

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association  
was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 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**

Stuart Fullwood (BAA)

**In attendance**

Richard Grieve (Catchment Manager)

**1. Attendance**

It was agreed that the Secretary should review the regularity and frequency of attendance of committee members and report to the next meeting

JE

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were agreed

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

1. It was noted that TJ had not undertaken the inventory of Camel equipment at the Wainsford Hatchery. RG agreed to compile an inventory so that there was a record although this would not replace a proper inventory undertaken by TJ for the CFA.
2. It was noted that there were still no signs at Draynes Car Park following the accident that had led to the death of a canoeist. RW said that he had approached the local NE officer who had referred the matter to his head office. It was agreed that RW would raise this again with the local warden, Mark Easter, at the St Austell office. The sign should make clear that there were serious dangers when the river was in spate and that the site is a SSSI.

TJ  
RG

RW

**4. AGM**

The minutes of the AGM were noted.

It was agreed that the committee's thanks should be conveyed to Anthony Fortescue, and hoped that Boconnoc would be available for the AGM in 2013.

JE

It was agreed that the keynote speaker at the 2013 AGM should be Chris Ogborne if he was available. RF agreed to ask him. It was also agreed that there should be presentations to tell members present what work had been undertaken during the past 12 months.

RF

JE/BS

## 5. Finance

The Treasurer introduced the accounts to date. These showed balances of £4,800 in current account and £10,500 on deposit. Commitments amounted to £12,500 (including the remainder of the cost of the fry survey, three months catchment manager, Draynes sanctuary rents, and other expenses). Normal full year income is £12,500 from SWW and £2,500 from other sources mainly fishing clubs. It was expected that the year end balance would be approximately £18,200.

It was noted that the invoices sent to the Camel Fisheries Association for two years hatchery work at Wainsford and amounting to £7,000, had not been paid. It was agreed that the FRAL officers should meet TJ to discuss payment of the overdue sums.

RB/BS/JE

It was also noted that an agreement had been made with SWW to pay invoices as they occurred rather than waiting for a full year to submit an invoice.

The accounts to date were noted.

## 6. FRA incorporation.

It was noted that the FRA Limited had been incorporated on 13<sup>th</sup> ~June 2012. The first Board meeting had been held earlier in the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

It was agreed that the proposal to transfer all assets and liabilities from the FRA to FRA Limited should be approved subject to the accounts being audited to prove the accuracy of the figures, including all sums owed for less than one year.

RB/JE

It was noted that contracts such as the Draynes sanctuary rents would now become the responsibility of FRAL. The preparatory work for this set of contracts would be undertaken by Godfrey Tucker and Trevor Sobey.

GT/TS

## 7. FFRG and St Neot option appraisal

It was noted that the last meeting of the FFRG was held on 2<sup>8th</sup> May 2012. Before the meeting, APEM had presented their initial findings. It had been hoped to distribute their initial report to committee members but Simon Toms had asked that this should not happen until the report had been finalised.

During the presentation a number of concerns had emerged

1. 0+ salmon had been used as the divisor rather than 1+ as used in the Solomon report
2. There had been no quantification of costs, only broad and unsubstantiated banding assumptions

3. The potential for varying the flow regimes and the cost of arranging to vary the seasonality, had not been discussed with SWW
4. No information had been included about numbers of broodstock and the costs and methods for managing them and the production of juveniles. One possibility is the trapping of fish at the bottom end of the St Neot.

At the FFRG meeting most of the discussion had focused on APEM and the St Neot, mainly in relation to funding sources, compensation and mitigation releases, cost of pipeline extension, and the FRA views on whether APEM had met their terms of reference.

After the meeting RF had sent ST the FRA commentary on the terms of reference and asked

RF question	ST reply
Is the EA prepared to 'write off' the St Neot	No, which is why the EA persuaded SWW to undertake the Solomon and APEM studies to maximise production on the St Neot
Was there a financial analysis comparing the cost of the net buy-out with SWW's savings from closing Colliford Hatchery	No, the equation is not a simple financial one. Decisions were based on the presumed benefit from the net buy out and the recorded improvements to the runs of large sea trout
What is the possibility of a quick decision on redeployment of the compensation flow	This seems to be beneficial and now needs to be implemented. Funding still to be investigated

It was agreed that further action should be deferred until the next FFRG meeting. In the intervening time, APEM would have been working on producing their final report which would rectify the omissions of the draft. It was the intention of the EA that the final report would be available in good time to allow the FFRG members to consider the final report before the meeting.

## 8. Catchment Managers report

Richard reported on his work during the past three months.

1. Assessing trash dams on the Cardinham, 16 in total.
2. Liaison with Forestry. John Ebsary is the preferred contact and they will undertake their own maintenance of Cardinham Woods and the Cardinham.
3. Ladyvale bridge which will need checking every three/four days in spate conditions
4. Treverbyn and Doublebois bridges seem more or less OK for now.

5. Enterprise Mouchel has done excellent work at Colesloggett and thanks are due to Chris Marwood for his help. JE
6. The question of data sharing with WRT remains unresolved and is unlikely to be resolved with a formal contract similar to that on the Exe which also includes the EA.
7. The Fry index survey will be rolled over for a third year but the data belong to FRA.
8. The possibility of a grant from Pennon had been investigated but by common consent will not be followed up at present. Any such use might prejudice future negotiations with SWW arising from APEM.
9. The possibility of a sand pump for use on the Draynes and elsewhere had been considered. RF agreed to find out what equipment had been used on the R. Frome. RF
10. The ArcGIS training had been done but the software is extremely complex. WRT has no capacity to finish the current work until the end of October at the earliest. The next sections are Doublebois to Treverbryn and the Draynes.

Richard was thanked for his comprehensive report

## 9. **SWRA**

The items discussed at the last SWRA Council on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and by the Secretary

1. A project to introduce beavers to the St Austell rivers was being proposed by Derek Gow through the Cornwall Wildlife Trust
2. Layla from WRT presented a report showing approximately £3m of bids achieved for WFD catchment restoration work and other projects
3. WRT is planning to extend its remit to cover a wider area than Cornwall and Devon. Concern had been raised about the Trust's capacity to deliver over an increased area.
4. RF had produced an extremely good letter on canoeing for discussion with ministers at party conference time
5. EA is to review all byelaws in rivers and IFCA's are reviewing byelaws in their areas.

## 10. **River Lyn**

Photographs of large multi sea winter salmon with significant fungus had been distributed to all SWRA rivers. No laboratory work had been done to identify the problem. There were no similar sightings on the Fowey.

## 11. **Dates of 2012/13 meetings**

Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2012
Committee	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
AGM	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2013