

RIVER YTHAN TRUST (UNAAPPROVED MINUTES)

Minutes of Directors Meeting of 16th June 2014.

Location- Haddo Estate Office.

Present.

Mark Andrew MA	Sandy Milne SM	Alec Paterson AP	Dr John Pirie JP
Michael Stewart MS	Jim Adie JA		

Apologies

Dr Mark Young MY	Richard Macdonald RM		

Item	Comment	Action
Chairman	In the absence of RM the chair was taken by MA.	
Declaration of Interest	The chair reminded the directors of their responsibilities to the charity and to state whether they had any declarable interests in agenda items. No declaration of interests made.	
Minutes of meeting of 19 th August 2013	There being no dissensions, the minutes were approved as a true record.	
Matters arising	<p>Finance</p> <p>MA gave an update of the financial situation to 27th March 2014 indicating sufficient funds are available to carry on for a further year.</p> <p>No outgoing payments as yet for the financial year 2014/15</p> <p>Known future expenditure for the financial year 2014/15 is as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAFTS subscription. • JM Taylor (Audit fees.) 	

Matters arising	General Funding Matters.	Action
	<p>Following our last meeting AP reported that the Aberdeen and District Angling Association has again provided a donation - in this case £2500.00</p> <p>Sandy Milne has again been very successful in obtaining donations to support the work of the trust. Since August 2013. The meeting recorded their appreciation and thanks for his effort and success.</p> <p>This funding has been from a variety of sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local wind turbine operators. • Local landowners. • Farmers. • Anglers. • Various individual supporters. • A couple of oil related companies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP recently sent an appeal to the Buchan Community Planning Group for funding to survey the Water of Cruden, Laeca and Slains burns. Awaiting a response. • Given our involvement in INNS plant control on the upper Ythan this year, it was agreed that an approach for contributions should be made to the riparian owners where we have been working, to assist in funding this work in 2015. <p><u>RAFTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no funding available via RAFTS. • RAFTS are currently trying to set up a Scotland wide INNS project (mink + riparian plants) - probably will not be in operation until 2016. We have been asked if we are interested in becoming involved – AP said yes, probably would not be in a position to lead the mink work on the Ythan, but could deal with invasive plants. • There is a meeting this week Thursday 19th June at the Dee Trust office with RAFTS, Dee, Don and Ythan Trusts to discuss the way forward regarding INNS, AP will advise in due course. • At the RAFTS Inverness meeting on Monday 9th June considerable interest was expressed by various trusts in a possible sea trout project (habitat, coastal waters, movement etc) I've expressed an interest – will keep all informed when I have more information. 	<p>Action</p> <p>AP</p> <p>AP</p> <p>AP</p> <p>AP</p>

Matters arising		Action
	<p><u>Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP reported he'd been so busy with other RYT matters that apart from getting the notification of this meeting on the website, he'd not put together anything else. • AP will now look at the INNS riparian plant control work carried out recently with a view to putting something on the website. 	AP
	<p><u>Publicity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We managed to get some publicity via the Ellon Advertiser for our work, however it became somewhat overshadowed by the netting/seal issues on the Ythan estuary. • Our contact at the Ellon Advertiser, Kirsty has just left. • AP now has lots of photos of the work we have been doing. • We will perhaps achieve some publicity on Wednesday this week in Pitmedden, where information on work on the Bronie Burn will be available at the Udney Community Trust AGM – poster prepared for that event. AP and SM to attend. • A discussion took place regarding publicity of our work, including the joint INNS plant project with Formartine Partnership and Ythan Project Volunteers and ourselves. MA suggested that this could possibly be done by Rod Gunson/Caroline Rennie of Aberdeenshire Council. 	AP/SM
	<p><u>OSCr/Audit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012/2013 audit and OSCr submission will be completed and sent off following the AGM. 	AP MA
	<p><u>Fishery Management Plan</u></p> <p>Haddo Lake Outfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA provided AP with what historical information he had available – limited to the Reservoirs Act/Haddo Lake reinforcement project 1986/87 however this included very useful design drawings of the revised outfall – generally as it is today. • Aberdeenshire Council (Brian Shand) has been extremely helpful. • Jim Adie, Mike Stewart, Nicky Taylor, Tamsin Morris and Alec Paterson have carried out detailed dimensional measurements; Tamsin Morris of Walking the Talk kindly acted as the team leader on the SNIFFER tests and provided the analysis – thanks Tamsin. • AP has produced design drawings and prepared the CAR licence application on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council, had meetings with SEPA on site and in Fraserburgh – the application is currently with SEPA and hopefully the licence will be approved soon. 	

