

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES	PRESENT: John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM) Barry Blake (BB) David Barclay (DB) Graeme Wilson (GW)
PURPOSE: MANAGEMENT MEETING	APOLOGIES: Angus Morrison (AM) Richard Greene (RG) Nigel Pearson (NP) Richard Wilson (RW) Ben Hadfield (BH) Mark Williams (MW) Bob Kindness (BK) Ian Fergusson (IF)
DATE: 14 January 2010	
OPENED AT: 10.30	
CLOSED AT: 15.00	
IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Jarosz (PJ) Mary Gibson (MG) Peter Cunningham (PC) Veronica Mullaney (VM)	

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. i There were no matters arising and minutes of the 29th October meeting were passed as read.

2. FINANCE

2.i The Cash Projection for December were presented at the meeting with some adjustments to both Income and Expenses figures reflecting more realistic expectations for the remainder of the financial year.

2.ii A couple of unpaid Southern River proprietors' invoices need chasing up along with fish packet invoices that are out-standing from Argyll and Lomond Fisheries - **PJ**.

2.iii A number of restricted funded projects appear to have fallen short of their budget figures – in some cases this may be due to incorrect booking/analysis of time. However, the sweep netting project is significantly behind budget – **PJ** and **VM** will “trawl” through time sheets in case viable time booking can be put against this project's funding budget.

2.iv WRFT has spent just short of £13K on e-fishing this season.

2.v Both the Bruachaig and the Tournaig Trap projects will almost certainly run over budget this year.

2.vi The Biosecurity Project (funded by RAFTS) is over budget and WRFT can ask itself what role it has in the implementation – need to be clear what RAFTS' significant plans are and see if there are projects for WRFT to participate in as well as how other organisations see their implementation rolling out.

2.vii The Carrying Capacity project is over-spent against actual funding with further work (5 days) required this financial year. Further costs will need to be within WRFT's in-kind contribution figure for this project.

2.viii PC's time involvement and cost (as both secretary and participant) with WREN importantly demonstrates WRFT's commitment to and support for biodiversity.

3. FORWARD PLANNING & KEY ISSUES

3.i Discussions continue on relocation of existing fish farm sites – economic impacts? Andrew Wallace has raised a number of questions that WRFT/Board need to respond to – PC will first draft and then discuss with BB WRFT response.

3.ii Still awaiting to sight the full planning application and its environmental impact assessment.

4. BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

4.i The Tournaig Trap requires a budget of £2.5K - £3.5K per annum to operate/report on and is currently financed by Marine Harvest (£2.5K) – would Tournaig/Letterewe Estate be willing to contribute? Tournaig has provided (over the past 10 years) valuable information on salmon and sea-trout dynamics and the generic work will also prove very interesting.

4.ii The RST on River Ewe has a £5K budget (from SG) and will be “rolled over” into 2010/11. **PC** will provide advice only and its operation will be by the ghillies and helpers.

4.iii **DB** offered to collect and input data on brown trout in the hill lochs.

4.iv WRFT needs to clarify the impact of Scottish & Southern Energy's diversion of water (from the headwater of the Bruachaig) on the fish producing potential of the system and also approach S&SE as potential contributors to the Bruachaig Project – **PC/PJ**.

4.v The sweep netting programme has fallen well short of its budget and could be re-started again

(before the end of the financial year). Report writing will also take up some of the unused budget monies. See **2.iii**.

4.vi Little Gruinard Fisheries Management Plan is a potential project for 2010/11. Information on habitat and electro-fishing exists and could be amalgamated into a management plan. This should reflect its SAC objectives and management implications. SNH could input in kind.

4.vii Possible seminars for the coming year could include:

- Research seminar on Loch Maree in conjunction with SNH but there is a need to develop the theme.
- Another opportunity is an awareness raising day – this too, needs a clear focus and could attract funding from SNH.

4.viii Current discussions with Aberdeen University may result in WRFT projects involving final year undergraduates. Accommodation for the undergraduates may be available at Little Gruinard with SNH possibly be involved with financing it.

5. AOB

5.i There is no further news on the insurance “guidance” from RAFTS – **PJ** will follow up..

5.ii The Tournaig Trap funding is far from certain at the moment. Marine Harvest have funded this project for the past two years and will be approached for further funding but other potential funders such as Tournaig or Letterewe Estates could also be approached – **PJ**.

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Trustees' meeting	04 Feb 2010	WRFT Office	10.30
Management meeting	15 April 2010	WRFT Office	10.30