

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES		PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) David Barclay (DB)	
DATE:	6 September 2011	APOLOGIES:	
OPENED AT:	10.30	Angus Morrison (AM)	Nigel Pearson (NP)
CLOSED AT:	14.00	Ian Fergusson (IF)	Bob Kindness (BK)
IN ATTENDANCE:		Richard Wilson (RW)	Ben Hadfield (BH)
Peter Cunningham (PC)	Mary Gibson (MG)	Mark Williams (MW)	Barry Blake (BB)
Peter Jarosz (PJ)	Veronica Mullaney (VM)	Graeme Wilson (GW)	Richard Greene (RG)
Jonah Tosney (JT)			

1. MATTERS ARISING

1.i There were a couple of matters arising from the 3rd August minutes;

- PC is to produce a schedule of proposed random site visits across all fish farms.
- WRFT did not respond to the RAFTS draft “Code of Good Governance” by the original deadline of 31st August as the deadline has been extended to Monday 19th September.

2. FINANCE

2.i The cash projections reflect a healthy financial position – PJ commented that monies being transferred between deposit and current accounts (and vice versa) in the same month are not shown in the cash projections as they do not affect the overall cash figures.

2.ii In the cash projections the “contracted out core labour” figure includes all casual labour costs. However, a portion of these casual labour costs pertain to actual contract work and will be recovered later when the contracts have been invoiced and paid.

2.iii It was agreed that “surplus” monies in the current account should be moved into our deposit accounts.

2.iv The Little Gruniard SAC contract is in place but, as yet, there is no news on further RAFTS projects – PJ will check out the latest position on these.

2.v A grant application to the Co-operative Community Fund has not been successful however an application to the RBS Community Force (for the Angling Information project) has got passed the first stage of approval.

2.vi The contract work on the Coulin Estate needs an invoice raised for payment – the costs of which may have exceeded our original estimate.

2.vii A meeting with the auditor (and VM) tomorrow should lead to the final drafting for the 2010-11 accounts.

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

3i Peter Cunningham’s biologist’s report:

- Sea-lice numbers on wild fish are above background levels but are low in Loch Ewe.
- PC reported that salmon rod catches on R Ewe were 200 to date but that the sea-trout rod catches on L Maree were low.
- The Bruachaig Restoration project is ready to be expanded considerably into a five year major stocking out programme of 100,000 eggs/year (by year two). With the current stock of 1,700 parr, we need to agree how many of these need to be retained as brood stock and, therefore, how many can be stocked out this year. Ideally genetic work on the stock should start in year two and continue for three years. This programme will be costed for funding submission to MH.

- WRFT have £500 from RAFTS for the Mink project – this amount may cover the cost of our main roles of distributing traps (to be set from Boor to Laide) and setting up networks
- The Wild Trout & Artic Charr Discovery Week needs a revised/justified programme for costing and then (dependant on costs) approval by trustees. **PC/JT**

3.ii Jonah Tosney's biologist's report:

- WRFT have objected to the MH proposed expansion of their Letterfearn site on L Duich to 2000 tonnes. WRFT are currently negotiating with MH over reduction in biomass, lower lice targets and monitoring of wild fish. If adequate concessions and assurances are provided by M.H. the objection will be withdrawn.
- JT also reported that SSC are proposing five new sites for fish farm development and the planning applications are expected before the end of the year.
- JT said that he and DB hoped to have a meeting next week with James Hutton Institute regarding the Angling Information Service. Rather than having its own web site (and the costs associated with it), there is a case for this proposed system to “nestle” under a new RAFTS Angling Diary web site. There is also possible grant funding towards this project from the RBS Community Force

3.iii Sea Bed Leasing from Crown Estate

George Hamilton (Countryside, Heritage & Natural Resources Manager) of HC is interested in principle in supporting this project but needs to see the detail. SNH need to link to this project but would have to see an improvements/active management plan in place.

3,iv Torridon AMA

MH were in attendance at the Torridon meeting but not SSC when MSS reported high numbers of sea-lice this year. MH confirmed the high numbers and the pattern of numbers – after two treatments there were still problems

4. AOB

There is a possibility of Crown Estate funding for individual projects rather than through RAFTS

It is hoped to secure a second year of employment for JT but confirmation from UHI of their needed funding is awaited.

NEXT MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Trustees' meeting	11/10/2011	WRFT Office	10.30