**CAITHNESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 7th of June 2024**

**Present**

Chairman: Lord Thurso (LT)

Members: J Mackay(JM), SWD Laird(SL), A Macauslan (AM), D Mackay(DM)

Officers: EC McCarthy(EM), A Youngson(AY), M Blackwood (MB)

Observer: RSPB representative

**1.Register of Interests**

The current Register was presented to the board for annual review. It was noted that MN is a Proprietor on The Forss River. The register was amended accordingly.

**2.Apologies**

R Dunbar(RD), I Cormack(IC), M Newton(MN)

**3.Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March were approved.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising not on the Agenda.

**5.Finance and Admin**

1. The Estimates for the 2024 were approved and the rate for 2024 agreed at £0.16 in the £. **Action: look at bank interest rates.**
2. The 2023 annual report which had been agreed to at the proprietors meeting was noted.
3. Clerk’s report. The table of correspondence and other activity by the Clerk was duly noted.
4. The date for the Public AGM was agreed as being the 14th August at 2.00 pm at The Ulbster Arms and the Clerk was asked to undertake the necessary arrangements.

**6.Consultant’s Report**

The board received the consultants report and noted the following:

1. 2023 EF report – the report had been completed and circulated. AY gave a brief description of the overall findings within the report, which is now available on the Boards website.
2. Smolt Tagging – a discussion was held on the findings and results of successful tagging by Adam Piper last year. **Action: AY drafted letter to Marine Directorate- Annabel re points to be made. JT to complete and send, copying in FMS.**
3. Saprolegnia – Sampling is carried out on a regular basis and going well, with minor issues this year in comparison to previous years.
4. Forss – Work on the falls had been delayed due to the weather, but Iain MacLean was lined up to do the work.
5. EDNA – results were sent off to UHI in Inverness and still awaiting a reply.
6. Loch Watten – Still don’t know for sure if only Roach.

**7.Flow Country Rivers Trust**

a. Annual report – circulated and was to be agreed in due course

b. Annual accounts – in the process of being finalised

c. AGM to be held in a few weeks’ time.

**8.Bailiff’s Report**

Bailiff reported things had been very quiet.

**9.Any other business**

Nothing to note.

**10.Meeting dates**

The next meetings of the board will take place as stated below;

Wednesday 16th August 2023 2pm AGM followed by board in the Ulbster

November/December via zoom – day/time to be confirmed.