



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

held on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 7.30pm

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>Max Stobbs (MS)</i>	<i>Mauchline Ballochmyle Angling Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Robin Wilson</i>	<i>Ladykirk Angling Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>Carolyn Bryce</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>

2. Apologies

The Clerk apologised for his delayed attendance at the start of the meeting, due to printing difficulties with the Board Packs. There were no other apologies.

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 as follows:

Proposed: AH
Seconded: GM

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

None

6. Report from the Clerk to the Board

The Clerk provided a detailed written Report. There were no questions arising.

7. Report on Fishery Assessments

The Clerk provided a detailed Report. In particular, he highlighted the persistent arrears of Cumnock & District Angling Association. The Clerk had written on a number of occasions to both Alex Reid and Iain Walker, understood to be office bearers of that Association, to request payment; and, in the absence of payment, pointing out the apparent conflict of interest from them remaining Board Members of the River Ayr District Salmon Board in these circumstances. Alex Reid had confirmed his resignation with immediate effect by email today. Iain Walker had not responded to any of the recent correspondence.

The Board discussed the situation and agreed:

- (a) The Clerk was to write again to Iain Walker, offering him a further opportunity to resign from his position as Board Member, due to the apparent conflict of interest. If he fails to resign, the Board agreed that a public meeting of the Board would be held, at which the proposed removal of Iain Walker as Board Member would be one of the items on the Agenda. Mr Walker would have the opportunity to attend that meeting and to make representations, and to vote at that meeting on the proposal for his removal. The Clerk informed those present that the decision would be made on a simple majority of the votes of the Board Members present at that meeting.
- (b) In the absence of payment by Cumnock & District Angling Association, the Clerk was authorised to write to the Qualified Proprietors for each of the beats where Fishery Assessments remain outstanding, in order to seek payment, as it is their ultimate responsibility to make payment, in the absence of their tenant making payment. The Clerk explained that the Board records may need to be updated, as the records of the proprietors are quite out of date. It was noted that, when Jennifer Garland from ART was supporting the Board, she previously wrote to proprietors and the Clerk can get assistance from ART in this respect, if required.

8. Proposed Fishery Assessment Rate for 2025/2026

The Clerk provided a detailed written Report. The Board discussed and unanimously agreed to fix the rate again at the same level as last year, namely 85p in the £. The Board took account of previous Assessment Rates and the requirement to secure sufficient funds from Fishery Assessments to cover necessary expenditure to meet the Board's statutory obligations for the purpose of the protection or improvement of the fisheries within the River Ayr Catchment Area; and monies to help fund projects on the river, whilst also providing for some degree of contingency.

9. Financial Report

The Clerk provided a detailed written Report. SB commented that the Board is supporting projects making a difference.

AH pointed to the previous disconnection between clubs and the Board and believes that we have now got better communication

The Clerk pointed out that, with careful financial management, the Board can continued to support Project Work, as discussed and agreed.

10. Annual Catch Returns

The Clerk presented a written report. The response to Catch Returns so far had been been slow. It was understood from discussions, that the 2024 Season had been a good season. The Clerk will present an updated Report at the next meeting.

11. Report from Ayrshire Rivers Trust

A Report was presented by ART.

12. Board Membership

AH indicated that it was his intention to encourage some new members and this would be discussed in advance of the Triennial Meeting.

13. River Watch Scheme

There was a general discussion about the introduction of this scheme for the 2025 season. This requires the appointment of a River Watch Coordinator and River Patrol Coordinator(s).

SB, GM and AH agreed to discuss further and report at the next meeting.

14. Dates of Next Meetings

(a) Board Meeting – mid-February – 12 February 2025 at 7pm

(b) Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors – dates are to be considered and circulated by the Clerk

(c) Annual Public Meeting + Triennial Meeting – dates are to be considered and circulated by the Clerk

15. Any Other Business

None

AH thanked those for attending and the meeting concluded at 21:10