

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 20TH August 2014,
At DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn
Commencing at 6.38pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Cavan O'Connell, Garth Free, Serge Bonnafoux, Malcolm Gilbert, Chris Goom, Paul Farrow, Bruce Kelly

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Tony Hawker

Public: Bill Southward, Keith Gibbs

2. Apologies

Councillors: Ken Lee

Staff: Steve Terry, Scott Pearson, Andrew Currie (Lateness)

"That the apologies be accepted"

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux

Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

R Cullinane advised that Cr Lee had taken up the Gamebird Portfolio and that along with the resignation of Cr Smart had notified the Minister of Conservation. R Cullinane to find out who the next two highest polling candidates were from the last Council election and notify them of the council vacancies with a view of filling the positions.

3. Notification of General Business

- a. GPS Access Points - D Barr
- b. Agency on Line Agencies - R Cullinane
- c. Youth Programme - M Clements
- d. Signage - Cr Bonnafoux
- e. 1080 Drop - Cr Bonnafoux
- f. Lake Pearson - Cr Bonnafoux

4. a. Minutes from the Previous Meeting Dated 20th June 2014

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

Under 6a ii. That the last motion be amended to read "That the Operational Work Plan (as revised) and the 2014-2015 Budget be adopted".

Under 6a v. That Cr Isitt was the seconder of the motion "That this Council not support the licence fee increase for the 2014/15 fishing season".

Add 7H under Reports: Cr Free requested the Waiau River Report.

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

R Cullinane requested Councillors advise D Ambler of any alterations to the "Draft Minutes" prior to Council meetings.

4 b. Matters Arising /Action Sheet

Under 20 Feb - No 6. Change E Moore to D Barr as person responsible for signage for Rakaia and Waimakariri River Mouth

Under 19th Feb 2014 - No 2. Gamebird Regulations - Change outcome to Jan 2015

Under 16 Apr - No 10. Askeaton Boat Ramp - On Hold

Under 18th June - No 1. Change G/Bird Sub Committee Convenor to read K Lee. No 7. Licence Fee Recommendation - superceded by R Cullinane visit to Wellington. Discussion later in meeting. No 10. Boggy Creek - R Cullinane to contact the interested party for further discussion. No 11. N/C Rep to NZC - Cr Goom accepted and the appointment confirmed to Minister of Conservation.

The following items to be deleted from the Action Sheet:

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

From meeting 19th February - No 7 Trustpower, No 9 Galvanising of fish traps

From meeting 16th April - No 4 Kawahi Fishing, No 7 Draft Operation Work Plan

From meeting 18th June - No 2 Convenor Gamebird Sub Committee, No 3. Salmon Catch Limit, No 7 Licence Fee Recommendation, No 8 Felt Soled Waders

Further to 18th June No 7 Licence Fee Increase

R Cullinane stated NZC had requested background material on each regions reserves which he presented to the recent managers meeting. The meeting accepted the recommendations contained in R Cullinanes report. He also stated the he had appealed the rejection by the NZC of funding for the Youth Programme in which he succeeded in turning that decision around. To be discussed later in the meeting.

5. Public Session

Keith Gibbs - Questioned changes in regulations on the Kaiapoi River regarding bag limit and hours of fishing.

6a i. Boggy Creek Stand

After discussion relating to a request from the Christchurch Rod and Gun Club to have a permanent stand at Boggy Creek, it was decided that a broader discussion was needed to decide what will happen with the property. R Cullinane to report back to next Council meeting on the outcome from further discussions with the interested party relating to the possible purchase of Boggy Creek.

6a ii. Lake Coleridge Chinook Salmon Spawning Survey Report

T Hawker summarised this report with discussion centred on returning salmon to the Harper and Avoca rivers. It was decided that landowners should get Survey results. T Hawker to follow up.

"That NC F&G continue to monitor the salmon spawning activiy at Lake Coleridge as this is a highly valued part of the Coleridge fishery.

That NC F&G continue to stock the Harper/Avoca spring fed tributaries with juvenile salmon to try and establish additional spawning runs for those catchments.

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

6a iii. Building Fund Reserve

"The North Canterbury Fish and Game Council resolved:

That the balance of funds on hand, together with the unquantified and yet to be received balance of insurance monies, be set aside as a dedicated reserve in the financial accounts of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council. This being up to \$400,000.00 less monies spent to date.

It further resolves that these funds be authorised to be used in the redevelopment of the property it owns at 595 Johns Road Christchurch, subject to any terms, conditions and delegated authorities it sees fit."

Moved: Cr Goom

Seconded: Cr Isitt

Carried

R Cullinane advised that the resource consent application decision looked favourable and that a reply was expected by the end of August 2014. He advised NZTA would pay for fencing along the front boundary. It was suggested that a request be sent to our stakeholders for any trade assistance once alterations to the building were in progress.

6b i. Development of Policies and Policy Register

The requirement to develop meaningful policies for various topics so that there was a consistent, Councillor endorsed way forward for the organisation was discussed. R Cullinane was tasked with starting to formalise policies for the North Canterbury region, with a policy folder in place for the 2016 new Council.

6b ii. State of Aquatic Life in the Kaiapoi, Styx and Otukaikino Streams

Cr Isitt talked on the decline of shrimps and if there had been any benchmark research for comparison to the current state of the waterway. T Hawker to write to ECAN seeking information on the decline in these rivers and asking for any information already gathered.

