

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 9th November 2017 immediately following the Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors

Present: J. Yule (Convenor)
A. Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited
D. Low Mandatory for I. J. Booth
A. Buchan for Score Group plc

In Attendance: D. McLean for Bruce Milton, Clerk to the Board

APOLOGIES None

MINUTES

D Low proposed that the Minutes of the last meeting be taken as read this was seconded by A Buchan (Score).

MATTERS ARISING

Conservation Status.

The River Ugie remains as category 3 in the conservation status meaning compulsory catch and release and D Low reported that the neighbouring River Ythan had now also been given category 3. This would suggest our attempt to follow their challenge on what criteria are used in deciding the category may be in vain. J Yule commented that there were now a very high number of rivers in category 3.

Re-stocking.

J Yule reported that re-stocking would not now happen this season due to ill health of D Wallace who was handling that operation. He explained the scientific evidence did not show great results from re-stocking apart from rivers that were totally devoid of fish but that there were many factors that could affect the outcome. Overall he felt it was still a worthwhile project and hoped it can continue in the future.

FINANCE

The Clerk produced a projection of income and expenditure for the 7 months up to 31st May 2017. The Clerk explained there were still some rates due to be paid and reminders would be sent out in due course. It was also explained that since issue of the rates notices there had been a revaluation of rateable values by the District Rates Assessor resulting in netting stations being zero rated and angling beats being

increased. It was agreed that as the rates notices had been issued before any valuation change announced the Board would look to collect the rates as assessed. The new rateable values will however be applied in May 2018.

A discussion followed on the unfairness of this change which will in future leave the entire cost of the Board's work being borne by the anglers. A Buchan (Lunar) thought that because of mandatory catch and release the rateable values of the upper beats should be reduced. It was accepted however that the effect then would just lead to an increase in the rate poundage as the Board still required the same income to operate. The Clerk pointed out that a healthy bank balance was forecast at 31st May 2018 which could be partly set against next year's expenditure and thus alleviate in part any increase in rates charged. The projected figures were unanimously agreed.

Bailiff

J Yule read a letter from David Will who is looking for work as a bailiff. It was generally accepted that Mr Will had suitable experience and D Low knew him and believed he would be a suitable candidate. It was also noted that Bob Davidson, the current bailiff, had originally been set to retire on 31st May 2018 and by that time a replacement should be in post. J Yule also suggested that the Board look at all options and, as suggested at the last meeting, there could be the possibility of having a sharing arrangement with the neighbouring Deveron Board. A Buchan (Lunar) mentioned advantages in sharing, with the possible access to their scientific expertise and it removes the Board from any employer responsibilities. D Low suggested acknowledging the enquiry from D Will and meantime obtaining a quote from the Deveron Board. J Yule agreed he would contact the Deveron Board and the Clerk was instructed to write to David Will.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the Annual Public Meeting in terms of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 Act and this was set for Thursday 24th May, 2018 at 2.30 p.m. and this would be immediately followed by a Board Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.

 13/11/17

Joseph Yule
Convenor