

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 21st January 2015 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Bill Smith (Chairman)

Paul Jordan (Treasurer)

Roger Furniss (SWRA/Glynn)

Ivan Lyne (BAA)

John Tisdale (Treverbyn)

Jon Evans (secretary)

Apologies

Chris Bryant (LDAC)

Chris Janes (Riverbed management)

David White (LDAC)

Rob Williams (River Co-ordinator)

In attendance

Giles Rickard (WRT)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2015

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 21st January 2015 were agreed.

2. Matters arising

1. Trenant stream. The FFRG visit had shown a large number of fish. It had been agreed that a fully quantitative survey should be undertaken at three sites in the leat. Giles had found funding within WRT. The work would be undertaken in August. It was hoped that as full ecological survey should be undertaken at another site below the flume and that two surveys should also be undertaken at Stannon.
2. Ladyvale Bridge. It was noted that planning permission had been granted and quotes were being sought for the work. It was hoped that the work could be completed before the winter. The £5,000 FRA match funds would complement the EFF funding.
3. The Trezelland ditch would be raised at the October FFRG meeting. The funding could be from Upstream Thinking money or WFD if the geomorphological problems could be used as the rationale.
4. General walkover work. Chris Bryant had said that he and Chris Janes would be starting before October

3. Financial report

The Treasurer spoke to the 2nd quarter paper sent out with the agenda.

He said that the total assets of the FRA and FRAL were £21,670 which includes the £5,000 committed for Ladyvale. There is also £14,784 held in SWW accounts awaiting claims from the FRA as at April 2015. The loan transfers between FRA and FRAL left the balance in FRA ensuring that the company made a small loss and would not incur corporation tax on the 2015

accounts.

Giles agreed to submit the WRT claim for the 2015 survey work.

The Treasurer pointed out that although there were sufficient balances currently to cover the expenditure which could not be reclaimed, this reserve was reducing and eventually funds would run out. Additional income was essential and it was noted that although LDAC, RAL, Glynn and Lanhydrock did contribute, there was no current income from Newbridge, Wainsford, Rivermead, Bodmin and Treverbyn. It was essential that a marketing strategy was developed to increase income to ensure that the reserves could be replenished.

PJ

The Treasurer's report was noted.

4. **Catch limits**

It was agreed that there were insufficient members present to discuss meaningfully the officers' proposal for a variation to catch limits. However, it was agreed that ideally this should be agreed at the next AGM but that the size limit for sea trout proposed should be changed from 3lb to 24 inches. This would mean that there would be no reason for handling any fish caught.

It was also agreed that the rationale for catch limits should be explicitly stated and RF agreed to send the Teign model which contained information which would be useful at times of NLO review and the need to enhance the Association's credibility with regulators and other river users.

Paul agreed to redraft the paper for consideration at the next committee meeting and subsequently the AGM.

PJ

5. **FFRG report from meeting held on 7th May 2015**

The Chairman reported that the first steps had been taken towards getting the contract agreed between SWW and FRA for managing the hatchery once it was built. A letter of intent is awaited from SWW. Siting had been agreed but not publicised. The intellectual property rights to hatchery information collected by the FRA's manager belonged to SWW. The project timeline was known and included flow rate changes in the St Neot stream. Richard Grieve had been given a clear indication that he would be the hatchery manger but volunteers would also be needed.

Future FFRG discussion needs to include inflation to both the running costs of the hatchery which were based on 2012/13 costings and to the long standing compensation payment which had not been inflated since the public enquiry. The Exe is already in receipt of equivalent compensation

payments and it is hoped that this model can be applied in the case of the Fowey. It was also noted that Simon Toms had agreed that, because the St Neot is an essential tributary of the Fowey, the hatchery would be recognised as being within EA policy.

The next FRRG meeting will be held in October.

6. **SWRA**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting held on 14th July.

1. A major presentation was made by the Cornwall, Devon and Severn, and Southern IFCAs. This had been very informative and demonstrated improved controls and that the Bass management enforcement measures would have positive benefits for salmonids, with the possible exception of increasing net mesh sizes which might lead to more salmon being caught and held by the gills. It was noted that the Cornwall IFCA had accepted DEFRA requirements that the IFCA should accept responsibility for salmonids. It had been recognised that the game fishers needed to make common cause with the sea anglers in the future.
2. River reports. The north coast rivers were generally doing better than those on the south coast. Adverse reports from the Dart were somewhat exaggerated.
3. The Teign example of the Value of a River's angling was well received and individual rivers were encouraged to proceed with their own local versions.
4. Signal crayfish had been found by the EA for the first time in the Draynes Valley on the Fowey and it was hoped that the research into crayfish control being carried out on the Barle would be able to be transferred to the Fowey and other rivers.
5. Licensed netting. The emphasis and priority to be given by SWRA to licensed netting was strongly supported. The Fowey NLO is due for review in 2017. The result of the Save our Salmon application would be announced in the next issue of T and S.

7. **River report**

There are reports of minor disease on the river. Catches were relatively small although a 19 lb fish had been caught and killed at Doublebois. The sea trout catch had been evident but not great. No very large sea trout had been caught.

8. **NASF**

It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £250 should be made to NASF to support the netting buyout work of Orri Vigfusson and his team. This

would be for 2015 and would be considered again in subsequent years.

9. 2016 AGM

It was agreed that Simon Cadman from the Cornwall IFCA should be invited to be the keynote speaker at the 2016 AGM.

BS

10. Value of a River's Angling

It was agreed that the work should be started on the value of the Fowey angling. The Secretary agreed to produce a first draft for other people's input.

JE

11. Dates of future meetings

Committee 21st October 2015

Committee 20th January 2016

AGM 20th April 2016

Committee 20th July 2016

John Tisdale gave his apologies for the October meeting.