

Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Teams on Monday, June 5th 2023

Present; Andy Stott, Norma Fears, Peter Dreghorn, Martyn Lyall, Nick Major, Annan Griffin, Nick Chisholm, and Gareth Pedley

Apologies: Andy Tunnicliffe

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Andy S had circulated them. The meeting accepted them. Andy would change the status from Draft and upload to the RAW website and add the link.

Action: Andy

2. **Actions arising from the minutes.**

a) **River Flies**

Anna has written and spoken to Olly Routledge. Awaiting response.

Action: Anna -

b) **Milnbie Caul**

Peter asked if Anna could find out if there are any records of eels using the eel pass.

Action: Anna suggested that July 2024 would be a good time to do a survey.

3. **Treasurers Report**

Held over due to Andy T's absence.

4. **SOSTPG Update – Nic**

As a result of this year's projects, Peter has agreed to write a protocol for future projects, taking account of the site's features after a planning visit and plant with the site owners present.

Action: Peter to write

RAW are hosting the launch of the 2023/2024 SOSTPG scheme at Norma's on Tuesday 23rd June. There will be attendees from Galloway Glens, Tweed Forum, Borders Forest Trust and Scottish forestry. There will be a joint press release highlighting the planting and river flies. Richard Smith from Smailgill Roundstonefoot has also been invited along with Ollie Routledge and Michael Fearn from the Annan Fisheries Board. Richard has planted 800 trees, a hedge and orchard alongside the Moffat Water from Woodland Trust, SOSTPG and RAW.

Nic mentioned we should start now for the next season's planting. The earlier the better. Everyone to check the new form

Action: Peter

5. **FoCo Landscape Planting**

Nic reported That Treesurv have now finished this season's planting. The work of site surveying, trees to be planted, agreeing with site owners and ordering trees and

protection will now progress during the summer. Nic has made contact with Kay Black of Hightae as contracting to plant is urgent on this site.

6. Milnbie Caul

Gareth has produced a comprehensive piece on the environmental impact of the Caul for Peter to present to the Chapel Cross Stakeholders group and it was very well received. They stated that did not want to get rid of the Caul yet due to the possibility of using it to extract water for green hydrogen production on the Chapel Cross site. Peter asked if RAW could be stakeholders in the group, so Andy has written to Sean Marshall requesting that happen. The next meeting is 9th August and Gareth could attend subject to availability. Mentioning this time, the issues with water abstraction. RAW has a direct line to the NDA with Avison Young as the contact

Nick mentioned that in the past there were serious concerns about the lack of water in the Annan to support of nuclear site's requirements.

Anna mentioned that the requirements are being studied as part of a report to be produced by the end of the year.

Anna stated that SEPA regard that the Eel pass is now working, because it was designed and installed to the agreed parameters. There is no current evidence of eels using the pass. She stated that SEPA will regard the pass to be low confidence. This will result in the river gaining good status. Chair and Wild Trout Trust challenged the approach taken by SEPA

7. National Trust for Scotland – Partnership

Previously RAW has engaged with the Trust with planting of alders alongside the previous warden. Martin has been helping and we want to ask the Trust if we can be active partners. Chair thanked Martin for his hard work and efforts, to date, including supporting Moffat Academy, care of the Nursery and public events. We will write to the policy officer requesting the partnership and provide information about what was agreed before *Action: Andy, Peter and Martin to discuss and write to NTS*

8. Tree Nursery Update

The tunnel cover should have had a sliding batten on the sides to push up with netting and provide adequate ventilation. Although the ventilation has been improved at either end the heat has had a serious impact on saplings and germination in extreme high temperatures

We currently have 700 trees in the raised beds and another 200 trees gifted from elsewhere. We also have aspen in tree cells. Birch and Alder have successfully germinated. Also, we have Juniper seedlings. Peter mentioned the need to record provenance. Gareth said the Nursery should have a record (Peter to do

We have also the gift of a small polytunnel frame from July at Harvest Time in Moffat. This we will cover with netting. Volunteers required.

Seed Collection – Elm should shed seeds by now but there are none, Willow was collected and planted. Bird Cherry and Elder is next. Permission is given for sites from landowners.

9. Re-meandering at Crosslaw Burn and Bodesbeck re-engineering.

Anna has confirmation that someone from the SEPA hydro-morphology team will visit. Anna has emailed Hamish at the Tweed forum for new dates to visit Little Yarrow and Eddleston. Invitations will be extended to the owners and also Luke Scott. Richard Smith up Moffat water has a stretch of canalised river which could also be considered.

10. River Fly Monitors

Martin mentioned that the local agricultural college was keen to get involved. Although it is now end of term. We should plan for end of the summer.

11. Moffat Academy Field Study Day

There will be 40 students coming to Adamsholm, with pit fall traps, fly life monitoring, and tree identification on their agenda. The date is Monday 12 June 9:00am. Some older students will also be there to assess if there are any bigger projects they could work with as final year projects. Jonathan Page will be the main contact with the school and want to include RAW in their curriculum.

Thanks to Andy Tunnicliffe for getting the school involved.

12. Dialog with Annan Fishery Board

Hopefully Michael Fearn will be assisting on the 13th, and Andy confirmed he now has regular calls with Ollie Routledge. Andy will continue with regular communication

13. FIRNS Application

Andy has had a conversation with Luke Scott re a new application for catchment wide project. Andy and Peter to meet to produce supporting documents. FIRNS is a Nature Scotland application associated with potential ecosystem services. This is appropriate for the Annan Fishery Board to take forward as they have an ecosystem service of fishing and tourism, with decreasing income owing to habitat depletion and Climate Change
Action: Andy & Peter

Andy will send a copy of the application to everyone.

Action: Andy

14. Meetings – RAW has funded Microsoft Teams for a year via Andy S, initially it was free.

Chair thanks Andy and Janice for organising and hosting the meetings both online and in person. Chair requests post meeting that all attend meetings for the duration of the meeting

15. Next meeting – Peter suggested bimonthly, so we will aim for early August.

16. Addendum – Congruent with Dumfries and Galloway Council declaration of a Climate Emergency Peter Dreghorn (Chair) declares the Climate Emergency within RAW and requests that restoration proceeds with all possible speed.

Andy Stott
25/06/2023