	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustees’ meeting	04 Feb 2010	WRFT Office	10.30