

MINUTES of MEETING of THE RIVER UGIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD held at Broad House, Broad Street, Peterhead on Thursday, 23rd May, 2019 at 3.10pm

Present: Joseph Yule (Convenor)
Alexander Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited
Alexander Buchan for Score Group plc
Simon Stephen for Ugie Angling Association

In Attendance: T Horne for Bruce Milton, Clerk to the Board

Apologies: David Low Mandatory for I J Booth

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting on 8th November 2018 were presented. Alexander Buchan for Lunar Fishing Company Limited proposed, this was seconded by Alexander Buchan for Score Group plc.

DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MAY, 2018

These were presented to the Board during the meeting, i.e. a Draft Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet projected to 31 May, 2019 prepared by the Clerk, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. The Clerk explained the income and expenditure for the year as detailed in the Draft Accounts, and that, subject to Board approval, these would now be sent for examination and final preparation by Messrs Bain Henry Reid. There was one query that T Horne brought to the attention of the board which was the money that Masson Glennie held for the Board which comes to a total of £2,027.90. T Horne explained that due to the new Law Society rules Masson Glennie are not allowed to hold money unless it is there for an ongoing matter. As it is not T Horne advised the board that the money would be transferred back into their bank account.

FINANCE AND RATES

The Board considered the projected expenditure for the year to 31 May 2020 and the Clerk explained the projected expenses could be covered by the same rate as last year. A Buchan Lunar proposed that the rates be taken down slightly to £2.00. the board agreed with this reduction. A Buchan Lunar then proposed the rates change which was seconded by A Buchan Score. It was agreed the Clerk would issue rates notices at £2.00 in the pound.

There was also a discussion about the Electro Fishing Surveys that were completed by Ritchie Miller. J Yule advised the board that the Board would be getting funding for this again from the Government and there would be an increase of 15% meaning they would receive £6,640 (approx.) it would also mean that Ritchie Miller's fee for

conducting the work would go up by 15%. The Board seen no problem with that as J Yule stated he done a good job and knows the river.

Wild Fisheries Review Consultations

Category 3

There was a discussion regarding the River Ugie being a category 3 and trying to get it to a category 2. Convenor informed the Board that this would be quite difficult and that a lot of the rivers are category 3 and mandatory catch and release.

Hatchery

J Yule advised that the ponds are ready to be used and that it is really important to give the hatchery a go. A Buchan Score agreed with this but also stated that because it is volunteers that are needed it is really difficult to get people in to complete the work as they will be needing to do it in their own time. A Buchan Lunar also said that if they can get some enthusiastic volunteers, he would be more than happy for the hatchery to go ahead. J Yule suggested to do the hatchery with trout as they are easier to catch. S Stephen said that the hard part is getting the eggs into the tray once this is done it is not a hassle. S Stephen also offered to help catch the trout as you have to be very careful when carrying out this process. A Buchan Lunar also suggested putting the trout into burns with gravel at the bottom. S Stephen advised he had seen this done before but it was not very successful J Yule pointed out that this was quite an old-fashioned way but also a more natural.

AOCB

Water Bailiff

J Yule read out an email from D Will as he was unable to attend the meeting. D Will outlined the main issues with regards to the River in the last 6 months. There was an incident where dirty water was flowing into the Denburn area of the river. Mr Will took action by calling SEPA to investigate and the investigation showed that the land owner had ditched the stream. In doing this they destroyed valuable fry habitat which means that section will be unsuitable for future sea trout and brown trout. Mr Will also advised that he is still waiting to hear further findings of the SEPA investigation. Mr Will did point out that the river and other feeder streams have been in good condition throughout the closed season.

Mr Will also informed the board that he was working with Karen Muller who was leading the SISI scheme in controlling invasive species as the river is suffering from several invasive species such as the American Mink, Japanese Knotweed and Hogweed spray work will start the beginning of June to help. He also advised that he will be retiring from his full-time employment the end of May. This therefore means he will be able to spend more time at the River. J Yule also pointed out his retainer will be going up to £10,000 and his first payment of £5,000 will be 6 months later. J Yule also informed the board that he had received good reports from the anglers about D Will and are looking forward to working with him.

Fish Counter

A Buchan Lunar informed the Board that there was a new programme developed for the fish counter which made it a lot easier to check the findings of the fish counter. J Yule asked A Buchan about a camera for the river but nothing has happened with this and A Buchan advised they would probably need an underwater camera as the ones that are triggered by motion can be set off by something as little as a fly.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Annual Meeting of Proprietors and Board Meeting was set for Thursday, 7th November, 2019 at 3.00 p.m. There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.


CONVENOR.