



# **RIVER DOON DISTRICT** **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

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## **MINUTES**

of

### **Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors of the River Doon District Salmon Fishery Board:**

**Thursday 14 March 2024 at 7:30pm**  
**Western House Hotel, 66 Craigie Road, AYR KA8 0HA**

#### **1. Present**

<i>Alan Macdonald (“AM”)</i>	<i>Doonside Estate (Chair)</i>
<i>Iain K Clark (“IKC”)</i>	<i>Gilson Gray LLP (Clerk to the Board)</i>
<i>Stuart Brabbs (“SB”)</i>	<i>Ayrshire Rivers Trust</i>
<i>David Cosh (“DC”)</i>	<i>Doonfoot Fishings, Board Member</i>
<i>Martin Donachy (“MD”)</i>	<i>Woodlands, Board Member</i>
<i>Stuart Dorward (“SD”)</i>	<i>Board Member (Salmon Fishers’ Representative)</i>
<i>Peter Kennerley (“PK”)</i>	<i>Auchendrane House, Board Member</i>
<i>Carlos Van Heddegem (“CVD”)</i>	<i>Holms Fishing, Board Member</i>
<i>Wendy Whiteford</i>	<i>Drumgrange &amp; Keirs Angling Club</i>
<i>Alan Shannon</i>	<i>River Doon River Watch Coordinator</i>

#### **2. Apologies**

<i>Alan McDowall</i>	<i>River Doon River Patrol Coordinator</i>
<i>Bob Beveridge</i>	<i>MacManniston, Dalrymple Beat</i>
<i>Mark Colman</i>	<i>Smithston Fishing Club, Board Member</i>
<i>Lawrence Dalgleish (“LD”)</i>	<i>Blackhill, Rozelle, Board Member</i>
<i>Mark Gibson</i>	<i>Craigengillan, Dalmellington, Ayr Beat</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 have 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*. All Board Members present were invited to declare new/amend existing interests. The Clerk declared that he has also now been appointed Clerk to the River Stinchar District Salmon Fishery Board. No other interests were declared or amended.

In addition, the Clerk notified those Qualified Proprietors 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 such additional interests were declared.

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

Were unanimously approved:

Proposed: Martin Donachy

Seconded: David Cosh

#### **5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

None

#### **6. Draft Annual Report re The activities of the Board for the year to 31 December 2023**

##### **(a) Report from the Chair – Alan Macdonald, Chair (AM)**

He presented his report and noted that the river was still designated Category 2 by Scottish Government (**SG**). The Board made a formal Consultation Response, but it was noted the river doesn't meet the criteria for Category 3.

A discussion followed regarding the differences with Category 3, which still means that the Board does not have powers to enforce Mandatory Catch & Release, but strongly recommends 100% Catch & Release throughout the season.

It was also noted that the NEPS surveys, which are meant to be done every year (but have only been done 3 times) are not happening this year, because SG doesn't have the money.

He noted the Board can make the freshwater habitat as good as we can, but that willn't address the global issues affecting the North Atlantic issues – NASCO – international problem. Things are not happening at pace.

##### **(b) Report from the Clerk to the Board – Iain K Clark, Clerk to Board (IKC)**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report. There were no questions arising.

##### **(c) Report on Fishery Assessments – IKC**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report. There were no questions arising.

##### **(d) Consultation Responses – IKC**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report. There was a discussion regarding concerns about resourcing for SEPA and that pollution incidents are not being followed up. There was a Regional Meeting with SEPA, but this has been sidelined due to lack of resourcing

##### **(e) Good Governance – IKC**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report. There were no questions arising.

##### **(f) Code of Practice – IKC**

A revised Code of Practice was presented and approved by the Board, including specific mention of the requirement to kill Grayling, if discovered in the river.

**(g) Scientific Report – Stuart Brabbs, Ayrshire Rivers Trust (SB)**

A detailed Report was presented

**(h) River Watch Scheme – IKC**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report. There were no questions arising.

**(i) Annual Catch Returns – IKC**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report. CVD noted that there was more rod effort and less fish caught, but acknowledged that two years don't allow trends to be identified.

**7. Draft Audited Statement of Accounts to 31 December 2023 - IKC**

The Draft from Azets Accountants was presented and unanimously approved:

Proposed: Peter Kennerley

Seconded: Stuart Dorward

**8. Report on Expected Budget – IKC**

A report was presented in the Draft Annual Report.

There was a discussion about a possible donation to WildFish and DC will provide a pack of what they are doing and this will be put on Agenda for next Board Meeting.

**9. The proposed activities of the Board for the next year – SB/AM**

ART presented a Report. There was a discussion around priorities as follows:

Japanese Knotweed - £1,500

Himalayan Balsam – get anglers to do it

Fencing £2,000

Tree Planting £1,500

Allocated £5,000

**10. Any Other Business - AM**

None

**11. Next Meetings:**

(a) Board Meeting 6:30pm and Annual Public Meeting: 24 April 2024 at 7:30pm

AM thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 21:04.