

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 15th July 2009 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)	Trevor Sobey (Liskeard)
Jeff Eliot (Wainsford)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Stewart Fullwood (Bodmin)	Arthur White (Liskeard)
Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)	Robbie Williams (River Co-ordinator)
Dave Johns (Liskeard)	Jon Evans (secretary)
Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)	
Dave Phillips (Lostwithiel)	

Apologies

Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Matt Lewis (Lanhydrock)
Mike Bryant (Newbridge)	Ivan Lyne (Bodmin Angling Association)
Paul Eliot	Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)
Anthony Fortescue (President)	John Pearce (Bodmin Angling Association)

1. Chairmanship

The Secretary asked the committee to vote on the proposal that Dr Bill Smith should be elected as Chairman of the FRA. This was approved unanimously and Bill took the chair. .

It was also agreed that the committee's thanks for his past chairmanship and best wishes should be passed to Paul Eliot.

Thanks were also given to Godfrey Tucker for standing in as Chairman in the interim period.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2008

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 21st January 2009 were considered and agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

1. Canoe signage. It was agreed that the canoe signs should not be purchased or installed until the position in relation to national was clarified.
Roger Furniss gave a summary of the national position. The BCU is now taking the position that any voluntary agreement should be for 365 days a year. This has been rejected by the Angling Trust but the position remains unresolved.
2. Panters Bridge. Rob Williams reported that he had seen Mr Masters, the owner, and he seemed willing to agree to the area being leased to the FRA as sanctuary water. Rob and Godfrey would see him again and agree a suitable rental for a five year period, for which the funds have already been voted.

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4. **Minutes of the AGM held on 15th April 2009.**

The AGM minutes were noted.

5. **Matters arising from the AGM minutes.**

1. Park Pit. The Secretary reported on the present position at Park.
 - a. The notes of the meeting held on 21st January with Judy Proctor have not been produced. She has been reminded on two occasions and this will continue to be pressed so that the decisions are recorded for future reference.
 - b. SWW are using the water
 - c. There is a temporary annual agreement that disabled water skiers use the pit.
 - d. SWW has agreed that they will contribute £10k towards gravel works on the Trenant stream. This work will be overseen by Robert Hurrell and carried out by EA direct labour but we will be involved in agreeing sites (below the outlet and at the top of the lake) and construction methods.
 - e. The sand incursion from the track below the pit is being dealt with by the EA.
 - f. The Management Group has not yet been set up. It is likely to cover both Park and Stannon because many members will be common to both pits. River associations, riparians and landowners will be included.
2. Canoeing. Roger Furniss reported that in addition to the BCU problem, there was to be a programme on TV on 26th July and an item on BBC Countryfile within which Griff Rhys Jones seemed to be planning to encourage canoeists to disturb anglers on rivers. A strongly worded letter has been sent to the editor.
3. Colliford mitigation.
 - a. Roger Furniss reported that he had commissioned Fish Legal to investigate on behalf of the FRA, and that he has just sent the final documentation (the Inspectors report and the Secretary of State decision). Fish Legal would be aiming to show that
 - i. Colliford has wiped out the St Neot as a salmon river as well as sea trout, for which £5,000 compensation payment has been received annually.
 - ii. SWW may have to compensate further for stocking the St Neot but is unlikely to name Wainsford as the designated hatchery.
 - iii. It has been clearly demonstrated that the Water Bank does not provide sufficient flow for the St Neot and it is possible that other uses may be found for the water. This could be used for further releases from Restormel WTW, reduction of the volumes required from the pumped storage programme, or might be turned into a cash payment

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for the operating cost of retaining the water.

- iv. The financial implications of closing the Colliford hatchery will also be investigated and the uses to which the revenue was put will be raised as a further possible source of funding.
 - b. SWW has increased the compensation payment from £5k (the ex gratia agreement expires this year) to £12.5 k for a programme to be agreed annually. Neil Whiter from SWW is aware that this still needs to cover both St Neot loss of salmon (i.e. hatchery) and other conservation projects.
 - c. Simon Toms (EA) has estimated the loss of salmon as between 48 and 68 returning adults. He will provide the details of his calculations for inclusion in FFRG minutes.
4. Bulland. The Bulland fencing has not yet been undertaken.

6. Finance

1. In the Treasurer's absence. the Secretary presented the recent income and expenditure statements. These were noted.
2. It was agreed that there should be a subscription for membership of the FRA, and a process for collecting it. A rate should be agreed for individual members, for riparians and for clubs/syndicates. The officers would bring a proposal to the October meeting. This would enable members to vote at the AGM, but it should also include a process for communication between the FRA and its membership, such as a newsletter and website. Robbie agreed to ask Richard Greave if he would be willing to set up the website and Roger Lashbrook agreed that he would try to compile a newsletter.
3. The Secretary reported on the payments for 2008 and 2009 either received or to be received from the clubs and syndicates. Arthur White presented a cheque for £500 from LDAC which was received with many thanks.
4. It was agreed that £500 should be voted for the 2009 SRWA subscription.

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7. Fowey Fisheries and Resources Group (FFRG)

The Secretary reported on the FFRG meeting held on 6th July. The items discussed have already been reported under other paragraphs of these minutes.

8. Hawkstor Pit

The Secretary reported on the present position.