Matters arising	<p>Haddo Lake Outfall continued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately, the project was not eligible for WEF funding, but the project will likely be carried out by the RYT volunteers, with Aberdeenshire Council funding for materials, hopefully in August 2014. AP to update. <p>Habitat Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water of Cruden, Laeca, Slains burns – still on hold due to financial restraints – will see if Buchan Community Planning Group can help. AP to advise on progress. <p>Debris Obstacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latter months of 2013 were mainly spent on the Bronie Burn easing various debris obstacles, mainly tree branches, shrubs, plastic bags/ tonne fertiliser bags, we even found the proverbial kitchen sink. Not a great deal has been done regarding debris obstacles since mid December 2013, however a couple of days were spent this year on the Asleid Burn, a small tributary of the Little Water – a small number of salmon redds were observed above some very nasty debris obstacles – how the fish got there is a bit of a mystery. JA, Nicky and AP spent most of the 6th June easing obstacles on the Fordoun Burn – mainly fallen trees, one which appeared to be a total obstacle to adult fish migration. We also inspected fallen trees in the Ythan on Fyvie Estate – these will be dealt with in the near future. <p>Natural Obstacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work at Mill of Tifty was carried out in mid September 2013, considerable numbers of small fish present in 2014 – whether salmon or trout is not known. <p>Manmade Obstacles</p> <p>Fordoun Burn Bridge of Lewes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SNIFFER test of 28 September 2013 indicated that on the day the lower fall presented a partial high impact obstacle for trout and a partial low impact obstacle for salmon. Since it is not a complete obstacle and possibly partially caused by Scottish Water's previous works, is not eligible for WEF funding. Serious erosion on left bank – part of garage yard has collapsed. AP and JA to attempt to discuss the situation with the garage owner, however it was considered the risks to the Trust regarding possible consequences of any work carried out by them may be too great to contemplate. 	<p>Action</p> <p>AP</p> <p>AP</p> <p>JA/MS/AP</p> <p>AP/JA</p>
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Matters arising		Action
	<p>Bronie Burn Esslemont Weir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNIFFER test of 28 September 2013 indicated that on the day the obstacle was impassable for upstream migration of both salmon and trout. • It was agreed to carry out a full dimensional survey in order that AP can find a simple design for installation of pre weirs. <p>Bronie Burn Chapelhall Farm track bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to carry out a SNIFFER test and full dimensional survey required in order that AP can find a simple design for installation of pre weirs. • MA advised he thought the bridge and track is on Esslemont Estate. <p>Mill of Elrick Auchnagatt Abstraction Point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA gave an update on the situation, namely that the owner's appeal against the SEPA Controlled Activities Licence, following the public meeting at Ythanbank the appeal has been rejected. It is now hoped that the abstraction point will be modified to allow fish migration this autumn. AP/SM to monitor the situation. <p><u>Scale Sampling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were so few scales available in 2013, that these were not read – will be held until 2014 scales available. <p><u>Education.</u></p> <p>Salmon in the Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP has modified the Don Trust PowerPoint presentation for use by the RYT. (With the Don Trust Permission.) • Do has modified the Husbandry Guide. • The YDSFB have a cage in the Kelly Burn which may possibly be used to keep a very small number of brood stocks for stripping – This was done many years ago – equipment would have to be checked for suitability. • Some of the funding donations achieved by SM were specifically for educational purposes. • AP has spoken to Eleanor Morris of the Udney Community Trust Company to see if they may be interested in providing some funding for a school in their area – Eleanor is to speak to the head teacher at Pitmedden School in the next few weeks. • A discussion took place regarding the tanks and equipment required – if one school participates, 2 sets required, if two schools participate, 3 sets required. 	<p></p> <p>JA/MS/AP</p> <p>RM/JA/MS/AP</p> <p>AP/SM</p> <p>AP</p> <p></p> <p>SM</p> <p>AP</p> <p>AP</p>

