

Fisheries Management Scotland Board Meeting

Minutes

28 March 2017



Present

Alister Jack (Chair)

Alison Baker

Roger Brook

Chris Conroy

Douglas Dobie

Brian Doran

Alasdair Laing

David Summers

Bill Whyte

In attendance

Alan Wells, Chief Executive

Brian Davidson, Director of Communications & Administration

Apologies for absence

Mark Bilsby

Simon McKelvey

Mary Nicholson

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Roger Brook, Brian Doran and Douglas Dobie to their first Board meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting – these were previously approved and published in line with the arrangement agreed at the first meeting.

3. Matters arising

Constitution of Fisheries Management Scotland – A process for taking forward incorporation as a company limited by guarantee will be drafted. Whilst incorporation is relatively simple, the process of transferring the constitution into a memorandum and articles of association, will require care and will need full consultation and agreement with the membership. Whilst the circumstances, post WFR, are now changed, there is a need to ensure the constitution and structure will serve the organisation in the long term, with a sustainable funding model and

protect board members and reduce liability. A paper will be produced to outline the way ahead.

ACTION: AW/BD

Work Plan – The work plan was circulated and this set out an approximate allocation of staff time against employee days. It was agreed that it would be useful to have a prioritisation system, and the members' priorities session will help inform this.

Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre – Alan Wells provided a re-cap on the background to SFCC. Fisheries Management Scotland will be formally employing the SFCC manager from 1 April and it is proposed that SFCC will become a specific committee of Fisheries Management Scotland (but retaining its own identity and ring-fenced funding within Fisheries Management Scotland). In terms of future funding, whilst there are no guarantees, it is expected that existing funding from Scottish Government (SG) will continue, and SG, Marine Scotland Science and SEPA will continue to be involved in management of SFCC.

Communication and Advocacy Strategies – these strategies, and a range of other governance documents, have been prepared for the Board's consideration and sign-off. It was recognised that it would be unwieldy for the full Board to consider all documents, and Chris Conroy and Alasdair Laing agreed to review these, for which the Board was grateful. The documents would be provided in due course. **ACTION: AW/BD and CC/AL**

4. Consideration of Fisheries Management Scotland Committees

The Board agreed that any future committees should only be formed if there is a clear need. It was recognised that coordination of activities on aquaculture is a priority and that a committee would be a good vehicle to formalise the aquaculture group discussions.

It was noted that committees will need to have a strong Fisheries Management Scotland identity with clear terms of reference and oversight by the Board. They should be informed by members' priorities and further consideration about how such committees will interact with Government working groups is required.

5. Bailiffs' Seminar – update

The bailiffs' seminar was hosted by the Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association in early March. This was well-attended and it was very helpful for Police Scotland's Chief Constable, Phil Gormley, to be in attendance and launch the event. Bill Whyte was thanked for facilitating this. Fisheries Management Scotland have since written to the Chief Constable to explore opportunities for further improved engagement with Police Scotland, particularly in terms of training and local liaison.

6. Conflict of Interest

It was agreed to adopt and maintain a register of interest for Board members. This would be a standing item for future meetings and a declaration system and register would be circulated to all Board members and staff. **ACTION: AW/BD**

7. AOB

Alison Baker raised the matter of whether wider membership (beyond DSFBs and Trusts) had been considered for Fisheries Management Scotland. It was agreed to give this some further consideration as part of the development of a new constitutional as a company limited by guarantee.

Alan Wells thanked Alison Baker for drawing attention to the consultation on fracking proposals for various sites in central Scotland. It was agreed that Fisheries Management Scotland will respond and support members with any points they wish to raise.

Alan Wells reported that he had written to the two Cabinet Secretaries to introduce FMS and had requested a meeting to discuss Fisheries Management Scotland priorities, WFR related matters and aquaculture interactions.

Dates of 2017 Meetings: 28 June (Board), 7 November (Board Meeting, AGM and Members' Meeting)