

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Dr Bill Smith (Chairman)	Paul Jordan (Treasurer)
Matt L'Estrange (Lanhydrock)	Rob Williams (LDAC)
Ivan Lyne (BAA)	Jon Evans (Secretary)
David White (LDAC)	

In attendance

Giles Rickard (WRT)

Apologies

Chris Janes	Roger Furniss (Glynn)
John Tisdale (Treverbyn)	

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 18th January 2016 were agreed and the minutes of the AGM were noted.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes

3. Minutes of the AGM

The minutes of the AGM held at Boconnoc on 19th April The AGM minutes had been circulated for information and were noted

4. Accounts to June 2016

The Treasurer introduced his report on the position to June 2017. He said that the FRA account balance was £21,100 including the SWW payment for the Draynes purchase and SWRA rebate. The SWW hatchery payment had been delayed but had now been received. SWW was still retaining a FFRG balance of £5,600 which would be used to fund the 2017 fry survey.

Expenditure commitments were £2,600 for the fry survey and £2,500 for the Draynes sanctuary five year rents, now reduced from the previous 2012 payment on account of the Treworgey purchase.

Future financial requirements depended on the success achieved by SWW in the PR19 negotiations. Specifically we need continuing funding for the hatchery, the next phase of the St Neot restoration work, the pipeline extension for the pumped storage scheme (which would modify the flow regime in the St Neot stream) and the 2017 NLO. This list would need to be

confirmed through the FFRG.

There was uncertainty about the NLO renewal given that Simon Toms had let it be known that it was hoped that all netting would cease shortly. The CIFCA's proposed netting byelaw, is currently being considered by the MMO and DEFRA.

The accounts were noted and the Treasurer was thanked for the clarity of his presentation.

5. **Hatchery report**

The hatchery report had been circulated and in Roger Furniss' absence the Secretary gave his report.

The number of fry in tanks was currently 29,000 reduced from the initial 38,500 eggs. This was the result of many of the fry being pin headed and some initial difficulty in getting them to feed. There were still difficulties with the increased flow, caused by the hydro generation scheme not being operational and all the water all going through the break tank. This was at such a high level that the water could not be properly oxygenated.

The excellent team of volunteers had been able to manage the routine hatchery work with Justin's help while Richard was away for his annual holiday.

The stocking plan had not been agreed on account of the required meeting with the EA having been deferred. If it could not be settled soon the fish would be stocked to sites chosen by RG and RF using their knowledge of the most appropriate sites for juveniles in the St Neot once the flow was reduced after the end of the holiday season.

Additional issues at Colliford include an invasion of Ruffe, many of which were dying. This had been investigated by the EA but no recognisable cause of death had been determined.

It was agreed that Richard and his team of volunteers should be thanked for their sterling efforts.

6. **WRT progress reports**

Giles presented reports of ongoing WRT activity on FRA issues

1. Fry survey. The licences had been agreed with the EA for the 40 sites for 2017 surveys, due to start in a few days. Giles agreed to try to add sites at the lower end of Lewarne and in the Warleggan, although there would not be any previous historic data. He also said that he would be using 4 interns which should reduce the overall cost to the

FRA.

2. W4G. Dave Chapman and Ben Gallant were developing the W4G criteria and on site work. A new liaison meeting with the Fowey and the Camel would be starting shortly to maintain oversight and develop programmes.
3. St Neot restoration. The first four schemes on the St Neot had been undertaken and seemed very successful. The Chairman showed some photographs taken at a recent demonstration day with SWW and the FRA. There are ten schemes in the PR14 agreement and further schemes will be bid for in PR19.
4. Riverfly training. Giles reported that the first training day had been held earlier in the day at Lanhydrock. It had been very successful with ten people attending and a good selection of invertebrates had been found.

Giles was thanked for his report.

7. **Cornwall IFCA**

In John Tisdale's absence it was reported that the proposed CIFCA byelaw including ebb netting had been submitted to DEFRA for approval. It was unclear how long the approval process would take but the ban on most estuarine netting was imminent.

It was essential that the IFCA monitored compliance with vigilance.

8. **SWRA meetings**

The Chairman reported on the SWRA meeting held on 4th July.

Not only was Roger Furniss not present at the meeting, nor was Viv Daly, the new Secretary. In addition the number of people attending was fewer than usual. The papers sent to members of the Council were not opinion pieces based on knowledge and science, but were mainly publicly available documents plus fishery organisation material. There was little of value to report to back the committee.

This led to a discussion about the value of SWRA given the lack of expert knowledgeable opinion from Roger. The subscription had reduced slightly after RF's retirement but was still significant given the long term financial prediction for the FRA. Members considered that the value of the SWRA appeared to have been reduced to an information exchange mechanism and had ceased to be a force in the regional, national and political fishing fraternity. There was a continuing need for Council members to meet and exchange information, research and opinion.

9. **River reports**

It was reported that at least six springers had been caught as well as a number of large sea trout from all parts of the catchment. The peal had now arrived and were being caught and missed on all beats.

Matt agreed to circulate the Lanhydrock catch return for 2016.

10. **Next meetings**

It was agreed to move the committee meetings to the second Wednesday of the first month of each quarter. The revised programme is shown below.

Committee	11 th October 2017
Committee	10 th January 2018
AGM	11 th April 2018
Committee	11 th July 2018