

MINUTES OF MEETING
of
HELMSDALE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
held at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale, Sutherland
on Saturday, 7th May 2016 at 2.30pm

PRESENT

Sir John Nutting Bt. QC
Sir Algernon Heber Percy
Neil McCorquodale
William Southall
Donald Sutherland
Robert Mackay
Jeremy Clay
Andrew Reeves

IN ATTENDANCE

Sir Michael Wigan Bt. - Fishery Manager
Norman Wright - Clerk

CHAIR

Sir John Nutting took the Chair

APOLOGIES

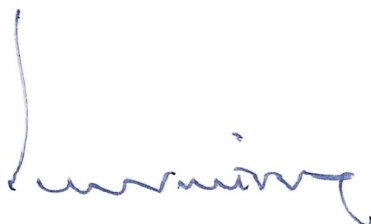
Apologies received from Lucy Reeves. The Chairman intimated the death of Ann Clay – a remarkable person.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Last Meeting held at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale on Saturday, 9th of May 2015, having been circulated, were approved, and then signed by Sir John.

MATTERS ARISING

None



ACCOUNTS

The Audited Accounts for 2016 prepared by Saffery Champness, Chartered Accountants, Inverness were approved.

REPORT FOR 2015

The Clerk's Report for 2015, was approved.

BAILIFFS

The current Bailiffs confirmed as Peter Quail, Robert Henderson and John Macleod.

DAM

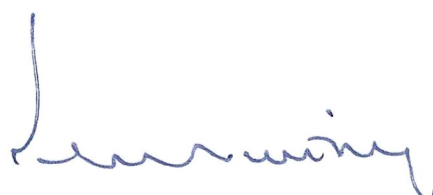
The Reservoir (Scotland) Act 2011 applies to Badanloch Dam. This has been placed in the high risk category and SEPA have an inundation map. Annual inspection to be carried out by a Civil Engineer.

FORESTRY

Noted that Norbord are investing £98 million pounds to expand. Borrobol felling has been finalised. The projected bridge in respect of Torrish Woods has been abandoned, alternative by rail.

NEXT MEETING

This will be held at 10.30am on Saturday 6th May 2017 at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale.



MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
of
HELMSDALE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
held at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale,
on Saturday, 7th May 2016 at 3pm

PRESENT

Sir John Nutting Bt. QC
Sir Algernon Heber Percy
Neil McCorquodale
William Southall
Donald Sutherland
Robert Mackay
Andrew Reeves
Jeremy Clay

IN ATTENDANCE

Lord Thurso
Sir Michael Wigan Bt. - Fishery Manager
Norman Wright - Clerk
Peter Quail - Head Bailiff
Various Attendees

CHAIR

Sir John Nutting Bt. QC took the Chair.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Lucy Reeves.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Second Annual Meeting held on Saturday, 9th May 2015 were tabled, approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

The 3 North Boards had concluded that they should combine in a Fisheries Management Organisation, as proposed under the Wild Fisheries Review. Lord Thurso was very involved in this project, and gave a detailed exposition covering all aspects, from the areas involved to structure of the organisation, including possible costs, and time line. The Chairman thanked Lord Thurso for attending and providing such a detailed Report.

CATCHES

Slight recovery throughout Scotland last year, with Catch and Release on the Helmsdale just over 90%. Counter figures show a declining run in *April* down to 195 for the period 2008 to 2015, compared to 296 in the previous period from 2000 to 2007. The counter is located four miles upstream and on a dry year fish may spawn and not cross the counter. Also some fish may cross back and fore.

OPEN DAYS

These were held from 11th to 16th January 2016 and the weather was much better. Enjoyed by all and a boost for those providing accommodation in Helmsdale.

ELECTRO FISHING

Bad weather in 2015 meant no surveys, but will attempt a full programme this year, including work for the Forestry Commission.

HATCHERY

Another successful year. Second project year with Professor Gage. He has to obtain funding each year and a 10 year programme is required for conclusions.

FISH RUN VERIFICATION

Verification cameras were installed under Marine Scotland, but not perceived to be a great success. Still to be convinced that operating successfully.

TICKETS

Ronald Sutherland's business is for sale so two new outlets in Helmsdale. Sales are going well.

CATCH & RELEASE

Possibility of using paint marking to show the fish has been released. Tags have been used in other areas.


FISH FARM ESCAPES

Reminder about differences between wild and escaped fish. Interbreeding is a major problem so escapee must be killed and our rule last year was correct.

SEALS

None in the river last year and none killed.

NETTING



Scottish Government are proposing to ban coastal netting for salmon for a 3 year period. Scottish Ministers were put in the uncomfortable position of defending netsmen who were killing seals.

FLOW COUNTRY RIVERS TRUST

This is a Charity registered in Scotland and Its purpose is to promote research and education re. conservation of fresh water species of fish and associated flora and fauna within the Flow Country.

CHARITIES

The Board support the local Pipe Band, provide free fishing days to local Charities, assist the local Angling Club and generally respond to requests from Charities and local organisations.

SEASONAL BAILIFF

Danny MacNeil will start in late June 2016 based at the Dorrان at Borrobol.

AOB The Chairman asked if any news about the Moray Firth Wind Farm. No exact details but it may be built. Regarding the Angling Club, this is going very well and Board thanked for providing funding for equipment. New hut is to be built.

NEXT MEETING

To be held at Kildonan Hall, Helmsdale at 11am on Saturday 6th May 2017.

