

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 18TH February 2015,
At DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn
Commencing at 6.40pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements, Steve McNeill, Trevor Isitt, Cavan O'Connell, Malcolm Gilbert, Paul Farrow
Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Debbie Ambler, Tony Hawker, Dirk Barr
Public: Ron Stuart

2. Apologies

Councillors: Ken Lee, Bruce Kelly, Peter Robinson, Serge Bonnafoux, Garth Free (lateness)
Staff: Andrew Currie (lateness), Scott Pearson
"That the apologies be accepted"

Moved: Cr Isitt
Seconded: Cr McNeill **Carried**

It was agreed to hold an informal meeting as there was not enough (elected) Councillors to form a quorum (majority required). Further, that decisions made be put in draft form and sent via email for any further input. These decisions then to be ratified at the next Council meeting to be held in April.

3. Notification of General Business

Cr McNeill- 1. Water Take Abuse
 2. Policy Register
Cr Isitt - Opportunities in the Red Zone

4a. Minutes from the Previous Meeting Dated 17th December 2014

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted with the following amendment."

Moved: Cr Isitt
Seconded: Cr McNeill **Carried**

Under 6i Amend author to read Anne Brower

Discussion Point:

Staff Report - 1181 Gamebird Sub-committee - It was advised that Cr Lee had had a telephone discussion with R Cullinane and that he is keen to convene this sub-committee and has plans for the direction of the sub-committee to be presented at the next Council meeting. The urgency for a sub-committee meeting was noted.

4b. Matters Arising /Action Sheet

The following items to be deleted from the Action Sheet:

From meeting 18 December 2013 - No 5 - Access to Clearwater Lakes
From meeting 19th February - No 2 - Gamebird Regulations
From meeting 17th December - No 2 - Clearwater Golf Resort Angling Access
From meeting 17th December - No 5 - Access to Waimakariri River - Change Person Responsible to
Cr Robinson

Discussion Arising from Action Sheet

From 17th December 2014 - No 1 - Water & Wildlife Habitat Trust - R Cullinane to circulate notes along with a recommendation in relation to the charitable status and minimum activity required for the Trust to keep its status.

From 17th December 2014 - No 2 - Clearwater Lakes - R Cullinane reported he had briefed B Johnson on the matter. He stated that if needed a review date clause be inserted to the agreement that was made with Clearwater. Regulation change timing - October 2015.

From 19 February 2014 - No 2 - Gamebird Regulation Changes - S Terry spoke on the minor regulations changes that had been notified to R Sowman.

R Cullinane to follow up with Cr Lee regarding sub-committee meeting. Cr Isitt to email all game bird contacts to Cr Lee.

Cr Clements stated items on the Action Sheet should not be on for so long. R Cullinane to take back to staff meeting.

5. Public Session

Ron Stuart - Spoke on the issues/difficulties that have arisen between bait fishermen versus licensed anglers on the Waimakariri river including licensed anglers versus boaties. He stated that even though Fish and Game did not have direct responsibility, no action by F&G may result in association by implication where health and safety is concerned.

For bait v licensed fishers, he suggested that signs be erected stating "this is a licensed fishing area allocated for anglers/fishermen possessing a current fishing licence. Non licensed fishermen may be subject to prosecution and confiscation of equipment". Another sign stating, "fishing is permitted in the area designated "bait fishing". The catching and taking of salmon or trout is not permitted".

Discussion over conflict arising from anglers and boaties overlapping territory encompassed lobbying Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to reduce the bag limit for kahawai, that a meeting be held with MPI, the harbourmaster and Fish and Game to try to resolve this issue. It was decided to agenda this topic for the ECAN Commissioners meeting.

D Barr to arrange a meeting with the MPI Compliance Officer and Fish and Game staff to talk about cross over issues.

Cr Free questioned the whitebait limits as there was by-catch issues with smolt and fingerlings.

