

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

**Present**

Bill Smith (Chairman)	
Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Chris Janes (Riverbed management)
Stuart Fullwood (BAA)	Dave Johns (LDAC)
Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Richard Grieve (Hatchery)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)
Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)	Jon Evans (secretary)

**In attendance**

Bruce Stockley

**Apologies**

Eoin Donnellon (Website)	Ivan Lyne (BAA)
Anthony Fortescue (President)	John Pearce (Bodmin AA)
Irene Eliot (Wainsford)	Trevor Sobey (LDAC)
Matt Lewis (Lanhydrock)	

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were agreed.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

1. Park Pit. TJ reported that the job at Park had been poorly carried out but that there was £5,000 left from the budget which would be used for other schemes at Park. It had been agreed at FFRG that in future such joint schemes would be delegated to FRA for implementation.
2. Canoeing. The Secretary reported that he had met Richard Hobba and a Fowey Code of Conduct had been agreed and would be used by RH as guidance for canoeists. It would be implemented on a trial basis from the last weekend in January 2011 to the end of March 2011. For next year, the current Code of Conduct would be revisited. The details would be included on the Wainsford webcam which would be calibrated with the Newbridge gauge. It was agreed that the Code of Conduct should be amended to remove any reference to fish because it would be out of season. RF asked about signage at Draynes Car Park and RW agreed to investigate again with National Trust. It was hoped that the Newbridge wording could be used.
3. Solomons Report. RF reported that he had received a final copy of the Solomons report. This was commissioned by SWW and it will be for the FRA to agree the final conclusions arising from it with SWW. It was agreed that this should not be a rushed process. It

JE

RW

was noted that the original public enquiry report permits revisitation in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The author uses the Warleggan as a control to establish unforeseen changes in the St Neot. This demonstrates that there has been a reduction in the salmon and sea trout runs, and that the net buy out is not sufficient compensation for the closure of the Colliford hatchery.

Actions required are

1. Aim to get the net buyout made permanent
2. Use the water bank or have it bought out. It represents about £2m on the balance sheet and £84,000 pumping cost annually
3. Ensure that stocking can be carried out on the St Neot for the foreseeable future on grounds that current flows do not provide sufficient inducement for salmon spawning to take place above Pengelly, and
4. Ensure that proper monitoring is associated with this

It was agreed that RF should carry out a more detailed study and develop a strategy for the FRA to take this issue forward

RF

### 3. **Finance**

The Treasurer tabled the current budget statement and said that the position seemed to be much as forecast and that the bank balance was much healthier following receipt of the £19,000 from SWW. It was noted that there is approximately £8,000 still in SWW accounts and that a further £12,500 will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

The accounts were noted.

The Secretary said that he was preparing a proposal on volunteer expenses after it had been agreed in principle by FFRG. This would not be for full expenses but would constitute a token payment to account for the increasing cost of fuel for private transport. This would need discussion with SWW and the officers would make the necessary decisions. This proposal was agreed in principle by the committee.

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TJ said that he did not intend to plan any in-river projects until the Fry Index Survey data were available.

### 4. **Hatchery**

RG gave an update on the hatchery.

Much had happened since the last meeting. The hatchery had been flooded and frozen, inspected and approved by CEFAS, visited by AST and a number of EA officers, and featured in an issue of Trout and Salmon.

A total of 77 Adult fish had been taken to the hatchery, 31 from the Fowey, 17 hens and 14 cocks. The survival rate had been 82% which is above the success rate required by EA monitoring. The target numbers of eggs had been achieved and 10,000 had already hatched and were in incubators.

We have been very much helped by Justin who has gone out of his way to make it a success, and colleagues at the Lynher hatchery have been very helpful particularly with jointly purchasing salt and when Pyceze could not be sourced in time. This problem has now been overcome and we have sufficient stock for the early part of next season.

There is a small problem of accuracy of recording water temperatures but Chris said that he had a thermometer which could be useful in that it measured the sample after it had been withdrawn from the tank. He said he would try to find it and get it to the hatchery.

