

MINUTES OF FDSFB MEETING

25 February 2025

Dunblane Cathedral Halls, Dunblane

6.00pm – 8.00pm

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)
Aly Dickson (Lanrick Estate)
Steve Jones (Independent Anglers Rep)
Wendy Kenyon, Clerk
Lee Fisher, Superintendent
Amy Fergusson, Forth Rivers Trust
Jonathan Louis, Forth Rivers Trust
Not in Attendance
Jordan Patterson (Mandated by Allan Water Angling Association (Lower))
Dot Reid (Stirling Council Non-Elected Representative)

1	Welcome (Agenda – Paper 1) Board members were welcomed by the Chair and reminded that papers were available in the Members Portal.
2	Minutes of Last Meeting, Actions and Matters Arising - The Board accepted the Minutes of the November Meeting - Non-payment of assessment The Chair reported that he and the Clerk had met with the Assessor to discuss a number of disputed assessments. Work to address queries about assessments are ongoing. Action: The Chair and the Clerk would meet with JM to discuss his queries.
3	Governance

	• Health and Safety The Superintendent informed the Board of ongoing work on H&S especially with respect to bailiffs. He had put together a checklist to ensure all H&S policy is implemented and reviewed annually. He is also developing a body camera training module. The Superintendent is booked into an outdoor first aid course in March The Superintendent informed the Board that he was involved in a car accident on 7 February. Neither he nor the driver in the other car had been injured. The insurance company has paid out on the vehicle, which was written off in the accident. The incident has been included in the Accident Book held by the bailiff as a 'near miss'.
	• Register of Interests Action: Board members were asked to complete the register of interests, if they had not already done so: Register of Interest form. It takes just 4 minutes to complete! Thanks to John, Jamie, Alison, Graham and Peter for completing this register.
	• 2025 Elections The Board agreed to: – 10 proprietors places on the Board (7 upper and 3 lower) – upto 9 co-opted members – elections which would take place on 8 May in Dunblane Cathedral Halls, with a Board meeting beforehand. Action: The Clerk was asked to send out revised information for elections along with the Assessment and post information on the website
	• Colin Bull Pilot Research Proposal (Paper 6) The Board discussed the Stirling University pilot smolt sampling proposal on Teith. JM and others had been to meetings at Stirling University regarding the project. JM said that the research will be of great benefit to the Board and the Trust. The Board agreed to support the pilot project, subject to the relevant consents being obtained.
4	Reports
	Amy Fergusson from the Forth Rivers Trust presented the scientific work carried out with regard to the questions agreed by the Board about habitat above Loch Venachar. • The Board thanked Amy and the team for the detailed and useful work conducted. • Action: The Board agreed to send any comments to Amy on the report, so that a final version could be written, by 11 March. Once revised a final version of the report would be circulated • Action: The Board agreed that Mike Buchanan would be invited to present the work he has been doing in an online meeting, before the next Board meeting.

	• Action: The Clerk would arrange another meeting in due course, to discuss next steps in relation to Loch Venachar
5	Finances
	• Budget and poundage The Board was reminded that at an online meeting in January, members had the chance to scrutinise the draft budget. No major issues had been raised. The Clerk noted that some revisions had been made to the budget in light of one of the vehicles being written off in the accident. JM proposed that in the shortfall of expenditure over income could be covered with half being met from reserves and half by an increase in poundage. The Board agreed to this proposal. In light of the shortfall, it was also agreed that the donation made to the Forth Rivers Trust should be reduced by £10,000 in the budget for 2026/27. The Trust should be informed of this decision, to enable them to make their own financial plans for 2026/27. Action: The Clerk was asked to make the relevant calculations to determine the poundage for 2025/26. The Board would be informed and the assessments sent out thereafter.
6	AOB
7	Date of Next Meetings
	The following meeting and election dates for 2025 were agreed: ○ 8 May 2025: Quarterly Board Meeting & Elections (6 – 8pm) ○ Tuesday 19 August 2025: Public Meeting, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Quarterly Board Meeting (4 – 5pm, 5 – 6pm, 6 – 8pm) ○ Tuesday 18 November 2025: Quarterly Board Meeting (6 – 8pm).

Summary of Actions

Actions Carried Forward

- 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.
- 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.

Actions from 25 February 2025

- The Chair and the Clerk would meet with JM to discuss his queries regarding the valuation roll.
- Board members were asked to complete the register of interests, if they had not already done so: [Register of Interest form](#).
- The Clerk was asked to send out revised information for elections along with the Assessment and post information on the website
- The Board agreed to send any comments to Amy on the report, so that a final version could be written, by 11 March. Once revised a final version of the report would be circulated
- The Board agreed that Mike Buchanan would be invited to present the work he has been doing in an online meeting, before the next Board meeting.
- The Clerk would arrange another meeting in due course, to discuss next steps in relation to Loch Venachar
- The Clerk was asked to make the relevant calculations to determine the poundage for 2025/26. The Board would be informed and the assessments sent out thereafter.

Wendy Kenyon
Clerk
March 2025