

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 19th February 2014,
At DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn
Commencing at 6.30pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Bruce Kelly, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Cavan O'Connell, Serge Bonnafoux, Paul Farrow, Ken Lee, Garth Free, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Brian Smart

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Scott Pearson

Public: Richard Weaver

2. Apologies

Councillors: Martin Clements (Chairman) for lateness, Chris Goom

Staff: Emily Moore, Kelvin Wright

Due to the lateness of Cr Clements to the meeting, an acting Chairman was appointed.

"That Cr McNeill be appointed as Acting Chairman until Cr Clements arrived".

Moved: Cr Smart

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

R Cullinane explained and apologised for the lateness Councillors had received their papers and stated they would be couriered out in future.

"That the apologies be accepted".

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux

Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

3. General Business

- a. Upper Rakaia Visit - Cr Isitt
- b. Old fishing books remaining at retailers - Cr Bonnafoux
- c. Supplement included in Gamebird magazine - D Barr
- d. Application from Kaiapoi Club - Junior Fishing Competition - R Cullinane
- e. Johns Road concept plans - R Cullinane
- f. Kawai fishing - Cr Isitt

Cr McNeill suggested items should be placed on the agenda in future.

4. a. Minutes from the Previous Meeting Dated 18th December 2013

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.

Moved: Cr Lee

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

4 b. Matters Arising

- 7g. Portfolio Reports - Media - R Cullinane reported he had written to Clearwater and was still waiting for a response. Cr Farrow reported that he had been in contact with Sustainable

Coastlines regarding the Avon River Clean Up. He stated they would be coming to Christchurch in March and would be prepared to consider the Avon River as a project.
Cr Farrow to report back at the next Council meeting.

Action Sheet

Under New Matters - No 3 - Change "Goose" to "Game"

Delete No 5. From Wed 21 August meeting

Under Matters Arising Wed 18th December 2013 No 7 - add "opposite the Banana Hole"

Cr McNeill handed the meeting over to Cr Clements on his arrival at 6.43 p.m.

6. Meeting Business

6a i. Rakaia River Fishing Competition 27 Feb to 1 Mar 2014 - Compliance

After discussion it was decided to make ranging optional for rangers, that the day would be treated more as a public relations exercise which would be restricted to the Saturday only. The jet boat would not be used at all and the tanker would be at the Competition for the Saturday only.

Cr Bonnafoux stated that ranging activity to achieve 10% checking of licence holders in a season should not be restricted to river mouths and fishing competitions. The high country areas and the upper reaches of rivers also needed to be targeted.

6a ii. Funding Request for Youth Programme

Cr Robinson and Cr McNeill declared a conflict of interest and abstained from the discussion and voting on this matter.

R Cullinane explained that Future Rivers had withdrawn their support for the Youth Programme and was now seeking approval for interim funding from North Canterbury Fish and Game retained earnings to carry the Programme through to the next financial year, whereby it was hoped that continued funding would be approved from Fish and Game New Zealand from 1st September 2014. The matter was being taken to the Regional Managers Meeting being held 24/25 February 2014.

Most Councillors supported the interim funding request with comments being that the initiative was "taking it to the next level in professionalism", that it promoted environmental issues to young people and that the programme was gaining momentum not only within the North Canterbury region.

Cr Bonnafoux offered his time and expertise with fishing to the programme. S Pearson offered to give his background in marketing and surveys to measure the success of the programme.

Cr Farrow was against the motion as he felt funding should come from sponsorship and not Fish and Game funds.

"That North Canterbury contribute \$75,000 (75% of the annual \$100,000 youth programme budget from its retained earnings (excluding dedicated reserves). This \$75,000 would be sufficient until 31 August 2014 after which it is hoped that there would be a permanent allocation from internal national sources. This \$75,000 would be a one-off advance to the trust and would not be required to be repaid."

Moved: Cr Smart

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

Cr Farrow and Cr Free were against the motion

Cr Robinson thanked Council for their continued support of this initiative and stated that schools were lining up to join the programme. He apologised to Cr Bonnafoux for the oversight in not getting back to him re his proposal and stated he was excited to see the Programme go forward.

