

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 15th October 2008 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Roger Brake (Treasurer) in the chair	
Roger Furniss (SWRA)	Dave Phillips (Lostwithiel)
Chris Janes (Riverbed management)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Ivan Lyne (Bodmin Angling Association)	Robbie Williams (River Co-ordinator)
John Pearce (Bodmin Angling Association)	Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Mike Bryant (Newbridge)	Alan Hawken (Glynn)
Ray Burrows (Bodmin Angling Association)	Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)
Paul Eliot (Chairman)	Brian Muelaner (Lanhydrock)
Anthony Fortescue (President)	Arthur White (Liskeard)
Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)	

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2008

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 16th July 2008 were agreed subject to the replacement of SRWA by SWW in the second paragraph of item 4.

2. Matters arising

1. Park Pit

The Secretary reported on the process of the SWW abstraction licence for Park Pit. SWW have behaved perfectly but the handling of the approval by the Environment Agency had lead to great concern. There had been inconsistencies and incongruities in both the process and content. A formal objection had been lodged with the Environment Agency Regional Director.

It was hoped that this would result in

1. An apology
2. The release of the internal Fisheries comments for scrutiny by the Fowey Rivers Association officers
3. An undertaking that the process and rationale should be significantly improved for dealing with Stannon Pit
4. Monitoring and reporting on the environmental impact
5. Extra conditions put into the Park licence
6. A review of all licences before 2016 and funding for the hatchery

Members of the committee would be kept informed about the eventual result.

JE

2. 2009 Catch limits

The clubs all agreed that the current catch limits and conditions should be rolled over for the next season.

Further thought might then be given to introducing lower and upper limits for sea trout, and a review of the need to return all sea trout in September.

It was hoped that all clubs would be able to feed back information to the January meeting of the committee. The Environment Agency should also be asked to provide historic data on sea trout sizes.

All
RF

3. **Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer tabled two papers showing the payments made in the last quarter and the statement of accounts. It was noted that SWWW still have £15,000 in their accounts for the use of the Fowey Rivers Association. The invoices paid in 2007/8 and due for reimbursement would shortly be sent to SWWW.

JE/RB

4. **SWRA subscription**

SWRA had requested that the Fowey Rivers Association subscription for the work done both on behalf of the Fowey and for South West rivers generally should be increased from £350 to £500. This would bring the Fowey more into line with other South West rivers. The subject had been discussed by the officers and recommended to the committee. This was agreed with the abstention of Ivan Lyne and Roger Furniss.

RB

5. **FFRG**

The Secretary reported on the meeting that had been held earlier that day after a gap of 18 months. Arising from this:

1. Hugh Sambrook had retired and his replacement is Kate Stokes, formerly with Cornwall Wildlife Trust
2. Neil Whiter had confirmed that there was £15,000 set aside for the Fowey Rivers Association for projects. The copy invoices were available and would be reimbursed. There were a few additions, including the costs of the five year sanctuary agreements, Sanctuary rent paid to Fountain Forestry for Wainsford woods, the Maidenwell gravels and the match funding for the SITA project, to be made before payment.
3. Funding from SWWW for the hatchery had been the main item for discussion. The water from Colliford had been shown to be insufficient to attract salmon back into the St Neot and there was no salmon compensation arising from Colliford. The hatchery would be required in the long term to repopulate the St Neot. SWWW would be investigating whether the cost of the water bank and the winter pumped storage could be transferred to the hatchery and other catchment programmes.
4. The net buy back had been useful but was insufficient on its own to sustain the salmon stocks on the rivers.
5. The meeting had been informed about the Fowey Rivers

Association objection to the Park Pit licence.

6. Hatchery

The long term future of the hatchery was discussed, specifically in relation to the long term funding, the professional management and use of volunteers and security of tenure for at least ten years. (This requires a Section 106 agreement from Caradon District Council for the use of one of the holiday cottages for the use of the Eliot family and on site supervision of a farming enterprise.) These matters are being followed up by Roger Furniss with the Eliot family.

RF

7. 2008 broodstock programme

The catchment work on the Upper Draynes and the spawning beds and coppicing work on the Warleggan will be insufficient to sustain the salmon runs and repopulate the St Neot. The hatchery is still needed for many years.

Robbie reported that the LDAA had offered £500 and Paul Mugridge had paid £500 of his own money to support the hatchery. This would be supplemented by about £500 from Lostwithiel, an unknown sum from Lanhydrock (approx £250) and £85 from the Glynn. It was hoped that the Glynn contribution could be increased, and that Newbridge should be encouraged to contribute also.

JE/RW

It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Paul Mugridge for his very generous personal contribution, and that the aggregation of funds would provide not only a very welcome boost to funds but also signalled a turnaround in attitudes of anglers towards the conservation work.

In the light of this, it was agreed that, despite Paul's very serious illness, a limited hatchery scheme should be run for 2008/9. Robbie should manage the programme with the support of Chris and Jon, provided Paul was happy for others to manage his hatchery. The target would be a minimum of 4 cocks and 4 hens. Liaison with the Environment Agency would be required on account of Section 30 and discharge issues.

8. Catchment work programme 2008

1. SITA funding had been obtained through Westcountry Rivers Trust and this had resulted in 4 new spawning beds at Maidenwell and would also provide for five days coppicing at Bulland and the fencing off of the Bulland Pool. Tyson and Toby Russell were thanked for their hard work.
2. 600 metres of the Upper Draynes had been cleared. The gravels are there and need cleaning regularly to maintain them because sand is still migrating from the moor and will continue to do so. Chris and Robbie were thanked for their efforts and agreed to carry on for as long as they themselves were fit enough to do so.

3. It was agreed that £750 should be set aside to buy gravel as a stockpile for future work.

9. Canoe signage

It was agreed that £200 should be voted for the erection of signs at Halfway House and the Draynes Car Park informing canoeists about their prohibition from trespassing on private water and their potential damage to the delicate ecology of the river if they persisted.

10. Draynes volunteers

It was agreed that £100 should be set aside to thank the Draynes volunteers for their hard work.

It was agreed that the committee and other interested parties should visit the cleared sites on Sunday 23rd November and that a larger event should be organised for Sunday 11th January 2009.

11. Date of next meeting

21st January 2009 at Lostwithiel Social Club