



**The Clwyd, Conwy &  
Gwynedd Rivers Trust**  
*Ymddiriedolaeth Afonydd*  
*Clwyd, Conwy a Gwynedd*

*Creating a better environment / Yn creu amgylchfyd gwell*

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**Meeting of the Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd Rivers Trust - Operational Group**

**at: NRW Offices, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 4DE on 19 July 2016**

**Present:** Alan Winstone, Chair, Allan Cuthbert, John Eardley, Bob Edwards (NRW), David Garside, Dr Kat Marshall (NRW) Richard Pierce, Chris White, Richard White (part meeting).

**1: Apologies and Chairman's Welcome:**

Colin Blythin, David Jones, Rhys Llewellyn, Dr Robin Parry, Medwyn Roberts, Roger Thomas

Alan welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance. He advised members that Roger Thomas has decided to step down as treasurer and from the Group due to other commitments, although he is willing to continue as a Trustee.

**2: Minutes and actions from the last meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016:**

- **Clywedog Fish Easement** – Allan has submitted the formal application paperwork. Rich P has met with the Council's representative who confirmed the wish of the Council to work with the team and are to expedite the paperwork. Contractor is planning to be on site by end of month and work is likely to be completed by the end of August. Noted that photos of work will be required for publicity purposes. **Action: Allan/Richard to provide a progress report at next meeting.**
- **Dyserth stream:** DCC propose to carry out work on this stream and Rich P and the Trust are to keep a watching brief.
- **Nant Mawr Fishkill** – Final proposal from the land owner has yet to be received by NRW so it unlikely that work will proceed this year. **Action: Update to be given at next meeting.**
- **Padarn Charr** – As Roger was maintaining an overview of progress, Alan suggested that Dr Robin Parry be asked to take over as the Trust's contact point. Outcome of KESS PhD application led by Bangor University is still awaited. **Action: Robin to be asked to take over from Roger as Trust contact and update to be given at next meeting.**
- **Afon Eigiau (Conwy) Scheme** – site meeting held with SNPA (Dafydd Roberts) and NRW. Richard P thought the aquatic conditions were poor for juvenile fish. SNP are keen to provide finance to improve habitat, mainly through tree planting. Scheme is still to be developed which may include planting tree cover. Chris reminded members that £500.00 has been donated by the Badger Trust for tree planting. Richard P suggested that this was a good site to use volunteers and that he would check the restrictions imposed by the SSSI classification. New project lead will be required to replace Roger. **Action: Update on progress to be given at next meeting. Chris to**

**contact Roger Jones, Dolgarrog Anglers, to seek a volunteer to lead on this Project on behalf of the Trust.**

- **Fishing Passport Scheme-** After general discussion it was felt that there appeared to be little interest from local clubs. Rich W suggested that there may be some small trout streams in the area from which local landowners, such as the National Trust on the upper Conwy, who may benefit. Alan described a Project being progressed in SE Wales through Leader Funding where under- used or potential new Fisheries would be upgraded and then made available on the Passport Scheme to boost local rural economies by attracting visiting anglers.
- **Education volunteer:** Advert has been put on the website: no responses so far. It was suggested that the Trust set up a Facebook page and that the adverts could be placed there.
- **Dolwyddelan Fishing Rights, Conwy:** 1.2 miles plus half of Llyn y Foel are shortly to be offered for sale by informal tender. Chris suggested that it would be good for the Trust to acquire the water as a salmon sanctuary and allow trout fishing through the Fishing Passport Scheme. Salmon arrive late in the year and are well coloured, so should not really be fished for. There was general support for this. **Action: Chris to obtain details from estate agents and put in bid of £10k for the fishing rights on behalf of the Trust.**

### **3: Finance update**

- **Financial position** - Chris tabled a draft statement of accounts as at present showing a balance of around £5,000 excluding the ring-fenced funds for the Clwyd and the Conwy. This means that the Trust will run out of funds in 2 years' time unless new core funds are obtained. The charity commission require a set of accounts and Chris thought the potential fee of around £360.00 could not be justified and that a "volunteer" accountant should be sought. **Action: All to seek volunteer accountant to audit accounts and inform Chris of any potential names.**
- **Asset Inventory** – No progress to date. Spreadsheet to be formulated and circulated for Group members to populate details of any equipment they have or are aware of held by others **Action: Allan to produce a simple spreadsheet and circulate to members to populate and return.**
- **Fishing Auction** – Details of potential lots to be collated. Suggested that bids could be accepted by e mail and auction to take place at the forthcoming Fisheries Conference. **Action: Allan to e mail local clubs and owners for details (Location, type of fishing and contact point for further details) of lots and collate list.**
- **Business Sponsorship** – Suggestions included RWE, and businesses on the St Asaph Business Park. Needs more discussion about on how to proceed.