Matters arising		Action
	<p>Salmon in the Classroom.continued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need someone to take a lead on this one – volunteer required. • In the meantime SM advised that Arnage School may be interested in a SIC project – SM to investigate. <p><u>Bio Security Plan.</u></p> <p>Joint Formartine Partnership/Ythan Project Volunteers/River Ythan Trust Upper Ythan Invasives Project 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP gave an update on the project which is restricted to the Ythan and all affected tributaries upstream of Fyvie. • Giant Hogweed spraying was completed today, 16th June. • Japanese Knotweed control will be carried out in the autumn. • Funding is for 2014 only, but it is hoped that sufficient funding will be available for 2015. <p>Future INNS Mink/Plant Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See RAFTS, above. <p>Training for Spraying Pesticides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently non certificate holding volunteers can carry out spraying under the direct control and supervision of a fully qualified (PA6AW) team leader, however this is likely to change in November 2015 – something we need to consider. <p><u>SEPA.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The habitat survey information we handed to SEPA in 2013 will be used for the development of the next stage of the RBMP for Scotland. AP attends RBMP North East area meetings. <p><u>Directors/Chairman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP asked that all consider the need for new/additional directors before the AGM in August/September. <p><u>Electro fishing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current equipment has been checked and is fully functional. • We should consider electro fishing on the Bronie, Fordoun and Kelly/Raxton/Keithfield. AP will advise on sites. • We will have to carry out fish rescue associated with the Haddo Lake Outfall anyway if the project goes ahead. 	<p>Action</p> <p>SM?</p> <p>SM</p> <p>AP</p> <p>All</p> <p>AP</p> <p>SM</p>

Matters arising	<p>Electro fishing continued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must record results accurately, also include all species, eels, minnows, lamprey; also trout and salmon lengths, in order to determine year classes. MA advised that this has been done in past, not shown on the xls record sheets, but is available. • Following a detailed discussion SM advised he would be able to carry out the necessary electro fishing exercises utilising volunteers. • MA expressed the view that we should have at least one volunteer trained in the first stage of electro fishing. How do we find a suitable volunteer with some free time? • AP advised that to become a “Team Leader” The first stage had to be completed followed by at least a year’s experience of electro fishing practice before entering the “Team Leader” course. 	Action MA SM All
AOCB	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Offer from David Basford to Provide Juvenile Salmon and Sea Trout for Stocking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following discussion it was agreed to reject Mr Basford’s offer to provide juvenile salmon and sea trout for stocking. Currently our bio security plan advises that this should be avoided unless there is a catastrophic fish kill. This policy is in line with the recommendations by the ASFB, RAFTS, SNH and SEPA. • AP to thank Mr Basford for his offer but decline his offer of assistance at this time. <p>Wild Fisheries Review.</p> <p>MA gave a brief summary of the meeting with Andrew Thin (AT) Chairman, Wild Fisheries Review, held in Inverurie on 16th May 2014 attended by MA, JP, AP and Alastair Hume of the ADAA. Main points were as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of seal control is not within the remit of the WFR. • Regarding netting, it is understood that there will be no attempt to cease netting, however there may be a quota system introduced to limit exploitation. • Quotas for netting stations and possibly rod fishing, will be determined on salmon/sea trout conservation limits, based on scientific evidence. (It was unclear how this evidence could be determined – certainly not within the capability of either the YDSFB/RYT.) • It is likely that a fish carcass tagging system will be introduced for net caught fish and possibly for rod caught fish. • Regarding netting rights, we proposed that fishery boards/their successors/conservation bodies be given the “first option” for purchasing any netting stations that come up for sale – AT appeared receptive to this. 	AP

<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Wild Fisheries Review. Continued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the unused Crown Estates netting stations we suggested that these be removed from the possibility of being reactivated in the future. Again AT seemed receptive to this proposal. • Regarding the introduction of rod licences, the position is not yet clear. • It appears that fisheries boards as we know them today will no longer exist, but be replaced by a central body, with local bodies having control over most functions – probably the local bodies will be geographically larger than the existing fisheries boards. • Timescale – Report to government Oct 2014, legislation spring/summer 2015, in operation 2016 – all of course assuming the Scottish Government accepts Mr Thin’s recommendations. • Rivers/Fisheries Trusts may also be changed into geographically larger units. <p>Volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP suggested the need to have more volunteers engaged and trained in easement/removal of debris obstacles, particularly in the Ythan tributaries, where most of the debris obstacles exist. 	<p>Action</p>
<p>Next Meeting and AGM</p>	<p>No other matters arose..</p> <p>In August/September – date to be advised</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AP</p>