6b iii. Upper Selwyn Brown Trout Spawning Survey

T Hawker spoke to his report stating the overall results of the survey were positive with spawning activity increasing from last year. He stated there were still some places in the catchment that remain unsuitable for spawning due to habitat degradation. He spoke of the trout releases this year and how a further three years of monitoring the success of this was required.

7. Reports**7a. Chairman's Report**

Cr Clements reported that he continues to report/work with R Cullinane on a regular basis to discuss operational and strategic matters. A succession plan for a replacement as Chairman was discussed and flagged for future reference.

7b. Staff Report**1114 Brown Trout Surveys**

T Hawker to email clear images of the Avon Report to Councillors.

1141 Fish and Game Hatcheries

D Barr reported the fish releases were going well. The tanker would be getting the Fish and Game logo put on the side. He reported that Whiskey Creek was progressing well and that

the resource consent to move the stream and the building consent application were just about ready to go.

1181 Gamebird Population Control

D Barr reported a serious problem with black swans predating on crops and a strategy needed to be formed to look at the swan problem. The cost of permits was still contentious.

Discussion on pukeko numbers on public land around Marshlands was discussed. Cr Isitt and D Barr to write/meet with landowner to look at the problem.

1211 Resource Consents

Cr Robinson stated he had sent in a personal submission relating to the Silver Fern Farms resource consent application but got a different response to that of other respondents from ECAN. This to be discussed at the next ECAN and Councillor meeting.

1213 RMA Compliance

Cr Bonnafoux thanked T Hawker for the work he had put in on the letter relating to the Percival River.

1312 Access Signage

Discussion centred on the possibility of rangers carrying spare signage with them to replace damaged ones around the region. It was decided that Cr Bonnafoux liaise with D Barr relating to replacement signage around the Lake Taylor area.

1414 Media Liaison

D Ambler to put on Action Sheet - A Currie to look for a good news story for publication.

1612 Licence Database

R Culline suggested ways on how to acknowledge Agencies for their work on behalf of F&G. To be discussed at staff meeting.

1841 National Liaison

R Cullinane to have available by next Council meeting, conference notes tabled at the last Managers meeting.

7c. Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that the financial position was tracking well and within budget and that licence sales were tracking about the same as last year. He reported expenses were under control and year to date and overall were within budget. He stated the licence fee levy was significantly higher than in previous years and explained the reasons why.

7d. New Zealand Council Report

Cr Goom was appointed as the North Canterbury representative on the New Zealand Council by an out of meeting resolution.

Cr Goom reported he had attended his first meeting and spoke briefly on points raised from this meeting; Minister of Conservation address to Council; legal funds, G Palmer presentation, gray teal count to be introduced, the Fish In Schools programme, the financial review on all regions and on the lead shot issue.

7e. Youth Programme Report

Cr Robinson spoke to his report. 21 tanks in schools around Christchurch with several need replacement fish due to water issues. Fish out days for all schools were to happen mid October to early December. Mentors were being put in place in each school to assist with teaching children to fish. He reported on various applications for assistance with funding this programme and on an article the Kaiapoi Advocate would be doing on the programme. Cr Robinson and Cr Bonnafoux to come up with a plan to get young anglers up to the high country for fishing.

Discussion followed on the continued funding of the Youth Programme, where it was heading what was needed to further the programme. R Cullinane to assist P Robinson in putting together a proposed budget for the next financial year to be presented at the next Council meeting. Cr Kelly suggested that the Programme seek sponsorship/funding for fish tanks from stakeholders.

Cr Free had stated that in the 19th February 2014 minutes that R Cullinane had given an undertaking that there would be no further call on NC funds in support of the Youth Programme and that the \$75,000.00 was a one off payment.

Cr Goom requested a budget for the Youth Programme be presented at the next Council meeting.

7g. Portfolio Reports

Compliance - D Barr advised CERT training would be undertaken on 6-7 September 2014 with the Rangers meeting being held on the 9 September 2014. That the duck season finished on a lacklustre note.

Public Relations

Cr Farrow reported that Sustainable Coastlines had been in touch again.

Media

A Currie reported that the Committee was looking at formulating a plan to form a "judging committee" for best practice awards. Cr Gilbert suggested looking at utilising past winners from the Balance Awards.

8. General Business**8a. GPS Access Points**

D Barr reported that every access sign was currently be GPSed to add as information onto the access brochures.

8b. 1080 Drop Hawdon, Andrews & Poulter valleys and South Branch Hurunui

Cr Bonnafoux raised concerns about the potential 1080 drop into these areas, especially at the start of the fishing season where families and pets could be at risk. T Hawker suggested that all potential risks be publicised. A Currie to take to DoC Media Liaison for discussion.

8c. Lake Pearson

Cr Bonnafoux raised the question if Lake Pearson was regularly water sampled. T Hawker to get information from ECAN who water sample on a monthly basis.

8d. Deep Creek

A Currie formulating a press release in conjunction with Central South Island F&G.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.00 p.m.

Chairman: _____ Dated: _____
 Next Meeting: 15th October 2014, Time: 6.30 p.m. Venue: DoC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Place
 Sockburn