

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)	Neville Tolman (Lanhydrock)
Roger Brake (Treasurer)	Godfrey Tucker (Vice Chairman)
Roger Furniss (SWRA and Glynn)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)
Dave Johns (LDAC)	Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Anthony Fortescue (President)	Chris Janes (Riverbed management)
Tyson Jackson (Water resources officer)	Trevor Sobey (LDAC)
Simon Toms (EA)	

In attendance

Richard Grieve (Hatchery)	Adrian Dowding (WRT)
Giles Rickard (WRT)	Bruce Stockley (WRT)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2011

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 19th October 2011 were agreed subject to inclusion in item 5 of the need for an inventory of hatchery equipment to be undertaken by Richard Grieve and Tyson Jackson.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

1. It was noted that the Newsletter had been produced and circulated to most club members. Jon was thanked for his work.
2. The height gauge is at Bagstone and attempts to get it fixed on the river will be made when times are more suitable. It was noted that Irene Eliot had been in touch with Glyn Howells to say that the camera was safe at Wainsford.

3. Finance

The Treasurer tabled the accounts to date. These showed expenditure of £16,477 and income of £20,617. The estimated spend for the full year is approximately £20,000. The current balance at the bank is £28,388. It was agreed that an invoice should be sent to the Camel Fisheries Association for two years hatchery work at Wainsford.

RB

4. FRA incorporation.

A proposal was put to the committee that the FRA should become an incorporated body. This would enable the FRA to have a legal basis which would allow contracts to be placed and property to be owned. If the FRA became a company limited by guarantee the liability of committee members would be limited.

It was unanimously agreed that this should be taken forward and preparatory

work started by the committee. A formal proposal to this effect would be submitted to the AGM for agreement.

JE
JE

5. **Executive Committee**

The Chairman proposed that a small Executive Committee should be appointed with the remit to push the company incorporation forward and to become its first directors. The Executive Committee would also be in a position to consider items of business which arose outside the normal committee timetable. The Executive would report to the main FRA committee, and its members would be the Chairman, Treasurer, River Coordinator and Secretary.

The appointment of an Executive Committee was agreed.

6. **FFRG**

It was noted that the next meeting of the FFRG would be held on 2nd April 2012, and that Bruce Stockley had been invited to become a member representing WRT.

7. **St Neot option appraisal**

The FFRG agreed terms of reference had been circulated with the agenda, and it had been hoped that Simon Toms would also attend to discuss the work. The contract had been let to APEM, a company well known to Simon Toms and Roger Furniss. It had been suggested that the work should also include site visits as well as table top work, and data from as many sources as possible would be shared with the consultants. Godfrey hoped that the study would include water quality since compensation discharges from Colliford could seriously affect fishing.

Roger Furniss explained that the Solomon report did not go so far as to suggest solutions to the problem of St Neot sustainability. APEM had been appointed to come up with the solutions.

The terms of reference were accepted by the committee and it was agreed that the final report should be presented to the next FFRG meeting on 2nd April. If possible, any FRA member who chose to could attend the presentation at the EA. The Secretary agreed to get in touch with Simon Toms with this proposal.

JE

8. **Fry Index Survey – Adrian Dowding**

Adrian introduced the 2011 Fry survey report. He said that much of the preliminary work such as riparian ownership had already been done for 2010, and that good survey coverage had been obtained. The methodology is for 5 minute timed surveys and this is sufficient to be comparable with full quantitative surveys. The fish are stunned, anaesthetised, recovered and returned. For the safety of the fish, the surveyors start with low conductivity readings.

It was noted that the sites chosen are mainly in salmon habitat and a broader range including more trout habitat should be targeted in subsequent surveys. It was also noted that the colour coding of the results presentation could be improved. RF pointed out that other rivers such as the Ribble used volunteer anglers for the survey work and Bruce agreed to investigate the possibility of this for the Fowey. This would require overcoming inherent concerns about river safety and data consistency.

The results showed that the Cardinham is improving, the Draynes is not so good and the Warleggan needs more sites investigated. There are some obstructions needing clearing and some improvements are required in spawning areas. There is sand impregnation of redds particularly on the Draynes.

It was agreed to repeat the survey in 2013. This would enable integration of the three years data with other work such as walkover surveys. The aim would be to shift the results one scale point up on the fry numbers.

Adrian was thanked for his report.

9. Walkover Surveys – Giles Rickard

Giles reported on progress with walkover surveys. The Warleggan was complete although there is still some 40% of the catchment not covered. It was hoped that although the time of the year is not the most favourable, Richard and Jethro Gault could continue the work. Although some of the maps have been produced, there is still much to be done. It was hoped that Richard could assist with data entry when he had attended the training course at Reading University.

Giles was thanked both for his report and for doing so much of the work.

10. Catchment Managers report

Richard reported on his work during the past month.

1. The hatchery equipment had been moved to Bagstone and was safely under cover. However, the sides of the barn needed sheeting and he would try to get some from Trago. The committee agreed with his suggestion of a budget cost of £30. The inventory of the equipment held by the Camel still needed to be done.
2. Riparian ownership. Specialised orienteering software had been obtained from a company called Anquet. Most of the catchment had been mapped. The top of the Warleggan, top of the Draynes and the Cardinham around Millpool remained to be covered. Richard reported that the data does go out of date and will have to be refreshed from time to time. However, he hoped that mutual sharing of data could now take place with WRT.
3. He noted that the APEM contract would need access to the walkover survey data. He expected to help to complete the survey work and also, when suitably trained, to input data to the WRT system.

TJ

4. He had been a regular attender at the hatchery best practice group.
5. Jack Pirks , a freelance photographer, had posted some video of fish from the upper Draynes on YouTube.

11. Budget proposals.

It was agreed that £5,000 should be set aside from next year's funds for the repeat of the Fry index survey, and between £5,000 and 6,000 for the sanctuary water in the Draynes Valley.

12. AGM

It was noted that Anthony Fortescue had very kindly agreed that the AGM could again take place at Boconnoc, Gary Champion would be the keynote speaker and £200 would be set aside for hospitality (Beer BS, pasties JE)

13. SWRA

The items discussed at the last SWRA Council on 3rd October were Hydro power, Sign posting arising from the canoeing accident at Draynes, Partnership working such as the EA with Rivers Trusts and FFRG, Abolition of FERACs and their replacement by groups with more non statutory inputs.

14. Dates of 2012 meetings

AGM	18 th April 2012
Committee	18 th July 2012
Committee	17 th October 2012
Committee	16 th January 2013