



# **RIVER AYR DISTRICT** **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

**Clerk to the Board: Iain K Clark, LLB (Hons), Dip LP, NP**  
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## **MINUTES**

**of Board Meeting**

**of**

**RIVER AYR DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

**held at**

**The Mauchline & District Kilmarnock FC Supporters Club**

**8 Earl Grey Street, Mauchline, KA5 5AD**

**on**

**held on Wednesday 6 December 2023 at 7.00pm**

### **1. Persons Present**

<i>Alan Hill (AH)</i>	<i>Barskimming Estate, Board Member (Chairperson)</i>
<i>Iain K Clark (IKC)</i>	<i>Gilson Gray LLP (Clerk to the Board)</i>
<i>Gordon Millar (GM)</i>	<i>Mauchline Ballochmyle Angling Club (Salmon Fishers' Rep)</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs (SB)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>

### **2. Apologies**

<i>Nick Wright</i>	<i>Sorn Angling Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Robin Wilson</i>	<i>Ladykirk Angling Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Charles McDade (CM)</i>	<i>Sorn Angling Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Max Stobbs (MS)</i>	<i>Mauchline Ballochmyle Angling Club, Board Member</i>

### **3. Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Board's good governance obligations, the Board has agreed a Meetings Protocol and Policy on Members Interests. All Board Members present signed a Declaration and the Board maintains a Register of Relevant Interests, pursuant to *Section 46E of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act")*.

In addition, the Clerk notified those present of the requirements of the Meetings Protocol. It was agreed that those present would each be noted as representing the interests of their Beat or organisation; and any other additional relevant financial interest should be declared under the *2003 Act*. No additional interests were declared.

### **4. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes were approved on the motion of AH and seconded by GM.

## 5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

### (a) Good Governance re District Salmon Fisheries Boards

It was noted that there are number of Board Members still to sign Declarations of Interest and the Clerk will liaise with them to have those signed.

### (b) Proposed Co-Options to Board

There was some discussion about possible Co-Options to the Board from other interested parties and discussions are ongoing.

### (c) Solar powered Camera

This has been purchased and a Risk Assessment is being carried out before this is installed.

### (d) Bird Count/Cull – Application for Licence

The Application has now completed. One of the main issues is to ensure that proper permission has been obtained from landowners for permission to shoot over land. ART will assist in the process and also in relation to an App for bird counts and reporting.

## 6. Report from the Clerk to the Board

### (a) Correspondence

The Clerk provide a written Report

There was some discussion about sources of farm in a burn at Ochiltree and also a tributary the Coyle Water. ART are pursuing with SEPA.

### (b) Consultation Responses

There have been none since the last meeting.

The Board noted with disappointment that the CAR for the Fish Farm re Kilbrandon Sounds had been passed by the local authority under delegated powers

### (c) Financial Report

The Clerk updated the Board as follows:

**Current Balance at 06/12//23** **£35,992.66**

Anticipated Expenditure:

<u>Narrative</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Ayrshire Rivers Trust – Giant Hogweed	£4,000.00	
Gilson Gray LLP – 1 October to 31 December 2023	£1,500.00	

Gilson Gray LLP - River Watch Scheme Documentation - Fixed Fee arrangement	£1,200.00	
River Watch Scheme Expenditure - Remuneration, Phone, Publicity, signs, wind cheaters, contingency etc	£1,500.00	
<b>Sub-Total of Payments</b>	<b>£8,200.00</b>	
<b>Projected Balance thereafter</b>		<b><u>£27,792.66</u></b>

**(d) Fisheries Welcome Pack**

Will be produced and issued to all Riparian Owners and Tenants (as part of the preparations for the forthcoming Annual Meetings next year).

**(e) Board Website**

Still to be updated. The Clerk to liaise with CE Project Management.

**(f) Code of Practice**

The Code of Practice was reviewed and it was noted that there are no changes proposed for the forthcoming season.

**(g) Outstanding Fishery Assessments**

The Clerk reported on the remaining outstanding Fisheries Assessment

Reminders have been sent and Formal Reminders sent.

**(h) Annual Catch Returns – App and other options**

The Clerk provided an update on the Catch Returns so far. ART explained that an App has been developed which may assist in recording Catch Returns in the forthcoming season, which can track the location by GPS and allow photographs to be taken and then uploaded. This will be further investigated. There is also a possible second app for recording predatory birds etc.

**7. Report from Ayrshire Rivers Trust**

SB presented the Report from ART. In summary, as the season ended, there were very high waters. Spawning is underway now all over the upper catchment. We are expecting 3 or 4 weeks of spawning. However, despite the high river levels, we are not concerned about redd washout. There have been a number of small pollution incidents, which ART are discussing with SEPA.

ART have now moved to their new offices at 2 Crosshill Cottage, Mauchline KA5 5HJ

**8. Fisheries Management Plan**

ART presented on thre Fisheries Management Plan and noted the Glen Stang Burn should produce salmon, but there are problems of poaching and over grazing by cattle.

Near the Stair Bridge, ART will try and do some restoration work, working with two or three farmers. They are also going to be undertaking electro fishing and will report in due course.

## **9. River Watch Scheme**

There was a discussion regarding the introduction of a River Watch Scheme to be set up similar to has been introduced on the River Doon by the River Doon DSFB. The Clerk will assist in the drafting of the paperwork for this.

CM agreed to take this forward on behalf of the Board. Enquiries are being made regarding the identification of a suitable person to be River Watch Coordinator. It is suggested that William Torrance would be a suitable River Patrol Coordinator.

We Board will review at the next meeting.

## **10. Future Work of the Board**

### **(a) Discussions with Clubs, Associations and Syndicates**

There are ongoing with a number of Clubs, Associations and Syndicates for engagement and related to potential co-option of Members.

### **(b) Project Work**

It was agreed Board Members and ART to review FMP; and then ART to come with recommendations for future Project Work for the forthcoming year e.g. fencing initiatives, etc.

### **(c) Hatchery and other options**

The Board accepted in principle the exploration of a possible smolt to adult salmon supplementation project being investigated by ART.

### **(d) Fish Counter**

There is a meeting to be held regarding the Fish Counter and ART will report further in due course.

## **11. Dates of Next Meetings**

The following dates were proposed (with formal Calling Notices to be issued in due course):

**(a) Board Meeting: Wednesday 17 April 2024, 7pm**

**(b) Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors: Wednesday 15 May 2024, 7:30pm**

**(c) Annual Public Meeting: Wednesday 12 June 2024, 7:30pm**

## **12. Any Other Business**

None

The meeting concluded at 20:36