7. Meeting Business

7 a I Draft - The Great North Canterbury Black Swan Hunt

Copy of the draft 2015 Supplement for the Gamebird Magazine was tabled. Discussion focused on the marked increase in bird numbers and how the black swan population was not under control. D Barr stated there had been 19 gamebird permits in the past 12 months and there was a lot more pollution around Lake Forsyth due to the increase in bird numbers.

It was decided that a media release prior to the event was needed. R Cullinane advised that he had written to Ngai Tahu advising of the intention and asking if there were any issues which F&G needed to be aware of.

Councillors supported the initiative with pre publicity prior to the event outlining the reasons behind the Hunt and how F&G would deal with any problems.

7 a ii Draft Staff Regulations Review (2015/2016)

The following proposed staff draft changes to the 2015/16 fishing regulations was discussed. If councillors have any additions they would like to make, it would be better to discuss at the April meeting.

The following is proposed by staff

1. Amend the table in Clause 2 to read:

| <i>EASTERN ZONE RIVERS</i> | <i>Open Season</i> | <i>Permitted Methods</i> | <i>Trout Limit</i> | <i>Salmon Limit</i> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Avon River below</u> <u>Barbadoes St Bridge</u> | <i>All year</i> | <i>FSB</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <u>Avon River and</u> <u>tributaries above</u> <u>Barbadoes St Bridge</u> | <i>1 Oct - 30</i> <i>April</i> | <i>FSB</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>2</i> |

Reason: To protect spawning trout. Recent Fish & Game surveys have confirmed that trout spawn in the Avon and tributaries upstream from Barbadoes Street Bridge.

Discussion on Point 1 - Trout seen as a tourist attraction within the CBD as people can see and feed them. Should promote as a tourist asset. Risk of hooks embedding in people a possibility if allowed to fish. Trout numbers not back to pre-earthquake levels. Signage to say that trout in river is NC F&G initiative thought a good idea. Suggested that Avon below Barbadoes Street bridge be deleted.

2. Amend the Table in Clause 2 to Read:

| <i>EASTERN ZONE RIVERS</i> | <i>Open Season</i> | <i>Permitted Methods</i> | <i>Trout Limit</i> | <i>Salmon Limit</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Cam River, upstream</i> <i>Of Kaiapoi River</i> <i>Confluence</i> | <i>1 Oct - 31</i> <i>Mar</i> | <i>FSB</i> | <i>2</i> | <i><u>2</u></i> |

Reason: To protect spawning salmon in the Cam River and the Tributaries. Currently the regulation allow for two salmon to be caught even in headwaters where the salmon are spawning.

Amend bag limit to 1.

3. Amend the Table in Clause 2 to Read:

| <i>EASTERN ZONE RIVERS</i> | <i>Open Season</i> | <i>Permitted Methods</i> | <i>Trout Limit</i> | <i>Salmon Limit</i> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Kaiapoi River,</i> <i>upstream of Cust Main</i> <i>Drain confluence</i> | <i>1 Oct - 31 Mar</i> | <i>FSB</i> | <i>2</i> | <i><u>1</u></i> |

Reason: To protect spawning salmon in Silverstream

4. Amend Clause 2.2 to read:

2.2 lakes, rivers and streams ~~in the Eastern Zone~~ not mentioned in clause 2 for this region:
October to 30 April All legal methods 2 trout 2 salmon

1

Reason: To cover all rivers not mentioned in clause 2 rather than those just in the Eastern Zone.

5. Amend Clause 3.1 to read:

3.1 No-one shall fish for sports fish in the following waters:

Avon River between the Armagh Street Bridge at Hagley Park and the ~~Barbadoes Street Bridge~~ Antigua Boatsheds.

Reason: To allow angling in the CBD to take advantage of the new habitat work being undertaken and to promote angling in the CBD.

Take out.

6. Add the following to 3.1 to read:

3.1 No-one shall fish for sports fish in the following waters:

Clearwater Lakes with the exception of Lake 3, Lake 4 and Lake 5. More detail (as necessary) to be inserted following consultation with Clearwater.

