

**A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 21st July 2010 at Lostwithiel Social Club**

Present

Godfrey Tucker (in the chair)	
Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Chris Janes (Riverbed management)
Irene Eliot (Wainsford)	Dave Johns (Liskeard)
Stuart Fullwood (Bodmin AA)	Trevor Sobey (Liskeard)
Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)
Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)	Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Anthony Fortescue (President)	Ivan Lyne (Bodmin AA)
Richard Grieve (Hatchery)	John Pearce (Bodmin AA)
Roger Lashbrook (Commercial interests)	Bill Smith (Chairman)
Matt Lewis (Lanhydrock) to be replaced by Fred Tolman	

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2010

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 27th January 2010 were agreed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

3. Finance

The Treasurer reported that in the current financial year expenditure had been £3547 plus another £1,100 for licences. The total spend on the hatchery for the 2009/10 season would be over £14,000. Miscellaneous expenditure had been £250 including the Masters agreement on the Warleggan. Income had been £200 from the Glynn plus £260 for sponsorship of two feeders. Lanhydrock has contributed £140 and Lostwithiel has over £350 set aside. Individual subscriptions had been £595 including a number of standing orders. Trevor presented a cheque for £500 from Liskeard.

The current account currently stood at £763 with £15,547 on deposit. A transfer will have to be made to avoid the current account becoming overdrawn. No funds have been drawn down from SWW although £12,500 is available for 2010 and approximately £18,000 is set aside from previous years for the FRA. FFRG approval will be required for the release of these funds. The CFA has £3,500 set aside and awaiting an invoice from FRA. The Secretary agreed to issue this.

JE

It was agreed that the hatchery group should develop, for agreement by the committee, a business plan and budget which would clarify the maintenance costs required and show a prioritised programme of improvements which were considered necessary for its development. This would avoid the current situation in which the Treasurer was unable to manage the overall FRA budget.

Hatchery

It was noted that SWW had commissioned a study from Dr David Solomons. This would investigate the lost adult salmon spawning from the St Neot as a result of the Colliford dam construction. Current mitigation payments relate to

sea trout only. When this was published, the additional compensation would be based on the cost of providing juvenile fish to the St Neot by artificial propagation. Wainsford costings should provide the basis for this and would be required to demonstrate to SWW that the additional compensation was based on sound financial data. Tyson reported that he had attended a meeting with Dr Solomons at which he had reiterated his disgust that the data presented to Dr Solomons by the EA had not identified that the juvenile fish found in the St Neot had all been fin clipped and were hatchery fish. There has been no wild spawning since the construction of the dam. It would be necessary to fin clip all hatchery juveniles for the St Neot until the Solomons report and the financial consequences had been accepted by all parties.

The accounts, and the Treasurer's concern, were noted.

4. **Hatchery**

Rob said that Richard Grieve was unable to attend the meeting and that he would present the hatchery report.

Rob reported that the initial estimate of Fowey eggs had been 30,000 but that the current procedures in the hatchery for counting fry were more accurate and the current stock of juvenile fish is 22,000. These had been reared satisfactorily until the recent high temperatures and acid flushes had led to a relatively high death rate among the juveniles. This had been vigorously treated and appeared to have been overcome. It was intended to plant out 12,000 (5,000 fin clipped for the St Neot: Robert Hurrell to supervise) and retain 10,000 at Wainsford to grow to smolt stage or be planted out in the Warleggan head waters.

The 2010/11 season would begin in early October to pick up the summer run fish. This would mean a full clean of the hatchery in September or earlier if possible. It was hoped that other members would be available for transport and Rob said that he was working closely with Irene to encourage and support Wainsford guests to donate their fish. A number of carp sacs or other safe methods for keeping fish before transport would be put in place.

5. **Equipment sponsorship**

It was noted that the Glynn had generously sponsored two 24 hour feeders for the hatchery at a cost of £260, and that some fabric had been donated through Stuart for the construction of replacement feeder belts.

It was agreed that the LDAA £500 should be used to sponsor a tank ventilation system for proper Pyceze treatment of adult and juvenile fish. This would be likely to cost £400 but it was also agreed that a dissolved oxygen meter should be obtained to avoid the possibility of oxygen saturation. A suitable one might be obtained for between £150 and £500. JRK opinion should be sought to establish whether the cheaper one would be suitable. An overall budget sum of £800 was agreed with the hope that expenditure would be close to the LDAA donation. Parts of the existing oxygen ring would be used for distribution of air and this new system would be a valuable standby in the event of a complete failure of incoming water supply.