6a iii. New Licence Categories and Pricing

General discussion ensued on the proposei from the NZ Council to introduce six new licencing categories with associated pricing. Points made were as follows:

- the impact on retailers and rangers need to be considered
- overseas anglers category missed
- negative responses from licence agents
- that when the idea was initially tabled, North Canterbury was opposed to the introduction
- short term licences a positive, need to get people interested
- that assurances from F&G relating to less levies or compensation for North Canterbury due to loss of revenue with the introduction of such
- regional licence - why give cheaper licence to those already paying for a whole season
- realistically licence pricing was about 'perceived value' which was very broad that required tighter guidelines/information around this point
- be a disaster if these categories did not work and our current financial position could not be reattained
- have to sell 'value' not 'discount'
- licence endorsement of salmon a possibility

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council supports the proposal as per the recommendations made in the proposal"

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Isitt

Motion Failed

R Cullinane to write a letter to the NZ Council outlining our concerns and stating the matter was well debated.

6b i. Gamebird Data From Flights

D Barr spoke to his paper stating that trend counts were on the way up and more farmers were getting irate on the increasing numbers of ducks etc around their properties.

"That an urgent change to the bag limits be made to the 2014 Gamebird Regulations be made. Ellesmere raise to 25 (an increase of 15), Area A to 25 (up from 5), Area B to 25 (up from 20).

That a complete review for the summer season be made in early 2015."

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux

Carried

D Barr to contact R Sowman regarding the changes to the Regulations book.

6b ii. Adipose Fin Clipped Salmon

D Barr spoke to his paper on the issue of fin clipping and requested a decisive direction whether to fin clip or not. After general discussion the following was moved;

"That North Fish and Game continue to use the removal of the adipose fin from Chinook Salmon smolt for the purpose of monitoring future salmon populations and measuring salmon enhancement programme success.

That North Canterbury Fish and Game offer supportive angling clubs a total monetary payment of \$1,000.00 for fuel costs recovery for a total of three days fin clipping during the March 2014 season."

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

6b iii. Draft Prosecution Policy for Fish and Game NZ, Including Reparation

R Cullinane spoke to the report which outlined a set of principals and guidelines which F&G regions would follow in making the decision to initiate criminal proceedings - including reparation processes - when considering appeals against Court decisions arising from prosecutions. R Cullinane to reply endorsing the Policy on behalf of the Council.

6b iv. Proposed Transition to the Use of Non-Toxic Shot in 'Sub-gauge' Shotguns

The proposal from F&G NZ was as follows:

'That this Council put together a process to phase out the use of lead in sub-gauges with possible exemptions and time frames and consult regions on the results'.

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council reject the whole proposal."

Moved: Cr Smart

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

R Cullinane to reply with decision to F&G NZ with a note the NC F&G Council had reviewed this policy in the past and our stance had not changed.

7 Reports

7 a Chairman's Report

Cr Clements had nothing to report.

7 b. Staff Report

1333 - Website - Staff area on website need to be addressed. Cr Bonnafoux stated that the TAKF photos on the website had a lot of pictures of blood in them. A Currie to change photos.

1211 - Trustpower - T Hawker reported that Trustpower would be putting in an overhead pipe on the Rakaia but as yet no consent had been lodged. T Hawker to draft a reply to Trustpower outlining F&G concerns and possibility of mitigation. C O'Connell stated that Ngai Tahu would be having a meeting on site next week and invited F&G to attend.

1312 - Signage - D Barr explained that the signs at Mousse Point and Lewis River had been redone this year and suspects people had taken them down for personal reasons.

7 c. Financial Report

R Cullinane advised that spending was tracking well within budget and was on target for the year. He explained that F&G Council had sent variance reports from other regions in preparation for the forthcoming managers meeting and was pleased to see NC F&G stood out for all the right reasons, not as in previous years. He stated that staff were ensuring best possible costings were obtained prior to spending.

