

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 18th June 2014,
At DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn
Commencing at 6.30pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Cavan O'Connell, Ken Lee (from 7.10pm), Garth Free, Serge Bonnafoux,

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Emily Moore

Public: Bill Southwood, Ron Stuart, Kelvin Wright, Keith Gibbs

2. Apologies

Councillors: Malcolm Gilbert, Brian Smart, Chris Goom, Paul Farrow, Bruce Kelly

Staff: Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson

"That the apologies be accepted

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Robinson Carried

3. Notification of General Business

- a. Council / Commissioners Meetings - R Cullinane
- b. Volunteer Ova Planting - R Cullinane
- c. Council Retention Water Ponds - Cr Isitt / Cr Free
- d. Silver Fern Farms - R Cullinane

4. a. Minutes from the Previous Meeting Dated 16th April 2014

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted with the following amendments:

Under Present - add Chris Goom, delete Steve McNeill (on twice).

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

Cr Clements requested that under 6b i. regarding Bag Limits - whole sentence be removed.

4 b. Matters Arising /Action Sheet

Under 18th Dec Item 2 - Pheasant Rearing - After general discussion regarding various ways to rear pheasants, it was decided that R Cullinane contact Cr Smart - Gamebird Sub Committee convenor, convene a meeting to discuss and bring back recommendation(s) to Council on pheasant rearing. If Cr Smart was unable to fulfil his duties as convenor, then another councillor would be appointed.

Under 6b i. Proposal for Changes to the Salmon Catch Limit - R Cullinane to compose a letter from Chairman of North Canterbury Council to Central South Island Council to start a discussion on luminous fishing lures and to initiate discussion on the harmonisation of salmon fishing regulations.

The following items to be deleted from the Action Sheet:

From meeting 21 August - No 7 - Invitation to D Maindonald

From meeting 16 October - No 1 - Soft Scent Bait Rules

From meeting 18th December - No 2 - Pheasant Rearing, No 3 - Gamebird Subcommittee Convenor, No 6 - Cones In Avon River, No 7 - Excavation Work and Access to Banana Hole on Waimakariri River, No 8 - Ashley Bridge Diversion

From meeting 19th February - No 10 - Cheviot Fishing Comp, No 13 - Law on Acclimatised Fish v Kahawai Catch

From meeting 16th April - No 5 - K Gibbs Email, No 6 - Sub Gauge NZC Decision.

Add No 12 - Walking Access

5. Public Session

Ron Stuart - NZ Salmon Anglers Association - Commended Fish and Game staff for their support in ova planting and thanked D Barr and team for their efforts. He stated that the volunteer base was steadily growing and that they were all feeling very confident of continued success. R Cullinane thanked R Stuart and his base of volunteers for the work they had carried out this year.

Bill Southwood - Stated he had won the NZ Coastal Society National Coastal Award for 2013 for his work on the Rakaia River for monitoring shingle movement and river flows. B Southwood was seeking funding of \$2,500.00 towards cameras to be set up along the river to gather digital base line data on cross sections on the river. After general discussion on other organisations (NIWA, Ecan, Canterbury University) to contribute and on students being enlisted to gather data and write papers on the outcomes, Cr Clements thanked B Southwood and stated he would give consideration to the matter. D Ambler to circulate tabled papers from B Southwood.

6a i. Finalise Operational Work Plan and 2014-2015 Budget

R Cullinane reported that the adjustments towards fin clipping and the formulas used in the budget had been made.

Discussion followed on salmon population monitoring and the methodology used relating to spawning counts in the high country. Points raised were the need to work smarter and provide more funding for helicopter flights; that a flight in June be undertaken to ensure the peak count is more accurate. Discuss/compare peak counts with Central South Island F&G to see if they are more accurate. Provide discretionary funding for staff to use should they feel results were not achieved as needed.

The following adjustments were made in hours allocated in the Operational Work Plan:

1231 - Salmon Spawning Habitat - decrease hours from 574 to 478

1311 - Access Advocacy - increase hours from 104 - 200 to allow for the access project.

