

Minute of Quarterly Meeting held on 17 July 2020
Location: Teams meeting

Present:	Apologies:
John McKenzie (Mandated Allan Water Angling Improvement Association) (JMc) – Chair	Chris Thomas (CT) Aly Dickson (Lanrick) (AD)
Tony Cameron (Leny) (TC)	
Fiona Simpson (Mandated Crown Estates) (FS)	
Peter Yates (Mandated Cambusmore) (PY)	Not Present:
Craig Somerville (Co-opted Anglers Rep) (CS)	David Crichton (Mandated Stirling Council) (DC)
Jamie Muir (Blair Drummond) (JMu)	
In attendance:	
Alison Baker – Clerk to the Board (AB)	Jonathan Louis – Operations Manager (JL)
Lee Fisher – Superintendent (LF)	

The meeting opened at 6.00pm – **closed meeting (due to COVID 19 restrictions)**

Ref	Item	Action
1.0	Minutes of the previous meeting	
1.1	The minutes of the previous meetings held on 7 th October 2020 were reviewed. It was confirmed they were a true record of the meeting. Proposed: JMc, seconded: TC	
2.0	Matters arising:	
2.1	All board members to fill in survey to update registers for 2020. Link - https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9LDPJSY All complete and on the website	
2.2	The 2019 Annual report is still in draft. CT has provided comments on the report. <i>AB to update</i>	AB
2.3	Access to some of the estuary netting videos could not be accessed. JL has recirculated the links for the estuary illegal fishing videos.	
2.4	Electrofishing report and information. AB and JMu haven't caught up on reporting of electrofishing results. Draft of the information from 2019 issued.	
2.5	Report on benefits of barriers - delayed – awaiting input from monitoring results (now complete). To be actioned.	AB
2.6	Budget re-circulated, a summary report with an updated budget attached.	
3.0	Governance	
3.1	Review of the Code of Practice Compliance and Registers of Interest. All members compliant and no new interests noted.	
3.2	It was confirmed that the ForthDSFB was unable to hold its Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors due to advice from FishLegal and this was postponed until restrictions on public meetings had been relaxed. All meetings would continue remotely via Teams until such time as this was possible. All to note.	
4.0	COVID 19 Response	
4.1	The report prepared by the Clerk was discussed. Most of the current restrictions were not having a negative impact on fisheries.	
4.2	Some fishing huts had remained closed and this meant that access to catch books was not possible. Fisheries ever therefore actively pursuing catch data to ensure they were as complete as possible.	

4.3	The financial impacts on the fishery due to COVID 19 were discussed and in particular in relation to any additional to existing financing issues. The Clerk highlighted that there was a survey to collect data on the impacts of COVID on fisheries running and that she was responding on behalf of the board but that individual fisheries could also respond.	
5.0	Financial reporting	
5.1	The summary document was reviewed and it was agreed that there would be a meeting arranged to discuss the finances and budgeting before Christmas – AB to arrange.	AB
6.0	Reports	
6.1	The catch returns summary was discussed. The issues of obtaining accurate figures was further considered as well as the difficulties of the ForthDSFB obtaining Catch returns due mainly to the already high level of forms that proprietors and tenants were being asked to fill in. AB to review the process and to advise further.	
6.2	It was agreed that the recommendation to request a change to the close time to protect salmon in the estuary area would be pursued with Marine Scotland. AB to action.	AB
6.3	The Clerks report was reviewed and it was noted the high number of consultations. AB confirmed that she was working with FMS and other DSFBs/Trusts to ensure applicants for CAR licensing from SEPA were being asked to undertake appropriate aquatic assessments.	
6.4	The Superintendents report was reviewed and again the Superintendent was commended for the action being taken to support fisheries and protect the fishery from illegal activity, particularly in respect of the better relationship with Police Scotland and other rural crime groups.	
6.5	Operations Managers report was reviewed. No comments made.	
	Fishing Around the Forth report was reviewed. The first year has been very successful despite (and maybe because of) the impact of COVID. Those using the platform had all found it very useful. Further evaluation would be undertaken after the end of the season.	
	Forth River Trust update was provide verbally – on the ground works was still being undertaken despite COVID including continuation of the Almond Barriers, tree planting on the Larig, Allan Water (Upper river restoration) as well as delivering the usual fieldwork surveys across the district.	
	SEPA update report. This continues with a number of SEPA actions still not being fulfilled in line with regulatory requirements or information received. These are now being escalated upward to Marne Scotland as they impact on the DSFB ability to deliver its statutory remit.	
7.0	Crown Estate Scotland/ForthDSFB Local pilot scheme	
7.1	AB confirmed that the agreement was in its final stages and she expected to be able to report completion within the next month.	
7.0	AOCB	
7.1	General thanks to the staff for continuing to work positively within the restrictions in posed by COVID for the befit of the fishery.	

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Finance meeting – date to be arranged.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Distribution: All Board Members and attendees