RW

6. 20010/11 projects

WRT fry index survey. The email from Dylan Bright offered the FRA two options for the agreed budget sum of £5,000

1. 48 electro fishing sites
2. 48 km of walkover survey

It was agreed that the electro fishing was the preferred option, and Roger Furniss agreed that he would prepare a list of sites for sending to Dylan. It was also agreed that the Dylan should be asked for a price for training our volunteers to undertake the walkover surveys, similar to the programme on the Exe.

Other improvements Tyson said that he considered that there should be no further improvement work except the continuation of the Draynes clearance until the fry survey results were received. This was accepted by the committee. He said that he and the Chairman would be carrying out the walkover work on the Cardinham. He reminded members that no work had been undertaken on the Cardinham by the FRA and that there can be significant overspill from the settlement ponds at the top of the stream in Bodmin. However, there are many areas with significant potential particularly around Fletchers Bridge, and above the forestry around Millpool.

Park Pit. Jon reported that he had met Robert Hurrell to agree the joint project for installing new redds on the Trenant Stream. The sites and method statement had been agreed 12 months ago and the project should start in August 2010. The FRA contribution would be the site preparation for EA contract. It was hoped that the total cost would be below the £10,000 specially allocated by SWWV and that money would be available for other fishery projects at Park.

Height gauge at Wainsford The gauge was at Wainsford and a site agreed. The detail of the installation would be planned on 27th July.

7. Website

It was noted that Eoin Donnellan had already produced an outline website and all members were asked to contribute articles and catch reports. Richard had already agreed to write a hatchery blog.

8. SWRA

Roger Furniss presented the SWRA report.

1. Officers. He would remain as the Secretary and Humphrey would remain Chairman until Henry Llewellyn took over after the AGM. Mac MacArthur would take over as Treasurer from Arthur Wood.
2. Martin Williams would replace Graham Lightfoot as EA liaison with Nick Lintott's hatchery group.
3. Richard Benyon is the new Fisheries Minister and it seems that the GIA funding for migratory fish. The EA has said that there will be lighter regulation given that more work will have to be undertaken by voluntary groups. However, time will tell.
4. The SWRA committee has reinstated the round river reports at Council meetings.

9. **River walk.**

Chris Janes said that he hoped that there would be a summer river walk at the Draynes, preferably with chest waders to imitate a herd of cattle and move more sand. The work so far undertaken over ten years has produced such significant improvement that this will be an effective measure. It was agreed that this should be 21st August at 1.30 at the Draynes car park at Golitha.

More volunteers were needed for other projects such as the Clinnick stream and the Cardinham. This meant that the clubs and committee should recruit positively. A LDAA member is a cameraman for Springwatch and was hoping to film a short stretch which could be shown at AGMs to show what was there and what could be done to improve the rivers.

10. **Upstream Thinking**

Tyson reminded members of the Upstream Thinking project. He would be talking to Martin Ross and get to know the potential for the FRA rivers.

11. **AARC sea trout study.**

Jon told members about the sea trout study being undertaken by AARC which would need scales from wild trout and sea trout to put together a database which would enable better understanding of the population structure and their migratory habits and habits.

Sample collection kits could be obtained from WRT, although The Chairman and Secretary had some spares.

12. **Werrington Show.**

Jon reminded members about the Werrington Show on 1st August. Members of clubs on the Camel and Fowey would be supporting the show on the day.

13. **Signal Crayfish**

Chris said that he and the team had found possible residues of Signal Crayfish in the Draynes.

14. **Settlement pond at Wainsford.**

Rob said that the settlement pond at Wainsford needed dredging, and that there is a very narrow window between planting out the juvenile fish and the start of the new broodstock season. Estimates were being obtained from Dave Soady. It was agreed that a budget sum of £600 should be set aside for this.

15. **Dates of 2010/11 meetings**

Committee	20 th October 2010
Committee	19 th January 2011
AGM	20 th April 2011
Committee	20 th July 2011
Committee	19 October 2011