



Skye District Salmon Fishery Board

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 16th March 2017 at Aros Heritage Centre, Portree at 10.30am

Present

Derek Dowsett (Snizort and Convenor), Duncan Burd (Red Burn, etc.), Neil Cameron (Portree Angling Association and Scottish Government), Rebecca Dean (Scottish Salmon Company) Peter Jarosz (Wester Ross DSFB), Martin Leslie (Braes Estate), Ian Lindsay (Skye Fisheries Trust), Ally MacAskill (John Muir Trust), Chris Read (Marine Harvest), Ewen MacPherson (SGRPID, Portree), Bill Peppe (Drynoch and Borline Fishings) and Jim Rennie (Clerk).

1. Convenor's Welcome

Derek Dowsett welcomed everyone to the meeting. The prospect of the Board's demise at the last AGM has been removed with the Scottish Government altering its views.

2. Apologies

Peter and Berni Kinloch (Kingsburgh Fishings), Grant Fullarton (Broadford River – upper), Catriona Leslie (Braes Estate), Lord Macdonald (Kinloch River), Sarah McGrory (SNH), Donald Matheson (Staffin and Braes Nets), Isabel Moore (Skye Fisheries Trust Biologist) and Richard Oliphant of Condie (Kylarhea Fishings).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2016

Subject to amendment of paragraph 4b to read SEPA instead of Scottish Salmon and paragraph 5 line5 to read 2015 instead of 20158, Neil Cameron, seconded by Duncan Burd, proposed approval. Members agreed,

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

a) Discharge of Effluent near Black Rock, Portree It was suggested that Scottish Water, as the discharge should be approached. Rebecca Dean noted that someone (either SEPA or Scottish Water) has done sampling of the effluent. Derek Dowsett agreed to contact both SEPA and Scottish Water requesting information following the sampling carried out.

Action point DD

b) Outstanding Levy Payments Ewen MacPherson has an address for the lessee (on a 999 year lease) of the Lealt Fishings (south bank) and will pass to Derek Dowsett.

Action point EM and DD

Ian Lindsay enquired about the total levies outstanding. Jim Rennie advised that he would check details later and advise accordingly. Martin Convenor; Derek Dowsett, The Hatchery, Skeabost Bridge, Isle of Skye, IV51 9NP
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Leslie suggested that a list of all those with outstanding levies be produced and what they owe the Board: he also suggested that it would be interesting to see when they last attended a board meeting. Jim Rennie will arrange accordingly. **Action JR**

There was discussion regarding the costs of taking legal action to force payment. Peter Jarosz offered to provide Derek Dowsett with the form of wording his Board has used in similar circumstances. **Action PJ and DD**

5. Annual Accounts for 2016

The Clerk presented the audited accounts for 2016. There was a query as to why the accounts do not show levy payments owing to the Board. The Clerk will discuss with Donald Rankin's office to see if this would be possible in future years. Bill Peppe, seconded by Duncan Burd, proposed approval of the accounts. This became the finding of the meeting. The Clerk noted that the Board has two bank accounts. One is called the RDO account and dates back to when Rebecca Dean was employed as the Regional Development Officer for Skye. Duncan Burd, seconded by Neil Cameron, proposed that this account should be closed and the money be transferred to the main account. This was agreed. Martin Leslie, seconded by Duncan Burd, proposed that, as our bank balances are healthy, the Board should donate £5,000 to the Skye Fisheries Trust. This was agreed. **Action JR**

6. Clerk's Annual Report

This was noted. Derek Dowsett will follow up outstanding levy payments.

Action DD

7. Convenor's Report

Rebecca Dean commented that, under the new SEPA model, monitoring will be carried out over the first production cycle, especially the area between two adjacent sites. If overlapping of effects appear, SEPA will issue requirements and recommendations to SSC for remedial measures. Ian Lindsay commented that more opportunities for local monitoring (produced by local biologist teams) could provide an impartial scientific assessment (Fisheries Management Plan) to aquaculture companies. These FMP's could then be integrated into any planning applications in future.

8. Re-assessment of levy charged to proprietors

The current levy of 40p in the pound Sterling was considered adequate as no increase in expenditure by the Board is anticipated. Martin Leslie, seconded by Duncan Burd proposed that it should remain at 40p in the pound Sterling for 2017. This became the finding of the meeting.

9. Election of Office Bearers

Derek Dowsett was proposed as Convenor by Duncan Burd, seconded by Bill Peppe.

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Donald Matheson was proposed as Vice-Convenor by Martin Leslie, seconded by Duncan Burd.

Jim Rennie was proposed as Clerk by Duncan Burd, seconded by Ally MacAskill.

There were no further nominations, so these 3 were duly elected.

10. Update on Skye Salmon Management Group meeting held earlier

Derek Dowsett noted that a good meeting had been held. The salmon farming industry had suffered significant disease problems and subsequent loss of stock over the last year in the Skye district. No minutes of the SSMG are to be produced in order to retain the confidentiality of matters discussed. Ally MacAskill enquired about the John Muir Trust joining and was advised of the procedures to be followed and the need to become a signatory to agreement signed by all participants.

It was also reported that Stuart Cannon of Kames Fish Farms had attended the meeting and was accepted as a signatory and member of the SSMG. Kames will be installing a fish farm in Loch Pooltiel this year.

11. Discussion on pros and cons of merging the Board with Wester Ross DSFB

There is a wide variation in rates poundage between the two Boards. Part of the proposed extended Board area has no Board coverage at present. However, only one proprietor has failed to respond to an approach about the proposal to merge the two Boards. All others (covering 95% of the area) are in agreement with the proposal. We have a lot of proprietors who don't attend meetings and this may be problematic. Should amalgamation be proposed, the Scottish Government need to be involved as Boards are created by Government legislation. Simon Dryden, head of Aquaculture at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, is the point of contact and both Boards will participate in discussions regarding a possible merger. SDSFB Board members were content to let discussions start. Any proposal to amalgamate would need to be approved by Board members and the Scottish Government.

12. Any Other Competent Business

No members of the public attended the meeting, so business was concluded with Martin Leslie proposing a Vote of Thanks to Derek Dowsett for chairing the meeting.

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