

Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Teams on Thursday, December 11th 2022

Present; Andy Stott, Norma Fears, Annan Griffin, Andy Tunnicliffe, Peter Dreghorn,
Martyn Lyall

Apologies: Nick Chisholm, Nick Major. James Short and Gareth Pedley

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Andy 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) **Feedback from Eagle Festival and Moffat Academy**

A lot of interest in RAW, and Rick Taylor who organises the festival is very supportive. Again, a lot of interest from a few people. School is interested in Fly Life monitoring. And to follow up with Shara Routledge.

Action: Andy - We are now following up with the environmental group of Moffat Academy sixth formers

b) **River Flies**

Now happening on three sites. Andy will speak to Anna about getting old data and trigger levels.

Action: Andy & Anna - Outstanding

c) **Fund Raising for RAW**

Our Operating costs estimated at £5 to £10k for insurance, expenses, and upfront payments for grant funded projects. We need to think about getting an operating budget, possibly by writing to businesses. Anna suggested this need careful thought, possibly getting involved with the Annan Climate Ready Town. It is worth joining up but may take some time.

Also Peter D to investigate fund raising from Scottish Forestry for the Tree Nursery

Action: Peter – Will post pone into last 2023 – closed

But he will be giving a presentation to Beattock and Kirk Patrick Juxta Community Council to ask for funding to buy cells for the tree nursery.

d) **SEPA Partnership**

Andy suggested we have a joint SEPA/RAW meeting. Possibly visit to Little Yarrow.

Action: Anna – Anna will arrange a suitable date in 2023 with Roberto Martinez, Hydro Morphologist. He has been involved at Bodesbeck long term and Anna is hoping we can do this Tweed Forum Possibly end of January.

Anna has the name of the contact for showing the film in Annan. Anna has a short video to show at the Climate Ready Event in Annan on Monday 12th December.

e) **Re-Meandering of stream at Moffat Distillery**

We will try to get Roberto to look at the same time as looking at Little Yarrow. Then decide

on the feasibility going forward.

3. Treasurer's Report

Andy T reported that there is £905.21 in the account. Out of this will come some funds for seed trays, compost, watering cans, staging, and netting etc for the tree nursery.

Andy raised the needs to change the constitution to allow single approval of payment through the Bank of Scotland app.

Action: Andy S to look to amend.

3. Riverwoods Submission

The judges and the public have spoken. Our joint bid with the Annan Fisheries Board, Galloway Fisheries Trust got the most public support and was selected equal first by the expert judging panel. We now move on to Phase II where we get £4-5K's worth of support with expert help to produce a sound business plan to take forward. Ollie is putting together a project team and Andy S will be asked to join.

We will put out a joint statement with Luke from Galloway Fisheries Trust. Andy will post on social media, and he asked Norma to write a letter for the local papers.

Action: Andy to copy Norma and Norma to send to the paper.

Anna then showed the Riverwoods presentation.

4. Tree Nursery Update

Currently we have the polytunnel and two raised beds built at the site in Beattock. We have just ordered the wood for the staging in the tunnel. Beattock Primary have expressed a big interest in getting involved.

Peter has visited Graham Dalby's tree nursery and picked up plenty of tips. We need to buy compost next.

Peter has applied to TCV for trees and we have been awarded 950 trees which will arrive soon. Norma mentioned that she may have someone interested in helping.

5. FoCo

We have heard that our applications have been agreed, so going forward this is great news. The monies from the grant will go to Treesurv, who have spent a lot of time since August. We have 6-7 sites each with 500-1500 trees on each site.

6. South of Scotland Scheme

Andy reported that we are well on with the forms being submitted via Nick Major. Peter mentioned that the scheme is a rolling programme, not just now.

7. SEPA Update

Anna suggested we tackle Bodesbeck when we meet with Roberto. The site is of major concern about the sediment that has been deposited and the result is that spawning fish cannot move upstream. This has been ongoing for a quite a while, and funding opportunities were not forthcoming. Future funding could from Nature Scot or a private investor through project

development aligned with the Riverwoods approach may be possible.

8. Annanwater & Moffat Academy Sixth Form

Moffat Sixth formers are keen to get involved with RAW. He has suggested that they become river stewards. With investigations into freshwater mussels and beaver habitat, tree planting, evidence of otters etc. We will go via Jessica, Andy T's neighbour to reach the group. We need to get the school involved as we don't have the necessary clearances.

9. Otters

Anna mentioned that she had been contacted by SOSE to say AMEY have got monies to spend in D&G for otter -protection where there are issues with trunk road infrastructures. All to let Anna know if they come across any. Anna suggested that we investigate AMEY w.r.t. Riverwoods – Anna to develop this further.

10. AOB

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

Action: Anna

We could approach GRT about a survey in 2023 for fish passing the caul.

Action: Andy

11. Next Meeting

Andy to send out Rally poll for meeting in end January. A hybrid face to face with Teams at Lawrencefield.

Andy Stott
13/12/2022