

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 20th July 2016 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Dr Bill Smith (Chairman)

Chris Bryant (LDAC)

Matt L'Estrange (Lanhydrock)

John Tisdale (Treverbryn)

David White (LDAC)

Paul Jordan (Treasurer)

Chris Janes (Riverside management)

Ivan Lyne (BAA)

Rob Williams (LDAC)

Jon Evans (Secretary)

Apologies

Roger Furniss (Glynn)

In attendance

Giles Rickard (WRT)

1. **Lanhydrock**

The Chairman welcomed Matt L'Estrange who would represent Lanhydrock Fishing Club, in place of Alice Barker.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2015**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 20th January 2016 were agreed.

3. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Minutes of the AGM held on 13th April at Boconnoc.**

The AGM minutes had been circulated for information.

It was agreed that a suitable person to be our keynote speaker at the 2017 was Ian McCarthy, a wildlife photographer. Paul agreed to ask him

PJ

5. **Treworkey purchase**

It was noted that the FRA Ltd Board had agreed to purchase the Treworkey water at the top of the Draynes Valley. This would mean that a large amount of sanctuary water, currently leased from the Treworkey Estate would be owned in perpetuity. This would be funded by FRA, LDAC, RAL and Coodes. FRA was funding the legal fees with help from Coodes.

The water is not currently registered at the Land Registry but the present owners, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hall would make a statutory declaration that would enable the FRA to register the purchase. Access will need to be assured through continuing leasing arrangements.

PJ

The committee acknowledged the sense of the purchase.

6. **Accounts to July 2016**

The Treasurer reported that the statutory accounts had been completed by the FRA accountants Keen, Dicey, Grover, and sent to Companies House. The company had not made a taxable profit.

The Treasurer reported that the FRA's total "fighting fund" was just over £20,000. A further £1,600 was due from SWW for OPEX, pledges of £3,000 for Treworkey purchase, and a remaining balance of £9,631 from SWW via FFRG. The current total assets were therefore £34,800. Financial obligations such as the Treworkey purchase and legal fees would reduce this to just over £19,000.

The operating costs of the hatchery (OPEX) would be ring fenced and could not be used for other FRA priorities.

The FRA's longer term financial plan had been developed. The total current income derives from the SWW Colliford compensation funding of £5,000 annually plus donations and other contributions of a few hundreds. The current annual expenditure, based on existing commitments, is approximately £8,000. This shows that unless changes are made the FRA makes an annual loss of £2,775 and has a life of approximately six years before bankruptcy.

Options for cost reduction and income generation were discussed. The fry surveys currently cost £5,600 annually and this might be reduced by changing the number of sites or the frequency of carrying out the work. Giles agreed to ask Bruce's opinion on how the surveys might be continued at an annual cost of about half the current spend. The possibility of raising income from anglers in clubs was also discussed. This might be easier to achieve in some clubs/syndicates than others.

The financial plan would be discussed again after consideration outside the meeting.

PJ BS JE

7. **Hatchery report**

The Secretary reported on progress achieved in the development of the hatchery at Colliford.

He said that the programme was on schedule, the planning group from SWW, Arcadis, WRT and FRA was working well. A number of improvements on the previous Colliford hatchery included a better method of excluding eels, UV filtration to improve water quality, and alarms for problems such as water supply failure.

Richard Grieve was the hatchery manager and he had mapped out staffing and volunteer needs. The number of volunteers was still short of what was needed and it was agreed that recruitment was a priority for everyone.

The regulatory licences were all in place except the discharge permit but this was expected shortly. The trap was on site but would need installing in the late

autumn at the St Neot junction. The transport trailer is very large and might need replacing with something more convenient and similar to the small fish trailer that had been used at Wainsford. Agreement had now been reached on the provision of the three tanks previously at Endsleigh and a new one to match.

The progress was noted.

8. **APEM report**

SWW had commissioned APEM to investigate the flow regime in the St Neot. The interim paper circulated before the meeting was written by SWW who had the copyright to the report that was to be produced. The FFRG members had attended a presentation by APEM at the end of June and the report would be available in two months time.

The study will inform SWW about how modification to the pumped storage scheme could assist with the regeneration of the St Neot. Additional benefits are improved understanding of the effects of temperature on fish production at the hatchery and the environmental improvements in the river such as coppicing and where appropriate gravel enhancement.

9. **SWRA meetings**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meetings in April and July.

Two particular issues emerged at the July meeting. First Roger Furniss had announced that he was retiring at the next SWRA AGM. A paper describing options for his replacement had been considered by the Council and further discussion would take place subsequently. Secondly, Judy Proctor from the EA and working directly for Sarah Chare, EA Head of Fisheries, updated the Five Point Approach and described progress that had been made. She also described how River Associations could contribute to the process locally.

10. **River reports**

Good numbers of school peal were noted and a few grilse were also being caught. Some sea trout were showing net marks, presumably from further down west.

It was agreed that it was necessary to reinstate the Draynes programme to try to get the sea trout numbers back up.

11. **WRT**

Giles reported that it was intended to introduce Riverfly Training in Cornwall. Volunteers were needed to try to get sites assessed three times each year. This is very sensitive indicator of river health.

European funding is being accessed to improve fish passage.

12. **Next meetings**

Committee	19 th October 2016
Committee	18 th January 2017
AGM	19 th April 2017
Committee	19 th July 2017