

***First Meeting of the Newly Formed Western Isles District  
Salmon Fisheries Board***

February 12, 2019

17:40

**Type of Meeting:** Board Meeting

**Meeting Facilitator:** Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Offices, Sandwick Road,  
Stornoway

**Attendees:** Dickon Green, Uig Lodge Estate  
Jason Laing, Grimersta Estate  
Richard Davies, OHFT Chairman  
Alan Wells, Fisheries Management Scotland  
Iain Maciver, Stornoway Trust Estate  
Innes Morrison, Morsgail and Amhuinnsuidhe Estate  
Scott Dickson, Aline Estate  
Michael Mackenzie, Soval Estate  
Ivar Macary, Soval Estate  
Donnie Whiteford, Garynahine Estate  
Angus Mackenzie, Scaliscro Estate  
Donnie Macdonald, Obbe Fishery  
John Steele, Storass Uibhist Estate  
Chris Macrae, Eishken Estate  
Kenny MacIannan, Carloway Estate Trust  
Iain Trayner, Stornoway Angling Association  
Iain Roxburgh, Gress Angling Association  
Paul Hopper, OHFT  
Carolyn Ferguson, OHFT

Sir Peter Cresswell, Uig and Hamanavay Estate via telephone

**Apologies:** Fred Martin, Aline Estate  
Fergus Granville, North Uist Estate  
Richard Kershaw, Soval Estate  
Martin Jourdan, Kyles (part)  
Barry Lomas, Kyles (part)  
Neil St Quinton, Borve Lodge Estate  
Richard Seaman, Scaliscro Estate  
Victor Beamish, Grimersta Estate  
Dougie McGilvray, Garynahine Estate

1 Co-opt representatives of salmon anglers and tenant netmen in the district are as follows:

Jason Laing confirmed that three had agreed.

*Ivar Macary for Soval Estate*

*Iain Trayner for Stornoway Angling Association*

*Iain Roxburgh For Gress Angling Association*

2 Dickon Green nominated Jason Laing as the new Clerk to the Board.

Donnie Macdonald Seconded.

Dickon Green said he was willing to stand as Chairman to the Board for a twelve-month preliminary term, and then hand over to someone else

Michael Mackenzie stated that Richard Kershaw had nominated Dickon to be Chair.

Jason Laing called for any other nominations to the role. There were none.

Iain Maciver seconded Dickon Green as Chair.

Iain Maciver asked if all members have a vote

Jason Laing: Yes.

Innes Morrison asked if it was to be one vote per estate?

Jason Laing confirmed it is one vote per Board Member. (This is subject to the Code of Good Practice for Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards section 2.2.9 – Voting (statutory provision)).

Dickon Green declared an interest in continuing as a Trustee for the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust and owning Uig Lodge Smokery. He also thanked the Trust for their work recently. Alan Wells from Fisheries Management Scotland stated that; providing the Chair is fulfilling their duties to the Board, his interests elsewhere are not a **conflict** of interest. The aquaculture challenges need to be worked on together by all involved.

3 Jason Laing summarized previous representation on the Board and suggested that the following were invited to represent on the Board; Scottish National Heritage, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Police Scotland (and hopefully Philip Bertin the local Wild Life Liaison Officer), Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

There had previously been representation from the Aquaculture Industry, but it was agreed that now was not the time for continued representation. They could be invited to attend meetings where relevant.

- 4 4.1 Dickon Green introduced Richard Davies as the new Trust Chairman and Paul Hopper the Trust's Biologist. Richard and Paul represent the Board for scientific presentations.

Richard Davies put on a video presentation on Aquaculture and Loch Roag before speaking about national changes to legislation being needed and which FMS are lobbying for.

Richard Davies updated on a working partnership with Loop Tackle, with benefits to both parties (Trust and Loop).

- 4.2 Paul Hopper presented slides on screening & scoping and updated on current aquaculture sites. Comments by end of week. Screen and scoping response to get Environmental Action Plan.

\*ACTION Paul Hopper to email screen and scoping response to Jason Laing by end of week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

- 4.3 Paul Hopper updated on the National Electrofishing Program that The Trust took part in over 30 sites, including 375 genetic samples

Richard Davies asked what the knowledge of genetics was around the table, which was very little. A presentation would be done at a later date.

Update on further Electrofishing training and loss of work due to lack of qualified helpers.

Paul Hopper updated on future OHFT plans including Salmon in Lochs, Nutrient Enrichment, and Angling Promotion with Tesco Bags for Help funding.

- 4.4 Paul Hopper passed round the OHFT budget for the coming year and explained the finances projected. Balance in bank account stated.

Donnie Macdonald brought up why there was funding received from Aquaculture.

Richard Davies explained it's working relations while Paul hopper add that it's towards Angling Promotion and education.

Iain Maciver alluded to the Board being the largest contributor of finances to the Trust. No finances mean no Trust and there is no one to help the Board with its remit.

Dickon Green seconded that the finances from the Board are vital to the Trust, which had been left in a fragile state. Is there an alternative means of income?

Paul Hopper said not without contract work.