CJ

#### 5. **Annual General Meeting**

In the absence of the President, the committee agreed that it would be excellent if the AGM was to be held at Boconnoc on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman and Secretary would discuss the arrangements with the President.

BS JE

It was noted that Martin Ross from SWW had been invited to address the AGM on the Upstream Thinking Programme, and he had agreed to do so.

It was also agreed that a hospitality budget of £200 should be voted for the AGM.

RF asked if there were any governance issues such as officers standing down. There were not but it was noted that Mike Bryant seemed to find it very difficult to attend FRA meetings and an alternative was suggested. The Secretary will follow this up.

JE

#### 6. **Fry Index Survey**

It was noted that although the money had been paid to WRT, only a part of the raw data had been received and not all sites had been surveyed. Nor was any report available despite being pressed on a number of occasions.

It was agreed that this was very unsatisfactory and Bruce agreed to take this back to Adrian Dowding as a matter of major concern. Without the report, the FRA could not undertake essential planning work.

It was agreed that unless there was a better response in future, the FRA should consider alternative contractors.

BS

## 7. **Walkover Surveys**

Bruce led a discussion on the Walkover Survey programme and the benefits it would provide, not only to the AARC project but also to the participating river catchments. He made available copies of the survey manual and demonstrated the need for river bankside training. This consisted of local mapping on a 500 metre scale. This would then be loaded into a GIS programme in a clear and consistent way. This would enable analysis and ensure that plans are made to suit the needs of the overall catchment and all tributaries, including the very small ones such as the Clinnick Stream.

Bruce said that he would undertake to provide whatever analysis the FRA required. There was some concern expressed about data ownership, and Bruce agreed to see if he could come up with a suitable mechanism which would enable FRA to have ownership of the raw data, although he expressed some concerns about how analyses might be done by people without the necessary analytical training and expertise.

It was agreed that the first tranche of training should be undertaken in March, and the Chairman would arrange with Bruce. Seven names had already been put forward. Ideally, individuals would undertake the surveys on their preferred stretch of river or tributary, and maintain this ownership and surveys in succeeding years. It was agreed that Bruce should be invited to talk to the Liskeard and Lostwithiel AGMs. It was agreed that the proposed support for travel costs should apply to Walkover Survey volunteers.

## 8. **Website**

It was noted that the website [www.riverfowey.org](http://www.riverfowey.org) was up and running and Eoin was thanked for his excellent work.

## 9. **Newsletter**

It was agreed that the Newsletter should be produced in time for the AGM. The following contributions were agreed

RW: Draynes work in 2010

RW

RG: Hatchery

RG

JE/BS: Counter Statistics and season overview

JE BS

Martin Ross: Upstream Thinking

BS

Bruce Stockley: Walkover Surveys

Bruce

Other material would be considered and the Standing Order form and map should be reproduced as last year.

JE

10. **FFRG meeting**

The items discussed at FFRG meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 had all been covered earlier in other items.

11. **SWRA**

Roger Furniss presented a report on the SWRA meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011. He highlighted

1. The quota approach suggested by TJ to nets. This would be taken further in national discussions
2. Most rivers had had a good season, especially for late running peal
3. Changes at the EA mean greater effort by local rivers to undertake their own development
4. Canoeing, and developments elsewhere similar to the Fowey
5. Hydro schemes and the major dispute with the EA about their failure to support fisheries. This will be discussed with the Minister, Richard Benyon

12. **Atlantic Salmon Trust**

TJ reported on the very successful visit from the Chief Executive, UK Director and Director of Research of the AST. They were most impressed with the work on the Draynes and at Wainsford. They had suggested other ways in which the FRA could develop, including closer relationships with Universities and Colleges with students at all levels who might undertake research work for us as part of their courses. They had also suggested closer links with Brussels.

13. **Dates of 2010 meetings**

AGM	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2010
Committee	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2010
Committee	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2010