

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 20th October 2010 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)	
Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Richard Grieve (Hatchery)
Eoin Donnellon (Website)	Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)
Irene Eliot (Wainsford)	Dave Johns (LDAC)
Stuart Fullwood (BAA)	Trevor Sobey (LDAC)
Anthony Fortescue (President)	Jon Evans (secretary)
Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)	

Apologies

Chris Janes (Riverbed management)	John Pearce (Bodmin AA)
Matt Lewis (Lanhydrock)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Ivan Lyne (BAA)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2010

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 21st July 2010 were agreed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

1. Upstream Thinking. The Chairman reported that he and TJ had accompanied Martin Ross from SWW on a tour of sites demonstrating where the Upstream Thinking money might be deployed most effectively. MR had agreed that a joint Steering Group with SWW, WRT and the FRA was essential, a model that had been used effectively on the Exe.
2. Sea Trout Study. It was noted that Wainsford and Butterwell guests had collected scales for the study but that no feedback had yet been given. It was agreed that the Secretary should follow this up with Dylan.
3. It was reported that the Regional Fisheries Specialist role held by Graham Lightfoot before he took early retirement has now been filled by Simon Toms. Simon's role as local team leader will be filled locally.

JE

3. Finance

A proposed budget paper had been circulated with the agenda, and the Treasurer circulated an up date showing expenditure to date in the same format. This demonstrated most clearly that the cash flow is a major problem because funds are being disbursed but income, although held by SWW in our favour, is not being received. It was agreed that an invoice should be raised for the Survey, and the 2008/9 and 2009/10 hatchery costs. Neil Whiter has said that he will pay the invoice before the next FFRG meeting to be held in November.

JE

The meeting also considered the proposed budget management rules which had also been circulated.

The budget and the management rules were approved.

4. Hatchery

RG gave an update on the hatchery.

1. The team had found that they had severely underestimated the time Paul had spent on the hatchery. However, a number of minor improvements had been carried out such as standardising fittings around the hatchery to make maintenance easier. For example, the incubators would be stored with their fittings still attached ready to be re-used in the subsequent year.
2. 22,000 fingerlings had been stocked out including 5,350 fin clipped in the St Neot and the remainder in the Warleggan and main river. The total survival was about 80% which, taking into account the abnormally high water temperatures in the summer was considered to be a very good result. Similar results had been achieved for the Camel which stocked out 35,000 fish. The hatchery was closed in September for cleaning and overhaul.
3. The hatchery opened for 2010/11 business on 1st October and the current number were 5 hens and seven cocks for the Fowey and six cocks and four hens for the Camel. Ian Ashby and Mark Bolton had provided most of the Fowey fish and Mark Bolton and Stephen Pearce the Camel fish. It was felt that improvements could be made both to communication and training material for people wishing to donate fish. Reception of fish was now much easier by using the four outside tanks. All fish were given a health check weekly on Tuesdays. There might be pressure on egg boxes if the current harvest was sustained.
4. The hatchery blog was being used to encourage donation, provide feedback and communication. An open day showing "how to" information might be undertaken before the 2011/12 season.

During discussion, the reasons for using penicillin were raised, and it was said that the primary use was for prophylaxis against infection. Technically, treated fish should not be returned to the river.

It was also agreed that donation should continue to be encouraged and that replacement stocking could be undertaken if there was a successful harvest of later run fish.

It was agreed that the hatchery team should be congratulated on their work.

5. Progress reports

1. WRT index survey. Most of the sites had now been surveyed but no reports had been received. It was agreed that RF should contact WRT and seek information and that Adrian Dowding should be invited to present his report to the AGM next April. RF
JE
2. Park Pit. JE reported that he had spent the first of the five day spawning bed installation programme at the Pit. He had still not received the EA method statement despite having given them the draft and asked for it three times. He did not believe that there would be much change from the £10,000 SWW budget. RG, TJ and JE had done the preparatory work. He questioned the EA “partnership model” and hoped this would become more flexible in the future. Either he or TJ would visit the site, when time permitted, to see the results.
3. Website and blog. ED reported that the site was complete apart from content and running on the camel website. Content needed was FRA structure and purpose, and a description and photos of the rivers. RF agreed to do the River Fowey description, and JE said he would find some of photos, mainly those from Chris Janes. SF would contact Chris to ask him to send photos to ED. RF
JE
SF
JE
4. Wainsford gauge. BS said that he and JE had installed the post, and the gauge would be attached soon. This would contain the canoeing height mark corresponding to the Newbridge gauge.

6. Canoeing

JE said that he had had a recent call from Richard Hobba who was hoping to use the St Austell Canoe Club as the contractor for reinstating the Fowey agreement. This is similar to the Saltash agreement. The conditions had all been agreed at a previous meeting of the FRA, and the agreement was currently with Richard in case he wished to introduce additional launch sites such as Respryn Bridge. The 2’ 6” height level would be marked on the Fowey gauge which could then be accessed remotely. It was hoped to that Farson Digital would include the Canoeing Rules for the Fowey, as on the East Lyn. JE

7. SWRA 1st October 2010

Roger Furniss presented a report from the last Council meeting. He said that RFERAC was now being scrapped as part of the bonfire of the QANGOS and effort now being directed towards local influence and mechanisms via SWRA and the other River Associations. The EA is now described as a delivery agency and

will not set policy.

8. River walks

It was agreed that there should be a river walk arranged for early January, and it was hoped that committee members would come along to see for themselves the benefits of the work undertaken by Chris Janes, Rob Williams and the rest of the team.

Chris
Janes

9. Solomons report

RF reported that the Solomons report had been received at the EA. This showed that Colliford dam had had an adverse impact on Salmon, as well as the acknowledged adverse impact on sea trout. When this report became public, it would form a basis for negotiations with SWW about further financial compensation. When these had been concluded, it would be possible to stop fin clipping St Neot fingerlings.

10. Dates of 2011 meetings

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