Cr McNeil asked if worked carried out in the Operational Work Plan delivered as per budget?

Discussion then focused on the changing requirements and philosophies with spending on environmental issues at a national level. Cr Clements commented the matter needed to be debated nationally as the issue had been recognised but was not being dealt with.

It was also stated that a national 'in-house' legal and environment team was gaining traction.

It was also advised that NC F&G had withdrawn support for a national staff and chairmans conferences due to costs involved.

7 d. New Zealand Council Report

Cr Robinson stated the annual accounts had been signed off and stated that this year if any expenses were not in the budget they would not be supported. He appreciated R Cullinane leading the charge relating to the 'in-house' legal and environmental issue.

7 e. Youth Programme Report

Cr Robinson reported he would be glad to get this programme underway again. Cr Clements commented that a strategic plan needed to be in place as to how to expand the programme when this happens.

7 f. Building Update

R Cullinane tabled concept plans for Johns Road. Cr Smart offered the services of his charges to assist in any development of the property and Cr Lee offered his mowing contracting services. He also offered to look at the hydraulics on the tractor at the property.

R Cullinane reported he would be seeking resource consent early with a report currently being compiled. He requested the following:

'That approval be given by delegated authority to move on with project and to stay within the designated budget for the revamp of Johns Road property. That the committee of Cr Goom, Cr Clements and R Cullinane be approved to continue with the project.'

Moved: Cr Smart

Seconded: Cr Kelly

Carried

R Cullinane to circulate an electronic version of the concept plans to all councillors.

7 g. Portfolio Reports

Media - Cr Farrow reported he and D Ambler completed a F&G Council questionnaire on behalf on of NC F&G relating to licence agents.

Salmon/Trout Committee - Cr McNeill advised the committee met the previous week and discussed Fin clipping trout releases, stocking rivers with salmon, Whiskey Creek imprinting (stating resource consent was still required to divert the river) and trap instillation. Cr Lee to check on galvanising of the trap.

Compliance - D Barr stated that organised events had gone well. Upcoming events were:

Rakaia River Fishing Competition - 28 Feb to 2 Mar 2014

Waimakariri Salmon Anglers Fishing Competition - 22 Mar 2014

Rangers Fishing Competition - Dates TBA

Cheviot Salmon Fishing Competition - D Barr to check dates

Cr Lee thanked D Barr for the rangers summer shirts and Cr Smart thanked D Barr for the updates the rangers were receiving.

R Cullinane tabled an application from the Kaiapoi Working Mens Club Fishing Section to hold a junior fishing competition on the Kaiapoi River. It was advised there had been problems in the past with bag limits and the size of fish being caught.

Approval was given on the proviso that R Cullinane to contact the organiser to discuss the issue of rules regarding sports fish in particular the bag limit rule with any fish caught over the limit be returned to the river. That these rules will need to be discussed prior to any future competition.

Gamebirds - Cr Smart to progress.

8 General Business

- a. **Fishing Licences** - Cr Bonnafoux stated he had come across a licence holder who had brought a current season licence but was actually issued from the previous years books. No names were given.
- b. **Gamebird Magazine** - D Barr presented a target pattern sheet designed by F&G Southland to add as a supplement to the Gamebird Magazine. Cost.29c each. Cr Isitt stated the size would need to be 1m x 1m to be of any value. It was decided that D Barr would investigate further with Council endorsement, taking into account Cr Isitt comments on the size.
- c. **Kawai Fishing** - This required a common strategy to deal with the issue of fishing for kawai with the ability to catch salmon and trout. D Barr to talk to M Webb (F&G CSI). R Cullinane to investigate the law on acclimatised fish versus kawai catch.

Cr Clements, in closing, complimented staff on their dress this evening. He also expressed concern of councillors not responding to staff emails and correspondence and that staff were owed the courtesy of a response. He asked for councillors to improve in this area.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Chairman: _____

Dated: _____

Next Meeting: 16th April 2014

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: DoC Offices
31 Nga Mahi Place
Sockburn