

**MINUTES OF THE RIVER BRORA DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
PROPRIETORS MEETING**

**Held at Sunrise House
On Thursday 10th August 2017 at 11am**

Present		In Attendance	
The Earl Cadogan, Lower Brora North Bank	LC	Neil Wright, Clerk to the Board	NW
Mrs Angela Tyser, Upper Brora and Loch Brora	AT	Martin Livings, Head Bailiff	ML
The Hon. Martin Janson, Lower Brora South Bank	MJ	Robert Rattray, Sporting Agent for Lord Cadogan	RR
		Philippa Cliff	PC
		Christian Wroe	CW

1	APOLOGIES	Action										
	Peter Voy, Factor for Sutherland Estates											
2	MINUTES OF THE 13TH APRIL 2017 MEETING											
	LC welcomed all attendees. The minutes of the previous meeting have been circulated. PC noted that her name had been omitted from the minutes. NW commented that he would make the amendment. LC signed a copy as being a true reflection of the meeting. The signed copy was handed to the Clerk.											
3	MATTERS ARISING											
	NW ran through the statistics for the rod catches from 1952 to 2017, noting that there has been clear peaks and troughs of fish being caught. The catch records for the year appear to match previous down turns in returning salmon but it is not unusual, which is hopefully encouraging.											
4	FINANCE UPDATE											
	<p>NW ran through the accounts to date and noted that the account was slightly behind budget due to a vehicle purchase but there was £11,700 in the account. There will be a slight saving expected due to the reduced Bailiffing service.</p> <p>The District Valuer has now issued the new rateable values and the new assessments have been calculated as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Ben Armine Trust</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£185.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Dalreavoch Estate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£74.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Cadogan Estate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1810.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Gordonbush Estate (Plus Loch Brora)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2599.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">No3 settlement (Plus Loch Brora)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1996.29</td> </tr> </table> <p>The new assessment will start from the 1st of September.</p>	Ben Armine Trust	£185.70	Dalreavoch Estate	£74.28	Cadogan Estate	£1810.58	Gordonbush Estate (Plus Loch Brora)	£2599.81	No3 settlement (Plus Loch Brora)	£1996.29	
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5	HEAD BAILIFFS REPORT	
	<p>ML ran through his bailiff's report and commented that the river temperatures in May were the same as August 2016. LC commented that there are a number of fish in the river but they are moving quickly up river. It can also take 3 days for the fish to lose their sea lice and they may be moving in and out of the river on the tides. RR noted fish are moving fast and cutting redds.</p> <p>ML commented that some tenants are still using trebles and it might be worth putting the fishing rules in the huts. A second hand Mitsubishi truck has been purchased for £13,000 with a trade in value of £2,000 for the old Ford Ranger.</p> <p>There has been two sightings of pink salmon in the river and NW has reported them to Fishery Management Scotland. Information sheets on pink salmon have been put up in the huts.</p> <p>ML suggested that the croys needed to be looked at on the lower river as they are causing erosion and possibly not providing the benefit which was intended. Madmans is now in 4 pieces when it used to be 2.</p> <p>PC commented that SEPA was involved 10 years ago and they were not keen to alter the river. NW noted that SEPA have softened on some issues in recent years due to major flooding and erosion in other places. CW suggested that tree planting and willow spiralling might help. LC suggested that the bank is monitored and a solution found. SEPA to be consulted and look for an engineer to do stabilisation works.</p> <p>ML noted that new radios that have a capacity up to 5w would be very helpful in order to increase the distance of the communications. A radio licence would be required for these radios and this would cost £75 for 5 years. LC agreed that new radios should be purchased.</p>	
6	SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – WILD FISHERIES REVIEW	
	<p>NW explained that the wild fisheries review has been scrapped and there will no longer be any FMOs but there will still be smaller changes such as management plans required and greater training opportunities. The River Board structure will remain unaltered.</p>	
7	HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	
	<p>NW ran through proposals for a full river survey which would then inform targeted habitat improvements. It would be a large project to cover the whole catchment but would hopefully start to improve the spawning ground and possibly bring back degraded areas. Dr Jon Watt has been suggested by various parties as being one of the leaders in this field and he will be able to start in the new year. We are in the process of gathering together existing data which has been compiled though the wind farms and hydro schemes. This will assist in the surveys and help identify future electro fishing sites so as to get a good overview of the health of the river.</p> <p>PC enquired if Jon Watt has been instructed. NW stated that he had not been instructed as we were gathering the existing information which will identify if some survey work would not need to be carried out again and therefore reduce the cost. Once</p>	

	<p>this has been done we will get an indicative estimate from Jon and forward it to the proprietors for comment.</p>	
8	CONSERVATION POLICY	
	<p>NW and ML wished to update the conservation policy so that it was agreed by all proprietors, this will mean there are no inconsistencies. The town water rules also need to be updated and will be implemented for 2018.</p> <p>A draft policy will be circulation for comment with the sporting let agents.</p>	
9	BAILIFFING TEAM	
	<p>NW proposed that the Board would advertise for a new full time bailiff and a part time bailiff for the summer months. LC suggested that if required the Board could go back to 3 full time Bailiffs. ML commented that 3 Bailiff were not need full time and a part time person in the summer would be sufficient.</p> <p>The proprietors agreed to proceed on this basis.</p>	
10	AOCB	
	Nothing to report.	
11	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Date to be agreed.	