

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROPRIETORS AND OTHERS OF THE SPEY DISTRICT FISHERY BOARD held at the Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown On Spey commencing at 2.00 pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Present:-**

<b>Chairman</b>	Alan Williams	Carron
<b>Proprietors</b>	Brian Doran Peter Graham Angus Gordon Lennox Toby Metcalfe Sir Edward Mountain, Bt Peter Millar	Craigellachie Fishings Rothes and Aikenway Brae Water Trust Crown Estate Delfur Fishings Orton
<b>Co-Optees</b>	Grant Mortimer  Mel McDonald	Strathspey Angling Improvement Association  River Spey Anglers Association
<b>In Attendance</b>	Roger Knight Sally Worsdall	Director Administrator
<b>Public Attendees</b>	Alistair McGregor Polly Burns Chris Jeffers Joan Jeffers Malcolm Newbould	Pityoulish Estate Assistant Biologist, Spey Foundation  Wester Elchies Fishings

**1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that apologies had been received from Councillor Douglas Ross, Moray Council, Anne Anderson, SEPA, Grahame Newman, SEPA, Oliver Russell, Ballindalloch, James Carr, Wester Elchies, and Gavin Clark, SNH.

**2. MINUTES OF 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

2.1 The Minute of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013 was considered.

There were no comments as to accuracy and the Minute was approved.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

3.1 There were no reported matters arising from the previous minutes.

### **4. 2013 ANNUAL REPORT WITH CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

4.1 The Chairman noted that the Annual Report has been prepared with thanks to the hard work by the Board's staff during the past 6 weeks and for which he commended the content of the report and its speedy production. The Chairman noted that the Spey Fishery Board Annual Report is extremely competitive with any annual report from any other river in Scotland and is also one of the first to be published each year and he commended it to the meeting.

The Chairman asked members present if there were any issues to be raised with reference to the Annual Report and none were raised.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2013**

5.1 A full set of Draft copies of the Spey Fishery Board Financial Statements for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were circulated to everyone at the meeting. The Director noted that the profit and loss for the income and expenditure accounts and the balance sheets for both the Board and the Spey Foundation appear at the end of the Annual Report with notes declaring that they are draft accounts pending approval at the Annual General Meetings. The Director also noted that upon approval of the accounts they will then be adopted and published on the Board's website.

The Director noted an income from 2013 of £527,487 against expenditure of £539,745 leaving a deficit of £12,258. The Director asked for any questions pertaining to the accounts.

A question was raised regarding the hire purchase and finance lease charges. The Director would look at this more closely and confirm if it was related to the lease of a new vehicle.

The Chairman then sought a proposer for acceptance of the 2013 Accounts. Alistair McGregor proposed them and the Board unanimously adopted them.

### **6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director gave a presentation on the Annual Report, including the following:

#### **6.1 Aquaculture & Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013**

This made provision for:

- Public Meetings
- Complaints Procedure
- Declarations of Financial Interests of Board Members
- Other provisions, within the Act, including carcass tagging, collections of samples for genetic analysis and changes to annual close times etc.

## 6.2 **Water Abstraction**

The Director noted that dialogue had been re-established with Rio Tinto over their operation at Spey Dam. This was included within the report, together with a section on Scottish and Southern Energy's proposals to vary the Tummel CAR Licence scheme by taking more water from the Tromie and the Truim to avoid energy generation loss when re-watering the River Garry in the Tay catchment.

## 6.3 **Salmon & Grilse**

The declared catch for 2013 Salmon and Grilse was 5,780 and the release rate for the conservation policy was 88% for the season, compared with 85% for 2012.

## 6.4 **Sea Trout Rod Catches**

The declared catch for the season for Sea Trout was 1,194 and the release rate for the conservation policy was 76%, compared to 73% in 2012.

## 6.5 **Conservation Policy**

The Director reiterated the increase in the release rate for Salmon and Grilse from 85% in 2012 to 88% for the whole of the river for 2013. Furthermore, the release rate for the Spring Catch up until the end of April, river-wide, was noted at 92%.

## 6.6 **Habitat Management & the Spey Catchment Initiative**

The Director presented slides showing the restoration work on the Allt Mor (Achnahannet) Burn which was an 18 month project run by the Spey Catchment Initiative. The Director reported that the future of this Initiative had been secured for another 3 years, with funding from the existing partners and also with sponsorship from Diageo Distillers.

## 6.7 **Stocking Policy**

The Director noted that the Annual Report included a detailed explanation of the four accepted reasons for stocking:

- Reintroduction
- Restoration
- Enhancement

- Mitigation

The Report also included the Stocking Programme (planting out of fed fry) during 2013, as well as the fin-clipping project which had been conducted for monitoring purposes with help from ghillies and proprietors.

## 6.8 **Other Annual Report Issues**

The Director concluded his presentation with a summary on the following issues:

- An update on the Genetic Analysis Project
- Reports on Predator Control, Fishery Protection, administration and staffing
- Publicity
- A comprehensive Spey Foundation Report, including reports and analysis of the extensive Juvenile Monitoring and Smolt Trap Projects
- Finance, with Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheets for both the Board and Foundation

The Director then invited questions, but none were forthcoming.

## 7. **AOCB**

7.1 There were no issues arising.

With no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 14:20.