

Cromarty Fisheries



**Cromarty Firth Fishery Board
Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting at CKD
Galbraith offices, Inverness
Tuesday 25th September 2012**

Present	
Mr A Matheson – Convener	AM
Mr S McKelvey – Director	SM
Dr A Stephen – SSE Biologist	AS
Lord Nickson - LFFT	LN
Mr I Rathbone – (part only)	IR
Mr R Whitson – Clerk	RW

1.	Welcome	Action
2.	Apologies	
	Mr I Duncan – Vice Convener (ID)	
3.	Minutes of Meeting – 24th April 2012	
	The minutes were approved.	
4.	Matters Arising	
	It was decided that the matters arising would be covered during the course of the agenda.	
5.	Accounts	
	IR joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the current bank balances:	

	<p>Clydesdale Bank £24,585.57 HSBC £38,947.66</p> <p>Grand total of £63,533.23</p> <p>SSE purchase orders were discussed and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to SSE to clarify the position.</p> <p>The year end accounts were presented to the Board. The accounts reflect a good financial position overall and good budgetary control.</p> <p>Due to a slight delay in agreeing a budget for FY12/13 it was not possible to confirm actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR/SM</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Conservation Policy 2013 and Carcass Tagging Update</p>	
	<p>The Conservation Policy is to remain as it is and a new letter will be issued for the next fishing season confirming this point.</p> <p>As regards carcass tagging, SM emphasised that the carcass tagging trial is still in its infancy and both he and the head bailiff are generally happy with the process and procedures.</p> <p>The majority of angling clubs appear to have accepted the policy. SM described a recent situation outwith the CFFB area, where a poacher had been caught with 20 salmon. If these fish had been tagged police would have been able to identify where they had been caught and it would have been useful in securing a prosecution.</p> <p>Whilst discussing this issue, Agenda item 15, Police Liaison was covered. SM commented on a good positive relationship with the local Constabulary and useful meetings with the new Police Inspector in Dingwall.</p> <p>SM has offered police training with 3 IFM staff and other</p>	<p>RW</p>

	<p>bailiffing staff at Tullyallan and we await a response.</p> <p>It is generally felt that this subject is not well understood particularly by younger members of the Constabulary and it would be generally beneficial for them to have a better understanding of the powers of the bailiff and some related wildlife legislation.</p>	
7.	Board Ownership and Assets Update	
	<p>RW gave a summary of progress to date regarding clarifying the title over the Balintore Bothy.</p> <p>The Allt Graad river ownership was discussed with the Highland Deephaven ownership now clarified and an application for assessment lying with the District Valuer. The other section of the Allt Graad belonging to Alpin MacDonald has not been progressed unfortunately due to perceived reluctance to discuss this stretch of river with the board.</p> <p>The bottom section of the Balnagowan River from the bridge, belongs to a Mr Howden. RW offered to try and find an address to make contact with him to discuss.</p> <p>The Dingwall Angling Club lease is now in place on the lower Conon and rent has been paid for the financial year.</p>	RW
8	ASFB Recommended Website Update	
	<p>SM briefed the committee that the website was now up and running it being developed further and a request would go out for further information in due course.</p>	SM
9	Aquacultural and Fisheries Bill Update	
	<p>RW and SM gave a summary of responses from the consultation process and we await the presentation being placed before the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Item 16 was discussed at this point - Code of Good Practice Guide Update. SM briefed the Committee that</p>	

	<p>the document was being launched at the IFM conference. Much work had gone into making it a usable document and it was generally being well received by those who had read it to date.</p>	
10.	Disused Netting Stations and Board Owned Netting Stations Policy	
	<p>The board owns 7 netting stations of which 4 are let. It was agreed to clarify the situation regarding un-fished netting stations and their possible reversion to the crown.</p> <p>It was also agreed to check the latest position of the Let Netting stations where no lease exists currently.</p> <p>It was agreed to try and acquire the lease from an existing netting station elsewhere to guide the Board on levels of rent and types of lease.</p> <p>It was further agreed that letting of board owned netting stations was a delicate balance between actively controlling poaching through a netsman being present and the Board's position regarding the conservation of migratory fish.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>RW</p> <p>RW/ SM</p>
11.	Directors Report	
	<p>SM gave an update on the Corrie Feol Project, natural spawning, the Peffery restoration works, the SEPA restoration fund and Balnagowen Weir and the fish pass at the distillery on Logie Burn.</p> <p>Hydro Report – non agenda item. AS presented a brief report on hydro activities and this is attached to the minutes.</p>	
12.	Eu Life Bid	
	<p>SM briefed the Committee that a Eu Life Bid had been submitted, a five year programme designed to tackle invasive species over 5 years.</p> <p>The bid was worth approximately £5 million across all the</p>	

	trusts and could be of great value. AS highlighted the onerous burden of record keeping. The results for will be published in April and we look forward to that.	
13.	TCV Apprentice	
	The Board had been approached by the Trust for Conservation volunteers who have funding for an 18 month fishery apprenticeship. SM had interviewed and offered employment to Natalie Young with a start date of 15 th November.	
17.	AOCB	
	It has come to the Committee's attention that an individual has approached one of the proprietors with a view to setting up a net cleaning business in a redundant farm building. This does raise a number of concerns and it was agreed that this would be investigated further.	SM
18.	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 4 th June 2013 Committee Meeting Friday 7 th June 2013	