



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

Creating a better environment / Yn creu amgylchfyd gwell

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

at: Community Centre Rhuddlan on Tuesday 15th November 2016

Commencing 10:00 am

Present: Alan Winstone: Chair, Allan Cuthbert, John Eardley, David Jones, Dr Robin Parry, Richard Pierce (NRW), Roger Thomas, Chris White.

1: Apologies and Chairman's Welcome:

Bob Edwards (NRW), David Garside, Rhys Llewellyn, Dr Kat Marshall (NRW)

Alan welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance, followed by a few kind words in remembrance of Medwyn Roberts, our Publicity Officer, who will be greatly missed.

2: Minutes and actions from the last meeting on 19th July 2016:

- **Clywedog Fish Easement** – Now complete. Rich P showed photos and added that the work will open up some 7Km of extra spawning stream. The final cost is £8,580. Thanks were given to Rich P. Alan will write confirming the Trust's gratitude Bethan Beech (copied to Kat) for Rich's time and efforts. **Action: Alan to write thanks as agreed.**
- **Nant Mawr Fishkill** – A second and revised proposal from the land owner has been received by NRW, which has been accepted subject to final approval by NRW legal section. **Action: Update to be given at next meeting.**
- **Padarn Charr** – The KESS (Knowledge, Economy, Skills Scholarship) application for funding for charr population modelling was rejected, however the feedback has been positive, and Nigel will re submit the bid next year. Robin to take over from Roger as co-ordinator with Bangor University. **Action: Alan will check with Nigel and Ian McCarthy.** Work above the lake is still to proceed, to include cleaning of the tunnel and other habitat improvements. **Action: Alan to check progress with Bob Edwards.**
- **Afon Eigiau (Conwy) Scheme** – Snowdonia National Park are interested. Rich P attended a meeting last Tuesday and reported evidence of many trout spawning, some up to 1.5lbs. Potentially Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Rowan and Birch to be planted, which will provide good cover. The river would benefit from adding boulders to improve habitat. Rich P suggested working a small section by hand to see what happens. **Action: Rich P to circulate an update shortly.**

- **Dolwyddelan Fishing Rights, Conwy:** Chris reported that the Trust's bid of £10k was rejected and the Estate Agent representing Roger Latham was seeking in the region of £80,000: a very optimistic target. There followed a general discussion. **Action: Chris to talk to Roger Latham and establish the possibility of a further "realistic" bid, and report back.**
- **Fly life monitoring.** Alan reported that SNP showed some interest but we need more volunteers to be able to take this forward. Bob Edwards is willing to provide training to any willing to attend and participate. Salmon and Trout Association have been monitoring the Clwyd and the Usk: a report will be issued in the summer.
- **Trust equipment:** Roger will provide Alan with records of those to whom equipment was issued and various certificates. **Action: Roger to supply details.**
- **Volunteer day:** Thanks to Rich P for organising this but turnout was poor. **Action: Allan to add photos to the Trust website.**
- **Mawddach alternative mitigation scheme.** John described the proposals in detail. £30,000 has been spent this year and fish have been seen spawning on the eight gravel traps on the Wen, more traps have been added this year. Access to additional spawning has been added by deepening pools to facilitate easier fish access. Further habitat work has been carried out including to the Wnion. John is trying to attract more volunteers. There followed a general discussion on the use of volunteers for electro fishing. **Action: John to provide an update at the next meeting.**
- **Seiont alternative mitigation scheme:** An annual sum of £17-18,000 has been agreed. **Action: Alan to write to Tim Jones to see if the Trust can assist with any of the works.** Robin suggested the fees would help support the Trust

3: Finance update:

1. **Financial position:** Chris gave a detailed update. The bottom line is the Trust has £3,406 available in unrestricted funds. Chris has produced a set of year end accounts to be sent to Companies House. All thanked Chris for his work.
2. **Fishing Auction:** See Fisheries Conference
3. **Business sponsorship** Any ideas to Alan **Action: All.**

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. A project proposal has been put together to survey the largest 10 rivers on Anglesey and identify at least 5 trout fisheries that could be developed and marketed via the Fishing Passport Scheme. Feedback is awaited from Anglesey Council. **Action: Any project ideas to be recorded on form available on Trust's website and sent to Alan.**

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: All to identify and recruit new volunteers.**

6: Fisheries conference

The date for the next Fisheries Conference has been postponed to **1st December 2017** at Coed y Brenin.

7: Fishing Auction:

Thanks to all those clubs and owners who have donated fishing for the auction. Following a general discussion, it was agreed that:

- i. A specialist free auction site is used (auction of promises.com).
- ii. Start in the new year with a closing date of 31st March 2017
- iii. To be advertised on Angling Trust website, Fishing Wales website, advertise in Trout and Salmon magazine, as all clubs with websites to advertise etc.
- iv. Make it an annual event to provide a regular income.
- v. Ask Foxon's to contribute an item **Action: Allan**

Action: Allan to contact Mark Lloyd

8: Any Other Business

- Allan requested that the Trust write to the Welsh Government and NRW requesting that, in light of the drastic decline in salmon stocks in Wales, the Trust has reconsidered its stance on the closure of hatcheries in Wales and requests that the matter be reconsidered. **Action: Alan to draft a letter with input from Allan.**

9: Date of Future meetings

- **7th March 2017**
- **13th June 2017**
- **12th September 2017**
- **14th November 2017 (also AGM).**

Meetings to commence at 10:00