

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) David Barclay (DB) Mark Williams (MW) Bob Kindness (BK) Graeme Wilson (GW)
PURPOSE: MANAGEMENT MEETING	
DATE: 27 May 2010	
OPENED AT: 14.00	
CLOSED AT: 18.00	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Peter Cunningham (PC) Mary Gibson (MG) Veronica Mullaney (VM) Donna-Claire Hunter (DC) Melanie Smith (MS)	APOLOGIES: Angus Morrison (AM) Richard Wilson (RW) Richard Greene (RG) Nigel Pearson (NP) Ian Fergusson (IF) Ben Hadfield (BH)

1. MATTERS ARISING

- 1.i **JM** will get a quotation from S&J (accountants in Inverness) with a view to changing accountants for the financial year 2010-11.
- 1.ii Roger McLachlan will undertake training as an electro-fishing team leader next week.
- 1.iii **BB** has sent a further memo to Aberdeen University but there has been no formal response to date and no possibility of any projects this year.
- 1.iv RAFTS have been approached for funding for the Stocking Workshop.
- 1.v The electro-fishing kits have both been serviced for this year and one kit has had a new back frame fitted.

2. FINANCE

- 2.i In the current financial year core income will be similar to last year, but restricted income will be less. The Trust must anticipate some reduction in its overall financial position, but this is, as yet, not considered significant.
- 2.ii The amount of money in the bank has some implications for how WRFT project proposals will be viewed when we apply for grant monies from **some** charitable trusts but we do, nevertheless, need to keep one year's running costs as a contingency fund.
- 2.iii This is the first time for a number of years that the Trust will not be receiving any grant monies from SNH, and this is symptomatic of the likely climate with respect to future government funding.
- 2.iv **PJ** will include the previous two year's bank figures in the new summary cash projection sheet to facilitate year on year comparison.
- 2.v The budget for electro-fishing for this year will be for one and a half teams operating in the field.
- 2.vi The Herring Rediscovery Project is proceeding as planned, but it may be appropriate to ascertain whether further assistance might be required to expedite the interviewing process **BB**.
- 2.vii WRFT will set up personnel files (with terms of reference etc.) for all staff, and these should be kept in a secure filing cabinet along with the Trustees' "black book" – **PJ/PC**.

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

- 3.i . The FASMOP salmon genetics project has yielded preliminary results, and the Trust will need to consider what further investment might be required. Brown Trout genetic work is now undertaken independently by Dr Kett of Middlesex University, but the Trust should consider how work on Loch Maree Sea Trout genetics might be progressed.
- 3.ii 2009 was a good year for "clean" fish with low lice numbers. Our main sweep-netting for 2010 will be in June when the Sea Trout have been in coastal waters for some time. The future of sweep netting post -TWG remains uncertain.
- 3.iv Analysis of existing sea lice data by MSS is on-going and results may not be available until December 2010. Government must be encouraged to accelerate the process and, failing that, there is a case for west coast Trusts to try to set up an independent analysis.
- 3.v WRFT's biosecurity plans need to be updated to take account of comments received from consultees.
- 3.vi Set lines have been seen in Loch Tollaidh over the winter suggesting that people may be fishing for non-indigenous fish. It was agreed to provide information to anglers in the form of signs and leaflets at appropriate places as well as advertising in local papers. **PC** will produce text for a suitable sign providing information to anglers and, where appropriate, re-directing them away from certain lochs to Bad na Salaig.

3.vii PC is in the final stages of writing up the FMP for the Little Grunard River and the first draft will go to SNH for scrutiny and comment.

3.viii SEPA guidance is now available for assessing the impact of hydro schemes on fisheries. WRFT may have the opportunity to undertake data collection for some schemes on a consultancy basis, although the Trust should not undertake analysis work, thus avoiding any potential conflict of interest.

3.ix Project proposals to RAFTS for 2010-11 need to be “worked up” along with their associated costings. **PC, PJ, BB**.

4. AOB

4.i There is a possibility of a shared/jointly funded staff position with Inverness College. Dr Melanie Smith outlined the need for a part-time assistant to **BK** for practical work and research on the River Carron restoration project. The post would be employed and managed by Inverness College with a MoU agreement between WRFT and the college. The position would be a research assistant on approximately £25-28K plus pension resulting in an overall annual cost of circa £36K split equally between WRFT and IC. Skye Fisheries Trust also needs a biologist and is keen to collaborate and commit money to WRFT’s half share of this person. The post could pick up on research themes for WRFT, perhaps develop consultancy opportunities and be a presence in the southern part of the Trust’s area (ideally, the person would be located near Loch Carron). A subgroup of **BB, DB, MS** and **BK** will consider the implications and opportunities in more detail.

4.ii The current TWG ends in March 2011 and a meeting of west coast Trusts was convened in Inverness to consider the desirability of, and options for, a follow-up project. It was generally (although not unanimously) agreed that there is merit in pursuing further activity and this is now under discussion with RAFTS.

4.iii Following the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel seminar/training course on 17th June, SNH will be conducting a FWPM research project that includes the Tollaidh burn.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Management meeting	21 July 2010	WRFT Office	10.30
Trustees’ meeting	? ? 2010	WRFT Office	10.30