6a ii. Glenariffe Stream Habitat Protection Project

E Moore gave a presentation relating to habitat protection on the Glenariffe Stream due to habitat deterioration from changing farming practices within the region. The goals of this project were to safeguard the capacity of the Glenariffe to produce salmon returns in perpetuity; to protect salmon spawning and rearing grounds from the effects of current and future agricultural development; and to protect the associated wetlands and springs that provide water quality and stable flows required for spawning and rearing in the wild.

E Moore stated this was a three phase project of which stage one had been completed. With the funding for this project it will result in the most threatened salmon spawning stream in the Upper Rakaia being protected in perpetuity.

General discussion followed on developing good strong relationships with farmers to allow projects like this to happen and other agencies involvement towards funding of such projects.

"Having regard to the reasoning behind the establishment of the Rakaia Fund ("...for the purposes of habitat and fisheries enhancement projects in the Rakaia River catchment"), it is recommended that \$50,000.00 (plus gst) be set aside for the habitat protection of the Glenariffe stream and adjacent areas."

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Free

After further discussion the following was included as part of the motion

"That Council get staff to develop a good news story around the fencing project on the Glenariffe stream with supporting photographs".

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Free

Carried

It was decided that seeding money of \$2,5000 previously discussed be included in this amount

"That the Operational Work Plan (as revised) and the 2014-2014 Budget be adopted"

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Isitt

6a iii & iv. Salmon & Trout Sub Committee Minutes/Recommendations and Discussion on Luminous Fishing

Discussion centred on salmon fishing regulations in particular to the harvest in the lower Waimakariri and Kaiapoi rivers. Points raised were;

- Concern about introducing regulations changes outside of the 2 yearly review period;
- That justification for regulation changes be conveyed in the 2014-2015 spring supplement to stakeholders;
- Restricting hours of fishing would take away the use of luminous fishing lures;
- That a survey be carried out between now and the next regulations review on the use of luminous fishing lures, then decide as to what action to take;
- Clarification was sought as to the role of Councillors on sub-committees - only as observers with no voting rights
- The meeting was cautioned on making regulations changes without wider discussion;
- That the intent of restricting the hours of fishing was to give the fish a rest from anglers;
- Staff recommended not to proceed with restricted hours but to prohibit luminous tackle from the 2014/15 season onwards

"Introduce a one salmon bag limit in the Kaiapoi River"

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Isitt

Carried

"That salmon fishing not be allowed between the hours of 11.00pm and 5.00am in the months of December and January and 10.00pm and 5.00am at other times in any river".

Moved: Cr Isitt
 Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

Cr Clements recorded his vote against

"Scented soft baits be allowed alongside unscented soft baits in waters where spin fishing is permitted."

Moved: Cr McNeill
 Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

10. Concerns of NZ Council Overspend

R Cullinane to draft a reply to Northland Region Chairman, in support of their letter regarding the significant overspend by the NZ Council and to advise that North Canterbury was also seeking answers on concerns relating to certain NZ Council decisions affecting its region.

6a v. Licence Fee Recommendation

R Cullinane recommended that the proposed fee increase of the adult whole season angling licence should not be supported due to flawed information relating to the calculation of general reserves of each region and that information provided by R Cullinane to NZ Council was not made available prior to their meeting as it had significant bearing on the decision making process.

"That this Council not support the licence fee increase for the 2014/15 fishing season."

Moved: Cr McNeill
 Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

Cr Bonnafoux recorded his vote against

R Cullinane to write a letter to the NZ Council Chief Executive requesting he come to Christchurch to discuss the licence fee increase and Youth programme to help clarify the reasoning behind NZ Council decisions. If not satisfactorily resolved then further recourse be taken.

6a vi. Felt Soled Waders

R Cullinane to reply to a letter from D Kelly (West Coast Manager) stating there is still a considerable risk in removing the felt soled wader ban in the South Island.