Innes Morrison asked how many team members were needed for electrofishing a site. Paul said no more than two are needed. There was a discussion about the training and the electrofishing course.

**5 5.1** Dickon Green introduced Alan Wells from Fisheries Management Scotland. Alan went on to explain FMS' role in representing Trusts and District Salmon Fishery Boards across Scotland, how they advocate in Government and Parliament, the many working groups they are intertwined with, working partnerships, and the role FMS play in; licensing, education, bailiffing, legislations and consulting.

There was a discussion on predation and seals in the River Creed, scare methods and licensing.

**5.2** Alan Wells condensed the key responsibilities of the Board, follow in line with the Code of Good Practice, the 2013 compliance checklists and work with Fish Legal.

\*ACTION Alan Wells to send GDPR Guidance for Boards to Jason Laing

\*ACTION Carolyn Ferguson to email members for updates on contact details

**6 6.1** Dickon Green updated the new Board on changes to the signatories on the bank account, what transactions there had been and what the closing balance was (£4,192). Costings for memberships & subscriptions, insurance and legal costs were brought to the attention of those present with a projected rough cost for setting up the new Board being £7,000.

**6.2** The Board currently banks with Royal Bank of Scotland and will continue to have their accounts with CIB Services.

Alan Well's said that there is no requirement for a full audit, just an independent assessment. Details are in FMS guidelines.

Dickon Green stated that the financial year would start from this date forward and it was not advisable to change the name from Western Isles District Salmon Fishery Board to Outer Hebrides District Salmon Fishery Board.

6.3 Dickon Green suggested Carolyn Ferguson should provide administrative support to the Clerk. Carolyn's role would be in a paid capacity which the Trust would invoice for her time. This is easier than two different employments.

It was agreed that the Steering Group had worked well and would continue in a subcommittee format.

Sir Peter Cresswell was happy to continue working with Dickon Green and Jason Laing and Richard Kershaw on the Group.

**\*19:16 Ivar MacAry from Soval Angling Club left the meeting.**

Role of Clerk was discussed as to whether to be a paid role.

Iain Maciver mentioned that previous clerks had been paid in the past.

Dickon Green said the Steering Group would discuss, make a recommendation and the Board would formalize.

7 The valuation role and contacts list were discussed. Carolyn Ferguson asked that all present email her their respective fisheries contact details. From owners and proprietors to managers and ghillies.

\*ACTION Carolyn to double check all contacts for the Board valuation role.

Dickon Green stated that any appeals on the new valuations would have an affect on levies coming in. Any appeals can be credited after initial payment if required.

**\*19:25 Sally Reynolds Enters**

Dickon Green suggested that the levy rate would be £1 for every £100 of ratable value. This was agreed by all Board Members present

This would bring in approx. £77,000 with £57,000 going to the Trust this year.

Donnie Macdonald asked who should Barry Lomas and Martin Jourdan contact, if they need to, regarding the Valuation role?

Jason Laing informed Donnie Macdonald that it would be Rob Sheppard at the Highland Assessors Office.

Dickon Green asked what the remaining money should be spent on. There were discussions and suggestions but ultimately it was agreed to be thoroughly discussed at a different meeting.

**8** Dickon Green opened by suggesting the Board follows Fisheries Management Scotland's lead with regard to the Loch Roag incident. The recommendation of an in-depth submission to the CnES planning department in response to the Vuia Mor Screening and Scoping request by Scottish Salmon Company, asking for a full Environmental Impact Assessment. Paul Hopper has written this and it will be signed and submitted by the Clerk to the Board.

Sir Peter Cresswell informed the members that he has made a submission to the planning officer and suggested all other fisheries in the area also do so. Alan Wells pointed out that while this was only at the Screen and Scoping stage, and there was nothing yet to object to in terms of planning, it was a good suggestion that the affected fisheries submit a request for an EIA.

Alan Wells spoke of getting an Environmental Impact Assessment carried out and a Habitat Appraisal Assessment. Advised to work with what comes forward alongside long term work.

\*ACTION Alan Wells to send Guidance to Jason Laing.

**\*19:45 Iain Maciver Leaves**

**9** Jason Laing is to take over bailiff matters and update Marine Scotland on the Board now being reformed

Alan Wells suggested that the Trust also notify Marine Scotland they would no longer be handing bailiff applications.

**10** Dickon Green gave out Rob Sheppard's email and telephone number.

Dickon Green said that the subcommittee would respond to the letter from North Uist Estate requesting permission to stock.

Alan Wells informed the table that the Board only had the power to grant permission to stock/release the fish into the water. Brood stock fish removed from the water in the close season is the responsibility of Marine Scotland.

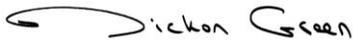
Sir Peter commented on the current layout and workability of the Fish Pal/Fish Hebrides website. Paul Hopper explained the situation and the website will be getting looked at.

Date of next meeting is to be arranged for end of August, beginning of September time, with plenty notice to be given. It will then later be discussed the frequency of the meetings.

**Meeting Concluded at 20:00.**

**These minutes were approved and have been signed by:**

Dickon Green

 Dickon Green

**Date**

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Jason Laing



**Date 28/02/2019**

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