



Skye District Salmon Fishery Board

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 8th October 2015 at Aros Heritage Centre, Portree at 10.30 am

Present

Derek Dowsett (Snizort and Acting Convenor), Neil Cameron (Portree Angling Association and Scottish Government), Peter Jarosz (Wester Ross DSFB), Martin Leslie (Braes Estate), Ian Lindsay (Skye Fisheries Trust), Ally Macaskill (John Muir Trust), Ewen MacPherson (SGRPID), Isabel Moore (Skye Fisheries Trust), Bill Wright (Marine Harvest) and Jim Rennie (Clerk).

1. Acting Convenor's Welcome

Derek Dowsett welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter (Convenor) + Berni Kinloch (Kingsburgh), Duncan Burd (Ullinish & Gesto), Alan Johnson (Camasunary/Coruisk), Claire Lumley-Holmes (Marine Harvest), Sara McGrory (SNH), Bill Peppe (Drynoch and Borline) and Richard Oliphant of Condie (Kylarhea).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2014

The minutes of the previous AGM were proposed for approval by Martin Leslie and seconded by Neil Cameron.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

a) *Discharge of Effluent near Black Rock, Portree* Derek Dowsett advised that he could find nothing on the SEPA website. Martin Leslie advised that he had been in contact with SEPA regarding the matter, but had got nowhere. All they said was that solids had been removed, but no information as to what was in the liquid discharge was divulged. The effect on the seabed is unknown. Bill Wright noted that tests are carried out round their fish farm and these tests need to pass a certain level if they are to continue in production. Ian Lindsay noted that one company had a tonnage reduction imposed following failure to pass the relevant tests. **Derek Dowsett** will follow this matter up and will ask Rebecca Dean if her employers (Scottish Salmon) have relevant information which they are willing to share.

b) *Outstanding Levy Payments* The Clerk noted that he had not been in contact with Highland Council, the Area Assessor or Angus Sutherland. He had, however, received payment from the current owners of the Broadford Hotel for 2014, but they were unwilling to pay for the previous owner's failure to pay. That payment may need to be written off. **Derek Dowsett** noted that he has details of the current owner of the Lealt (south) fishings.

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c) Convenor's Report Derek Dowsett had spoken to Peter Kinloch regarding the missing report and the matter was concluded. The proposed 'River Watch' has not been progressed.

d) Re-assessment of Levy The Clerk advised that the reason for the increased levy had been explained when the request was issued to proprietors or tenants.

5. Annual Accounts for 2014

The Clerk presented the audited accounts for 2014, which were proposed for approval by Martin Leslie, seconded by Neil Cameron. In the Clerk's absence from the meeting, consideration was given to the Honorarium to be paid. Neil Cameron proposed £500, seconded by Martin Leslie, and this became the finding of the meeting.

6. Clerk's Annual Report

The Clerk noted that outstanding payments are due from Clan Donald Lands Trust, Forestry Commission, Michael Heaney, Emily Hohler, Sir Ian Macdonald of Sleat, Derek Dowsett, Ms J M Geischer, Charles Macdonald, David Urquhart and Angus Sutherland. There was discussion regarding Charles MacDonald's failure to pay since his fishings were first given a valuation by the Area Assessor. **Derek Dowsett** will approach him and request an equivalent donation to the Skye Fisheries Trust. **Martin Leslie** will also speak to him when he has an opportunity.

7. Convener's Report

The report was noted. As it includes Peter Kinloch's resignation as Convenor, Martin Leslie suggested that a letter should be sent to him to thank him for all that he has done for the Board in recent years. **Derek Dowsett** agreed to write the letter.

8. Re-assessment of levy charged to proprietors

Before Board members determined what levy to charge, Peter Jarosz was asked for his views on the likely timetable for the Scottish Government's proposed legislation to dissolve DSFBs. He had attended a meeting in Inverness recently and advised that it is hoped that a Bill will be presented to Parliament by February 2016 and that it is hoped that an Act of Parliament will be passed by October 2016. It is possible, therefore, that it will be up to 2 years before Boards are dissolved, but they could be dissolved as soon as the Act is passed.

In the light of the foregoing, Martin Leslie proposed, seconded by Neil Cameron, that the levy should remain at 40p in the £. This will apply for both 2015 and 2016.

9. Election of Office Bearers

Peter Kinloch has resigned as Convenor and Donald Matheson as Vice-Convenor. Derek Dowsett offered to act as Convenor and Martin Leslie, seconded by Neil Cameron, proposed acceptance of the offer. As far as Donald Matheson is concerned, Martin Leslie, seconded by Ewen MacPherson, agreed to speak to him to persuade him to withdraw his resignation. Neil Cameron, seconded by Ally MacAskill, proposed that Jim Rennie should continue as Clerk. This was agreed.

10. Any Other Competent Business

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Martin Leslie proposed that, if the Scottish Government winds up DSFBs, the Board's assets should be passed to the Skye Fisheries Trust. Bill Wright seconded the proposal, and this became the finding of the meeting. Peter Jarosz noted that, in Wester Ross, netting rights have been passed to the Fisheries Trust. THi

No members of the public attended the meeting so the meeting was concluded.

Catriona Leslie proposed a Vote of Thanks to Derek Dowsett for chairing the meeting.

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