1. Tyson and he went to the Agency in February at Simon Toms' invitation to meet Andrew and Edward Lakeman the owners/directors of Ocean Fish in Looe. They told us about their proposal to purchase Hawkstor Pit and use it for the commercial production of 350 tonnes annually of organic prime quality rainbow trout for market. Their procedures would involve technologies never used in the UK previously including faecal traps, recyclable

trap waste, vaccination and many other things meaning that there would be no harmful chemical waste. Their security would be such that there would be no escapes and if there were, the pit would be screened from the Warleggan. We expressed concern about many issues and afterwards confirmed them by a letter sent by email.

This was never acknowledged.

2. The pit was then bought by a company called GWW. A search of the Companies House register shows GWW (Trustee) Ltd. 04500696 as a recently dissolved company.
3. At a recent meeting with the Agency (Simon Toms) the Lakemans said that they never received our letter. Simon gave them a copy. They said they would reply to it.
4. An email was received on 24th June from Mike Ridgway, projects manager for Ocean Fish. This included a letter setting out their proposals in no more detail than they had given us in February. They said they would be pleased to meet us and that they thought there might be benefits to both parties if we were to work together. Their offer of a meeting was accepted but no further encouragement given. This has since followed up but no reply received.
5. Our concerns were raised at the RFERAC meeting on 26th June as a matter which might have both regional and national interest for the EA. A specific request was made that any EA approval would be based on a proper risk assessment and on the basis of the precautionary principle. We were assured that this would be the case.
6. SWW is aware of the possible pollution risk.
7. He has spoken to the Cornwall Council planning department and told that it is likely that there will be no need for a change of use because the pit will have a “no planning use” designation. They would expect the EA to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment as part of the discharge consent process. Ocean Fish may be asked to use the “Prior notification process” which is used by farmers who believe they do not need planning permission for barns etc.
8. If the EA approves this it will be another example of them agreeing to prevent upstream access for migratory salmonids.
9. The pit was not included in the database for the Water Framework Directive. Three requests for its inclusion have been made to Ben Bunting. The WFD “no deterioration” principle is reinforced because it is within a SSSI.

The position was noted.

9. Hatchery

1. Jeff Eliot is now living at home and managing the hatchery and the associated juvenile fish.
2. Paul has had a number of meetings at his bedside including Simon Toms (and has said that he wants to put the past behind him and

get the hatchery onto a proper footing administratively), Justin Ruscombe King (who is controlling the medication of the remaining smolts and with whom I will be working on the discharge application), Roger Furniss (in relation to tenure and other things) and myself.

3. Paul wants to keep the hatchery available for both the Fowey and the Camel and funding will be required from both organisations.
4. There are a number of volunteers who are trained and willing to help with most of the hatchery tasks provided they are supervised.
5. Paul has asked if I will get the discharge application done. I am seeing Justin on 10th July. One problem is that the Trout pond runs into the Warleggan and this reduces the potential dilution even though it is only 40 metres or so. Under the regulations this could be considered to have biological implications on that part of the Warleggan river bed. We may need to pipe the outlet directly into the Fowey so that we get better apparent dilution volumes.
6. The hatchery plan has been circulated and this, or a variation, needs to be approved at the meeting. Clarification is needed on targets for adult fish capture before the winter and the start date. Ideally, fish should be taken from late September onwards because there is research demonstrating that the early stripped fish have better fertilisation survival than late stripped fish. This is borne out by observation of the Camel fish at Trafalgar. Agree is also required on budgets and costs to be borne by the FRA.
7. The remaining smolts will have a cost and a budget sum needs to be voted for paying for feed stuffs, and for Justin's time. Something between £500 and £1,000 should cover it.
8. We ought to be monitoring abstraction quantities as part of the abstraction licences but Paul has never done this.

The Secretary was thanked for his report and the hatchery plan was agreed for inclusion in the Discharge Application process. It was also agreed that a budget sum of £1,000 should be reserved for consultancy.

10. Broodstock programme

Robbie Williams reported that between 30,000 and 235,000 eggs had been fertilised and that over 25,000 were growing on as juvenile fish. Between 8,000 had been planted out in the Warleggan, 10,000 would be grown on for distribution to the St Neot and 15,000 grown on for other sites within the catchment. The St Neot fish would have to be fin clipped before the EA would give its consent to planting them there. The remaining fish will be grown on at Wainsford where they will have to be continually redistributed from tank to tank as they outgrow their tanks.

11. 2009/10 projects

The following projects were agreed for submission to FFRG

1. Complete electro-fishing survey of the system to ascertain extent

of problems

2. Screening the Siblyback stream to prevent access by escapes from the reservoir entering the Warleggan either at the lake outlet or the junction with the main river.
3. Remove silt from below the SWW waterworks at Restormel.
4. Gravels for topping up the Upper Draynes
5. Gravel from Doublebois Bridge to Treverbyn
6. Gravels from Harrowbridge to Higher Langdon if required as a result of summer river clearance work.

12. **Marine Conservation Zone**

It was noted that the group at the EA had no migratory fish representation. RF agreed to make representation on behalf of SWRA.

13. **Mink**

It was agreed that David Dawson should let the Secretary know how many he had killed and the bounty payment then made at £2 per pelt.

14. **Net marking**

Jeff reported that some of the sea trout at Wainsford had net marks and it was thought that this might have arisen from the circle netting netsmen from Plymouth targeting mullet.