

# River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board

www.ayrfishing.co.uk

c/o Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Braeside

Burnbrae Lodge

Mauchline

KA5 5HE

## Board Clerk

Forbes M Watson

fmwatson@tiscali.co.uk

Mob: 07768041226

www.ayrshireriverstrust.org

info@ayrshireriverstrust.org

Tel: 01290 518130

## **Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board Meeting**

30/05/2022 – 1800 - 1900

Minutes prepared by Struan Candlish; audio recording of meeting available on request.

### **Present:**

Alan Hill, AH (Chairperson)

Nick Wright, NW

Ian Walker, IW

Alex Reid, AR

Robin Wilson, RW

Max Stobbs, MS

Forbes Watson (Clerk), FW

Stuart Brabbs (Ayrshire Rivers Trust), SB

Struan Candlish (Ayrshire Rivers Trust), SC

### **Apologies:**

None received

### **Previous Minutes**

Proposed by Alan Hill

Seconded Alex Reid

### **Co-options**

AH proposed that Charlie McDade and Gordon Millar be co-opted onto the Board as discussed at the previous meeting.

This motion was unanimously seconded by the Board.

*\*Action Point: Charlie McDade and Gordon Millar co-opted on to the Board.*

### **Upper and Lower Boundaries**

FW explained the positioning of the boundaries and how the Board was bound by law under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Conservation Act 2003. The upper/lower river boundary that had previously been used was Ladykirk beat in the lower river. MS contested the legislation, citing that the boundary had

# River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board

www.ayrfishing.co.uk

c/o Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Braeside

Burnbrae Lodge

Mauchline

KA5 5HE

## Board Clerk

Forbes M Watson

fmwatson@tiscali.co.uk

Mob: 07768041226

www.ayrshireriverstrust.org

info@ayrshireriverstrust.org

Tel: 01290 518130

previously been the confluence of the River Ayr and Lugar Water. It was discussed that whilst the Lugar/Ayr confluence had been used by the previous Board for the previous term, this was incorrect and FW in discussion with Fish Legal had recognised the previous Board had been wrong to assign this as the upper/lower boundary. AH proposed that the Board write to Scottish Government and ask that the upper/lower boundary be reviewed and moved from the Ladykirk Beat to the confluence of the River Ayr and Lugar Water. There was unanimous agreement from those present that the Board Clerk should write seeking a Scottish Government review.

*\*Action Point: AH and FW to write to Scottish Ministers requesting change to upper and lower limits.*

## **Catrine Dam Claim**

FW stated that he had put a claim into George Leslie for £1850 to cover ARTs time for surveys, analysis and report after the pollution incident on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021. George Leslie have refused to pay this as they are delivering two barrier easements on the catchment as an environmental undertaking enforced by SEPA. AR stated that the report the Trust produced was "fresh air" and failed to find the impacts. SB explained that the surveys did not find any evidence to suggest that there was substantial and lasting damage to the river habitat or ecology. The work was performed to a high standard.

*\* Action Point: AH to meet with FW and ART to examine the paper trail and write to George Leslie to recoup the costs the Board had incurred in protecting the river following the pollution event in June 2021.*

## **ART Report**

AH spoke about Crown Estate Scotland (C.S.E) funding through the sustainable communities' fund as a means of gaining funding to control INNPS. AH suggested that he and other members of the Board sit down and draft an application on behalf of the Board for the Trust to undertake INNPS control.

NW proposed working with riparian owners affected by INNPS under the AECS grants.

*\*Action Point: Board members to look into sustainable communities' fund and the AECS grant scheme funding options.*

## **River Management Plan.**

SB showed the DSFB a draft version of the Fishery Management Plan which is well underway and will be released as soon as Scottish Government makes the mapping pressures tool available.

*\*Action Point: ART to complete management plan upon release of pressures tool from Scottish Government.*

## **Financial Report.**

The accounts were circulated at the meeting. SB/SC questioned the machine and plant hire expenditure on the last page of the accounts.

# River Ayr District Salmon Fishery Board

[www.ayrfishing.co.uk](http://www.ayrfishing.co.uk)

c/o Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Braeside

Burnbrae Lodge

Mauchline

KA5 5HE

## Board Clerk

Forbes M Watson

[fmwatson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fmwatson@tiscali.co.uk)

Mob: 07768041226

[www.ayrshireriverstrust.org](http://www.ayrshireriverstrust.org)

[info@ayrshireriverstrust.org](mailto:info@ayrshireriverstrust.org)

Tel: 01290 518130

FW stated that the accounts could now be circulated. FW also stated that he would chase the outstanding assessments and AH highlighted the saving the Board had made by changing accountants and highlighted the healthy bank balance that the Board has.

*\*ART to question the accountant on the machine and plant hire expenditure item.*

## **AOCB**

AH suggested that the invitation be made to Steven Prendergast(SP) to attend the next meeting. SB stated that he is meeting SP in the next couple of weeks and that the Board may want to attend that meeting to discuss the various issues relating to policing/baliffing the River Ayr at key locations and times. AH also told the Board that there has been budget set aside for Wildlife Crime Officers to allow Police Officers to spend more time patrolling key locations on rivers. The Board agreed the Operation Wingspan had been a success and that they would like to see this style of operation continue.

SB spoke of a management agreement proposed by Crown Estate Scotland through Toby Metcalfe to put two sections of Crown Water out of fishing right. These sections are in Ayr, from Nethermills Dams downstream to the estuary limit and the section of water upstream of Catrine Dam. For a management agreement to be met, the Board would require indemnity insurance.

*\*Action point: Steven Prendergast to meet with ART and the DSFB and for the Board to acquire a quote for public indemnity insurance that covers them for £2,000,000.*

## **DONM**

The date of the next meeting will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, 1900 at the Kilmarnock Supporters Club, Mauchline.