

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 16th July 2014 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)	Anthony Fortescue (President)
Paul Jordan (Treasurer)	John Tisdale (Treverbyn)
Chris Bryant (LDAC)	Fred Tolman (Lanhydrock)
Roger Furniss (SWRA/Glynn)	David White (LDAC)
Chris Janes (RFC and Riverbed management)	Jon Evans (secretary)
Ivan Lyne (BAA)	

Apologies

Roger Brake (RFC)	Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)
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In attendance

Giles Rickard (WRT)

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Chris Bryant and David White to their first meeting of the committee, Paul Jordan in his new role as Treasurer of both the Association and the Company, and Giles Rickard from WRT

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2014**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th January 2014 were agreed.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes**

1. **John Ebsary.** It was noted that the letter of thanks had not been sent to John Ebsary from Forestry and it was agreed this should be rectified forthwith.

JE

4. **Finance**

The Treasurer reported that, after taking account of payments for expenses there was £4620.28 in the association accounts and £16,249.79 in the company account. The total FRA funds were £20,870.

£5,200 had been committed to enabling WRT to carry out year 5 of the juvenile surveys at those sites not covered by EA monitoring. £5,000 was also committed as match funding for future expenditure on Ladyvale Bridge. This leaves just over £10,000 for other expenditure and the WRT donation will be recoverable from SWW.

It was agreed that the accounts should be noted.

5. **FRA 2014 work programme**

The committee considered the report from Roger Furniss about the plans considered by Giles and himself in March 2014.

It was agreed that this should be turned into a programme which could be used for monitoring progress such as a table.

JE

It was also noted that

1. Work on the Draynes would be arranged in due course. Volunteers would be organised to repeat some of the activities carried out so successfully in previous years. There is some work required to remove the fallen trees and other woody debris from the river but some of the critical spawning areas seem to be self sustaining.
2. There is continuing coppicing work required at Lewarne and it was agreed that a budget sum of £2,000 should be set aside from the 2014 budget to enable this.
3. WRT should be asked to carry out the fry survey for a fifth year. This would be funded by a donation of £5,200 from FRA 2014 funds
4. £5,000 will be reserved as a contingent sum to support match funding bids for Ladyvale Bridge.

6. **Westcountry Rivers Trust.**

Giles reported on current activity being undertaken on the FRA behalf.

1. The design work for the Ladyvale bridge easement had been finished by Fishtek except for some minor adjustments to the eel pass. The initial estimate for the work is about £15,000 and applications for grant support have been made to the MMO but further match funding will be needed from other NGOs such as the Forestry Commission and EA. Giles agreed to distribute the drawing for information of members.
2. The fry survey will be starting within a fortnight and the number of sites will be reduced by the number of sties being covered by the EA, still giving 50 sites.
3. The Upstream Thinking work continues and half the 24 sites are complete and the others are well advanced.
4. The problem of Trezelland Ditch needs resolution because the breach is now extensive and a continuing source of sand incursion. This might usefully be discussed at the next FFRG meeting.
5. The Warleggan needs the completion of the walkover work.

GR

JE

GR

6. Trenant stream improvements could be funded by the funds reserved within the Park/Stannon Group. A project plan is needed particularly for improving flows within the perimeter leat (which becomes the Trenant Stream below the pit outfall) and for preventing sand incursion from the roadway below the outfall.

RF/GR/JE

Giles was thanked for his excellent presentation.

7. **CEFAS/IFCA**

The SWRA papers on CEFAS and the IFCA were presented by Roger. He said that he and John Tisdale had met Malcolm Gilbert, Conservation Officer for the Cornwall Sea Fisheries Association (CFSA), and between them they had developed a strategy for dealing with the threats posed by CEFAS and the position being taken by Cornwall IFCA both of which although based on the policies for sea fish have considerable impact on salmonids.

John Tisdale will attend all future IFCA meetings, and the legality of the IFCA processes will be checked. It was noted that John Lakeman of Ocean Fish, who was the protagonist of the proposed Rainbow Trout farming scheme at Hawkstor, is also a member of the CIFCA.

The SWRA paper is the key document and demonstrates the dangers such as pollution and escapes, particularly if the proposed scheme is based offshore. The stakeholder group promised by CEFAS is not yet set up and is unlikely to be so until the commercial partner is announced. Ocean Fish may be selected as the preferred commercial partner by CEFAS.

The CFSA will be asking all Cornwall parliamentary candidates for their position on recreational sea angling, given the threat posed if netting byelaws were rescinded and if the commercial rainbow trout fishery were to proceed in an offshore location.

Roger was thanked for his report and members were asked to bring the situation to the attention of constituent clubs.

8. **Review of byelaws**

The Environment Agency's current bye laws relating to rod and line fishing were considered.

It was agreed that when the formal consultation process was undertaken by the EA, the FRA comment should be that no changes needed to be made with respect to the Fowey, given that bait fishing for salmon before 16th June was already prohibited by byelaw. .

JE

9. **SWRA**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting held on 1st July, 2014.

1. An extremely comprehensive presentation on bailiffing had been made by two ex policemen currently with AT. This had mainly concerned coarse fishing, highlighting the value of large carp. Ben Simpson from the Exe would produce a model based on the EXE and this might be useful for other game rivers in the South West
2. Other matters had already been discussed earlier in the FRA meeting
3. Council members had already agreed the proposed increased subscriptions and the FRA agreed the new subscription of £675 from 2015.
4. The SW river reports generally showed that sea trout runs were later than usual, salmon catches were variable but very good on the Taw, and the incidence of disease was both variable and patchy.

The FRA noted the report.

10. **Restormel counter**

The counter figures had temporarily been stopped as a cost reduction exercise but after the helpful intervention of Roger Furniss had been restored. Disappointingly, the counter manager had been asked not to discuss the stoppage with outside bodies.

11. **Trout and Salmon reports**

Paul reminded members that the monthly T and S reports would not be in Trout and Salmon now that Tyson Jackson had left the county. It was agreed that this was a useful report and should, if possible, be continued. Ivan agreed to ask Richard Bristow if he would be willing to undertake this.

IL

12. **Dates of 2014 meetings**

Committee	15 th October 2014
Committee	21 st January 2015
AGM	15 th April 2015
Committee	15 th July 2015