



# RIVER LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

## minutes of Triennial Election and Qualified Proprietors Meeting

Held at Pitgaveny.  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 3pm.

### Present

Crinan Dunbar (Chair) (CD), Tomas Christie (TC), Mark Laing (ML), Willie Fraser (WF), Roy Russel (RR).

**In attendance** Clare Walker,(Minutes) (CW), Robert Laughton (RL)

A	<b>Meeting of Qualified Proprietors and Election of Proprietors and Co-opted Members</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	<b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> CD opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Tim Atkinson, Poppy Houldsworth, Mark Houldsworth and John Fielding.	
2.	<b>Election of Upper and Lower Proprietors</b> Two Lower Proprietors have offered to stand as representatives on the Board. Crinan Dunbar and Willie Fraser were duly elected. Four Upper Proprietors have offered to stand as representatives on the Board. The following were duly elected: Poppy Houldsworth, Tim Atkinson (mandate for Kellas), Tomas Christie, Roy Russel.	
3.	<b>Election of Co-optees by Representatives of Lower and Upper Proprietors</b> Mark Laing was elected to represent the FNLRT. Dallas AA did not propose a representative. CW will contact John Fielding and suggest a representative could be co-opted at the next Board meeting in November.	CW
4.	<b>Election of Chairman by Elected Representatives of Upper and Lower Proprietors and Co-optees.</b> Crinan Dunbar was proposed and duly elected as Chair.	
<b>B</b>	<b>Meeting of Qualified Proprietors</b> First Meeting of the new Board	
2.	<b>Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> Minutes were approved. CW to publish on the FNLRT website.	CW
3.	<b>Matters Arising not on the Agenda</b> RL is still to look into the location of historic files relating to the LDSFB	RL
4.	<b>Financial</b>  <i>Cashflow and Budget Update</i> - CW provided an up to date cashflow. This year's insurance premium had increased significantly. The Board's previous provider had pulled out of the market and the broker had struggled to find an alternative. WF suggested making enquiries with Mead Sport and Leisure who provide insurance to the Elgin AA at reasonable cost.  The banking mandate has been actioned; Tim Atkinson is now a secondary signatory on the bank along with CW.	CW

	<p>CW and RL met with CD for a finance meeting to discuss fundraising strategies. CW had previously clarified with FMS on any restrictions to the types of funding able to be sought by the Board. FMS also confirmed that they are raising the issue of Board financing to Scottish Ministers to highlight the issue Boards face with self-financing their activities. A number of potential finance opportunities were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marine Fund Scotland – currently closed to applications but FMS will inform when fund reopens</li> <li>- CW agreed to compile a list of local businesses along the river Lossie who might be willing to donate/sponsor</li> <li>- CD will give contact details to CW for Alasdair Kennedy who may have suggestions for any local windfarm grants available</li> <li>- CD will give contact details to CW for SSEN who have a volunteer program where SSEN employees are given leave to volunteer for local causes.</li> </ul>	CD/CW
5	<p><b>Year 2024 Season Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>INNS</b> – Giant Hogweed control is coming to an end. Kellas has been hit hard this year along with Brokentore and Upper Bogside. Lower Bogside is due to be tackled this coming week. Good progress has been made in Wester Manbeen and Main Farm, with the help of Dean Anderson. It is expected that the river upstream of Elgin will have reached management levels by 2026.</li> </ul> <p>WF asked whether any control was being done locally out with the river. RL confirmed that it is down to individual landowners to tackle control issues.</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed is growing rapidly which can make access difficult. This year FNLRT utilised previous volunteers to subcontract some control work to. The spray tank from Kella was also used again this year to great effect. RL highlighted the hard work of the SISI team.</p> <p>A sawbill licence has been submitted to NatureScot. RL will be looking into the possibility of widening the number of people used to control birds under the licence to reduce the reliance on the FDSFB bailiffs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Bailiffing</b> – 2-3 patrols done on the Lossie so far this season. Two incidents of fishing without a ticket reported. RL suggested arranging another day with the Bailiffs and the Elgin AA after the success of last year's day.</li> <li>- <b>Fish Surveys</b> – No NEPS but the Lossie is due a general survey this year which will be done during August – September.</li> <li>- <b>Catchment Developments</b> – An extension to Rothes III is at scoping stage and a quote has been submitted for survey work. Clashgour monitoring program is underway.</li> </ul> <p>Repair work to the weir at Longmourn is being carried out – once finished it will be passable for fish.</p>	RL
6	<p><b>Complaints Procedure</b></p>	

	The LDSFB Complaints Procedure was reviewed and updates to the contact details were made. The updated procedure was approved. CW to publish on the website.	CW
<b>7</b>	<b>AOCB</b> None Raised	
<b>8</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> - 26th November 3pm, Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors	

With no further business CD closed the meeting at 16:00