### **4: Future potential projects:**

Alan suggested a list of potential schemes be compiled and kept "on the shelf". A critical ingredient of such schemes must be Community involvement particularly with volunteer groups. Other important themes are linking habitat corridors, carbon capture (tree planting) and reducing flood risk. **Action: Alan and Allan to formulate an appropriate template and circulate to members to capture their Project ideas and put on website.**

### **5: Recruitment**

Advert has been placed on the Trust website but so far there has not been any interest. The

Trust needs an Education Officer, a Treasurer and Development Officer (fund raiser), as well as a list of more volunteers. It was suggested that the Trust should set up a Facebook page where adverts could be placed. For volunteers other organisations such as the Wildlife Trust could be approached. **Action: Alan and Allan to examine setting up a Trust Facebook page.**

## **6: Fisheries conference**

The date for the next Fisheries Conference will be **Friday 27 January 2017** at Coed y Brenin near Dolgellau. NRW have kindly agreed to host the conference and provide refreshments. Potential presentations/presenters.:

- i. Welsh Government fisheries/Minister for Rural Affairs?
- ii. NASCO (Peter Hutchinson).
- iii. Wild Trout Trust
- iv. Andy Schofield: the proposed barrages.
- v. Smolt tracking progress.
- vi. Fishing auction.
- vii. BASC.

## **7: Fly life monitoring:**

Alan suggested this was a good opportunity for volunteer involvement and training and the data collected can be put on a national database. The work could be used to supplement the work of NRW teams. We need to establish the whereabouts of Trust equipment, set up training and identify potential sites.

Bob Edwards felt the monitoring process would keep people involved with the environment as well as have the potential to highlight potential issues.

There will be the need for training and Dafydd Roberts, Senior Ecologist, SNPA is keen to be involved and provide training facilities as well as a link with Cofnod.

Kat suggested the possibilities of links with other wild life organisations and involving university students. Measuring improvements to enhance in- river ecology would be useful but should include both pre and post activity monitoring to provide evidence of improvement/changes as a result of the schemes. Photographic records are also a must and water temperature measurement is also useful. **Action: Further discussions with potential partner organisations such as SNPA, Wildlife Trust, National Trust, RSPB are required. Volunteer identification form to be produced for circulation and put on website. Alan and Allan to lead with support from Bob.**

## **8: Trust Vision and Future Direction:**

It is a few months since the Group put together a high level vision and this needs to be translated into some practical plans. Alan suggested considering making the group structures more geographical with separate Operation Groups for Clwyd & Conwy and for Gwynedd with an over-arching Executive Operations Group. Although this may lead to greater local involvement there was concern that this would result in more meetings and attendance is already very variable. Future consideration will be given to holding some meetings in the evening to help members with work and other commitments. This aspect needs more discussion. Attendance at this meeting was poor, which may be due to holidays, but few members had the courtesy to even send their apologies which is unacceptable behaviour. It was noted that the Trust members needed to do more themselves as the Trust no longer has any funds for Project Officers. **Action: Alan and Allan to review mailing list for this Group and remind members to send their apologies if they are unable to attend a meeting**

It was suggested that a Trust 'Open Day' should be organised and Rich P. volunteered to organise a 'volunteer day' in August **Action: Rich P.**

#### **9: Any Other Business**

- A meeting of the Mawddach Alternative Mitigation Steering Group had recently been held at which an earlier Trust Project 'Trout in the Trees' was discussed. There was general support for the proposal which John Eardley is keen to progress **Action: John and Kat to progress and discuss and agree what support is required from the Trust.**
- Chris raised concerns about planned forestry felling at Garnedd Pen y Bont Forest and potential impact on the Lledr and the need to manage silt loading from the operation. Details were passed to Rich P who will raise the issue with Sarah Aubrey, NRW Forestry lead. Rich will liaise with Chris about the need for any input from the Trust. **Action: Rich P to report back to Chris on outcome of discussions and need for any Trust input.**

#### **10: Date of Future meetings**

- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - meeting cancelled.**
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November: Rhuddlan followed by the AGM and meeting of Trustees commencing at 2pm.**

**All meeting to commence at 10:00**