

DRAFT MINUTES OF FDSFB MEETING

19 November 2024

Dunblane Cathedral Halls, Dunblane

6.00pm – 8.30pm

Attendees
John McKenzie, Chair (Mandated by Allan Water Angling Improvement Association (Upper))
Alison Baker (Mandated by Drumardoch Estate)
Jamie Muir (Blair Drummond)
Graham Owens, Independent Anglers Rep
Fiona Simpson (Mandated by Crown Estates Scotland)
Peter Yates (Mandated by Cambusmore Estate)
Jordan Patterson (Mandated by Allan Water Angling Association (Lower))
Wendy Kenyon, Clerk
Lee Fisher, Superintendent
Amy Fergusson, Forth Rivers Trust
Jonathan Louis, Forth Rivers Trust
Attended for the Presentation on Loch Venachar only
Mike Buchanan (Cambusmore Estate)
John Jenkins (Loch Venachar Association)
Hugh Coulson (Loch Venachar Association)
Euan Innes (Scottish Water)
Apologies
Steve Jones (Independent Anglers Rep)
Not in Attendance
Aly Dickson (Lanrick Estate)
Dot Reid (Stirling Council Non-Elected Representative)

Loch Venachar Presentation by Euan Innes, Scottish Water

Prior to the Board meeting, Euan Innes (Scottish Water) made a presentation to the Board about Loch Venachar dam, fish pass issues, other factors related to management of the loch and Scottish Water's ongoing fish passage modelling project.

Members of the Board and other in attendance asked questions.

The Board were particularly interested in the possibility of installing a fish counter around the Loch Venachar dam. This would be explored by the Clerk after the meeting.

There was also interest in the spawning success of salmon in the Leny compared to the Venachar arm of the river.

THE BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome and introductions to Board Meeting

Jordan Patterson from Allan Water Angling Association was welcomed to his first meeting.

- **Action:** JMc agreed to finalise the paperwork for Jordan's appointment to the Board.

Minutes of Last Meeting, Actions and Matters Arising

The Board agreed to adopt the minutes of Board meeting held in August 2024.

There was discussion of the University of Stirling workshop on salmon conservation stocking attended by JM and PY.

The Board were informed that a 'Forth salmon telemetry research' meeting for Board members and the Forth Rivers Trust would be held on 2nd December at 7pm, in Stirling University CAMPUS CENTRAL building level 3 room 14 (3.14), in-person and online.

Bad debts and Non-payment of assessment

The Board considered the list of bad debt and the non-payment of assessment, with a number of actions agreed to address the issue.

Action:

- Managed Estates would be asked to chase up assessments not paid in 2024
- FS would look into non-payment by Crown Estate Scotland
- WK would contact Edinburgh Council to seek their outstanding payment
- JMc and WK would meet with the assessor to go through the roll, paying particular attention to the new listings
- WK would investigate payment of the assessment by the netting interests in recent years, including:
 - checking which netting proprietors have paid their assessment
 - sending (another) letter requesting any outstanding payment
 - if the payment remained outstanding, suggesting the debt would be written off if netting rights were transferred to the Board.

Opening day on the river in 2025

JMc had not heard again from the local business who expressed an interest in supporting the opening day on the river in 2025.

Actions:

- JMc would contact the local business again to see if they were interested in supporting an opening day on the river in 2025.
- JMc and WK would make plans for an opening day if the local business was not interested (with the help of the Operation Manager).

2. Governance

Health and Safety

The Board were informed of the process involved in developing the updated H&S Policy. The Board approved the policy.

Members were informed that Lee Fisher is the H&S officer for the Board.

- **Action:** In February 2025, Lee will review current H&S practice and operational documents and update them in line with the agreed H&S Policy. This would include H&S for staff and volunteers.

Register of Interests

Members who have not yet completed the Register of Interests were asked to do so immediately:

2025 Elections

It was noted that elections are due in May 2025. The Board agreed to discuss many people should be on the Board and how the Board would be representative of the District, at the February meeting.

- **Action:** make decisions regarding the election at February Board Meeting.

3. Reports

The Board noted the reports provided. Amy Fergusson from the Forth Rivers Trust made a presentation of the scientific work carried out in Loch Venachar.

4. Finances

The Board agreed that the budget would be discussed at a dedicated meeting in January.

5. AOB

The issue of the District's Conservation regulations were discussed and agreed that they should be edited.

- **Action:** LF to edit the Forth District's Conservation Regulations for 2025 and include guidance on grayling fishing.

6. Date of Next Meetings

The dates for the next meetings are (this has be:

- Tuesday 21 January 2025: Budget Meeting (6 – 7pm, online)
- Saturday 1 February 2025: Season Opening Day Ceremony (12 – 2pm)
- Tuesday 25 February 2025: Quarterly Board Meeting (6 – 8pm)

Decisions about subsequent meetings and elections to be confirmed in February meeting.

Wendy Kenyon
Clerk
November 2024

Summary of Actions

Actions Carried Forward from August 2024 Meeting

1. WK to post on the Annual Report 2023 on the website
2. WK and JMc to draft a budget for 2024/25
3. Board members asked to complete the Register of Interests if they had not already done so already.

Actions from November 2024 Meeting

- The Board were particularly interested in the possibility of installing a fish counter below Loch Venachar. This would be pursued by the Clerk after the meeting.
- JMc agreed to finalise the paperwork for Jordan's appointment to the Board.

Bad debts and Non-payment of assessment

- Managed Estates would be asked to chase up assessments not paid
- FS would look into non-payment by Crown Estate Scotland
- WK would contact Edinburgh Council to seek their payment
- JMc and WK would meet with the assessor to go through the roll, paying particular attention to the new listings
- WK would investigate payment of the assessment by the netting interests on the Forth, including:
 - checking which netting interests are paying their assessment
 - sending another letter requesting payment
 - suggesting the debt would be written off if the netting rights were transferred to the Board.
- JMc would contact the local business again to see if they were interested in supporting an opening day on the river in 2025.
- JMc and WK would make plans for an opening day if the local business was not interested (with the help of the Operation Manager).
- In February 2025, Lee will review current H&S practice and operational documents and update them in line with the agreed H&S Policy. This would include H&S for staff and volunteers.
- The Board would make decisions regarding the election at February Board Meeting.
- LF to edit the conservation regulations for 2025 and include guidance on grayling fishing.