6b i. Fish Releases - More Locations and Numbers

Discussion focused on where fish were released in certain catchments and the need to consult more widely with stakeholders when they were released. These releases needed to be more proactive rather than reactive. D Barr to send release details to D Ambler to put on web site.

6b iii. Salmon Count on the Waimakariri River

N & P Hartland reported that 164 salmon were caught on the north side of the Waimakariri River with 23 being fin clipped and on the south side 97 were caught. At McIntoshs 419 salmon were caught with 83 being fin clipped. R Cullinane advised that in appreciation for their continued support of Fish and Game salmon count N & P Hartland, L Burke and C & D Eaton were sent a letter of appreciation and a voucher for their efforts.

6b iv. Proposed North Canterbury Media Strategy 2014 - 2015

A Currie presented a proposal outlining the aim and approach by which a media strategy policy could be adopted. The paper outlined the need to be more positive and less combative and to focus on those best practice operators within the agricultural sector and rewarding them by way of an award system.

“That Council supports the initiative of acknowledging best practices within the agricultural sector in the form of an award system. The Council gives instruction to staff and the publicity committee to further this approach.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

6b v. Boggy Creek

R Cullinane advised there had been an expression of interest to purchase Boggy Creek and sought advice from Council on whether it would be prepared to consider a sale if the prospective purchaser wished to take it further following a site visit. Discussion followed on seeking Gamebird sub-committee input, and that if a sale was to occur, then a proportion of any sale proceeds would be put back into game bird projects. R Cullinane inform the interested party that the matter had been discussed and that Council would be keeping an open mind.

7h. Waiau River Report

Cr Free requested the Waiau River Report.

7 Reports

7a. Chairman's Report

Cr Clements reported that he continues to work with R Cullinane on a regular basis to regularly discuss operational and strategic matters..

7b. Staff Report

1141 Hatcheries

D Barr stated that staff were looking at relocating the Otukaikino trap closer to the gravity raceways at the Isaac hatchery

1211 Resource Consents

Cr McNeill stated the need to have more regular updates other than the staff report every two months with the content more informative.

1414 Media Liaison

Cr Clements wanted Councillors to be more informed on events staff were involved in.

7c. Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that the financial position was tracking well and within budget and that licence sales were slightly up on the previous year. He reported expenses were under control and year to date and overall were within budget.

7d. New Zealand Council Report

Cr Robinson stated he had tendered his resignation as the North Canterbury representative on the NZ Council. R Cullinane to circulate to Councillors the position required to be filled and would consider all comments.

7e. Youth Programme Report

Cr Robinson submitted a report outlining a summary of schools that were involved in the programme, on ova deliveries and the general increase in participation. R Cullinane reported funding was being sought to continue the programme. Cr Robinson also advised that funding for 20 smaller tanks, chillers and bio filters was being sought from Pub Charity.

7f. Building Update

R Cullinane advised the resource consent application had taken longer to put together but would be filed within the week and that he had approached and got consent from neighbours. Fencing which is being paid for by Transit NZ will be undertaken in the near future.

7g. Portfolio Reports

Compliance - D Barr advised there had been two compliance events; duck season opening and pheasant shooting opening. There had been three prosecutions this month with three pending. CERT training would be carried out in either August or September. D Barr to source covers for new infringement books.

8. General Business

8a. Councillors / Commissioners Meetings

After discussion it was agreed that more advanced notification to Councillors be given to enable more to attend the ECAN commissioners' meetings.

8b. Silver Fern Farms

R Cullinane reported that submissions were due on 30th June and T Hawker and himself would complete the F&G submission. He reported there was a petition on the website and the issue was gaining momentum.

8c. Council Water Retention Problems

Cr Isitt asked about wetland development and how to filter runoff from subdivisions to wetland areas then link that to river systems. It was decided to leave the matter tabled.

8d. Staff Conference

R Cullinane reported staff would be attending a National Conference 23 - 25 June in Rotorua.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.

Chairman: _____ Dated: _____

Next Meeting: 20th August 2014

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: DoC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn