



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 7th November 2024

Loch Fyne Hotel and Teams

TIME: 10.30am

Attendance:

AFT Directors and Staff: Alasdair Reynolds (AR, Chairperson), Jane Wright (JW, Vice-Chairperson), Tim King (TK, Treasurer), Alan Kettle White (Director, AKW), Roger Brook (RB, Director), Robert Younger (RY, Director), David Stewart (DS, Director), Jonathan Brown (JB, Director), Alyssa Stewart (AS, Secretary), Graeme Anderson (GA, AFT Biologist), Robert Jackson (RJ, AFT Biologist), Rebecca Smith (RS, Director), Tuggy Delap (TD, Director), Hugh Nicol (HN, Director), Alan Stewart (AS)

ADSFb: Virginia Sumsion (Teams), Liz (Teams), Ian Amory (Teams), Ray Doonan (Teams), Malcolm Robertson (Teams), Victoria Paul (VP), Abdrew Barker (AB)

Apologies: No apologies from AFT Directors

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

AR welcomed everyone to the meeting both in person and on Teams.

ELECTION/ RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The following directors retire by rota and have agreed to stand for re-election:-

Tim King

Jane Wright

New director appointed: Alan Stewart was proposed by AR to join the AFT Board and seconded by DS.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM [7/11/23]

AR asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. Proposed by JW and seconded by TK.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2023/24

The draft accounts were circulated to the Directors prior to the meeting.



TK stated that producing the accounts is complex. QuickBooks has been an asset. Commercial invoices are raised earlier than the charitable invoices.

TK thanked AS for her work and the team for their hard work throughout the year.

Approved by JB and RS.

FORECAST FINANCIAL POSITION 2024/25

The SOFA which had been circulated prior to the meeting was presented by TK.

TK advised that the combined bank balance stood at £137,975. TK thanked AKW for all his efforts in achieving a much-improved cashflow position.

JB queried as to whether more staff may be required. AKW explained that AFT are a primary candidate for future sea lice and aquaculture work under the new SEPA regime. This will result in an increase in sites, which in turn would mean that another member of staff would be required. Once SEPA's intentions are clear a decision can be made. We are currently in a period of uncertainty.

OUTREACH PROJECT

On 25th September JW and AR presented pre-prepared slides and videos to the Kilmodan primary school on the salmon's life cycle, followed by casting tuition outside then a visit to the riverbank (River Ruel) in the afternoon. AKW did kick-sampling and electrofishing to show sample fish and invertebrates, and the day was rounded off with fishing tuition for the children. This was all well received well and a remarkable success. AR had received thank-you emails from the schoolteacher.

AB had facilitated the day and was a key influence in the project's success sourcing part of the finance from the Wind Farm Trust. AB thanked JW, AR and AKW.

The potential for similar future outreach to schools was discussed.

RY would be keen to help in future and Dunoon Primary was suggested as another possible outreach candidate.

AR suggested that perhaps Inveraray Primary School might appreciate a visit. AS could assist with this and HN indicated that Argyll Estates might help with the river site visit.

A meeting will be arranged with interested volunteers.

STAFFING



AR thanked the team and all the Directors who give their free time to AFT.

AKW thanked Tom Bonniwell and Archie McColl Smith for their involvement.

The team have been under too much pressure this year missing some holidays due and TK commented that this was unsustainable. In view of the potential future staff requirements referred to above, AKW and AR will liaise over initiating the process to recruit another biologist.

AOB

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SCOTLAND BOARD ELECTION.

FMS have invited nominations to fill board positions, three in the District Salmon Fishery Board category and one in the Trust elected category. Three nominations had been received for the three places in the DSFB category, so no election was required however AFT was invited to vote for one of three nominees for the Trust category. It was agreed that AFT will vote for Richard Davies from the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust.

At this stage the AFT AGM combined with the ADSFB Board Meeting

UPDATE ON AQUACULTURE

BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

The Biologist report was circulated prior to the meeting.

AKW presented the Biologist report which will be circulated with the minutes.

AWE Counter

RB explained that AI now identifies and counts the fish at the Awe barrage.

There is data to support the view that the way the dam is operated affects the fish, the timing of their return and health.

Seal Deterrent

ADRIA bailiff Ewan used the deterrent, and it did work, by chasing the seals out of the pool. The seal deterrent is not a fixed piece of equipment and has to be deployed and operated by Ewan to deter the seals.

RB thanked the AFT Biologists for their hard work.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON AQUACULTURE

RB is of the view that the Argyll DSFB and Aquaculture are working towards a new era. Lice levels are a shadow of what they used to be, the new SEPA regime has been a key activist in this and Mowi and Bakka Frost are working towards the highest accreditation for their



product and have distinctly done better with their lice levels. There is a reasonable dialogue with these companies.

RB stated that the Argyll DSFB has insufficient income from proprietors to make significant improvements to the fisheries.

Argyll DSFB have negotiated with Mowi for funding habitat and fisheries improvement projects in the Awe District. The Argyll DSFB has agreed, after much deliberation, to take money from aquaculture to support the AFT with their projects.

Disease and warming seas are an issue for the farms.