Reason: These are the lakes that have been selected as public fishing lakes as agreed by F&G and Clearwater. The remainder of the lakes are to be closed to avoid exclusive capture by Clearwater residents.

7. Amend Clause 3.1 to read:

3.1 No-one shall fish for sports fish in the following waters:

- *Within a 100m arc of the outfall of any licensed fish farm, **with the exception of the Tentburn outfall where fishing for trout and salmon will be permitted, but no angling will be allowed on the culvert.***

Reason: There is a lot of interest from anglers to fish here. Dirk Barr has discussed the possibility of angling here with the managers of the salmon farm. As they do not require the returning adult salmon they are satisfied with opening up the outfall to fishing as long as anglers don't fish from the top of the culvert as this can present health and safety issues for them.

8. Add the following to 3.3:

3.3 No licence holder shall fish for salmon in the following waters:

- *Cam River and Tributaries.*

Reason: To protect spawning salmon in the Cam River and the Tributaries. Currently the regulations allow for two salmon to be caught even in headwaters where the salmon are spawning.

9. Make changes to the Kaiapoi River so clause 3.3 will read:

3.3 No licence holder shall fish for salmon in the following waters:

- *The Kaiapoi River and tributaries upstream of Williams Street Bridge **to the confluence with the Cust Main Drain** from 1 April - 30 September.*
- *The Kaiapoi River and Tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Cust Main Drain.*

Reason: Currently the regulations allow for taking salmon in the upper Kaiapoi (Silverstream). Staff believe that this is a spawning stream and as such the spawning salmon should be protected.

Change sentence to read "The Kaiapoi River and Tributaries upstream of the white post to where the confluence with the Cust Main Drain."

10. Change Clause 4 to read:

4. AUTHORISED TACKLE

*Scented artificial lures may be used in all waters other than fly-fishing-only waters, when actively ~~fished~~ **retrieved** so as to imitate a moving bait fish.*

Reason: To make it more clear that the lure has to be cast and retrieved rather than being fished as a you would a bait.

11. Amend Clause 6.3 to read:

6.3 Bait fishing for salmon is prohibited except in the:

*6.3.1 Kaiapoi River **below the confluence with the Cust Main Drain** between 1 October and 31 March, ~~and then from 1 April - 30 September, downstream of Williams Street Bridge only.~~*

Reason: to offer more clarity to this clause and reduce harvest by bait in the Kaiapoi River.

Explanation for this change: in order to align all rules on the Kaiapoi River to make it simpler for anglers to understand.

12. Add a new clause under Bait Fishing Waters to read:

6.4 Use of scented artificial lures is permitted for salmon fishing provided the lure is actively retrieved to imitate a moving bait fish.

Reason: Currently clause 6.3 contradicts clause 4 when it comes to using softbaits for salmon. The inclusion of this new clause makes it clear that softbaits whether scented or not are permitted for salmon fishing.

13. Add the following to Clause 7.2 to read:

7.2 Fishing from boats which are not simultaneously being propelled by a motor is permitted in:

- **Lake Sarah**

Reason: This regulation change was actually approved four years ago but was not included in the gazette by error. The original reason for the regulation change was because there is now limited opportunity to fish from the shore due the spread of Raupo.

S McNeill to forward email to T Hawker with submission from stakeholder.

14. Add the following to Clause 9.1 to read:

9.1 No licence holder shall be in possession of a sports fish which exceeds a maximum length of:

- **350mm for trout for the Avon River above the Barbadoes Street Bridge.**

Reason: Although it is proposed to open up this area for fishing, staff believe there is merit in introducing a maximum size limit so large fish will be left in the waters running through the CBD as a spectacle.

Take out. As per explanations in No 1 above.

7 a iii NZ Salmon Anglers Association (NZSAA) Annual Fishing Competition

"That permission to hold the NZSAA annual fishing competition on the Waimakariri River (Main Road Bridge to the river mouth) on Saturday 21st March 2015 from daylight to 3.30pm be granted."

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Farrow Carried

7 a iv Rangers Fishing Competition

"That permission to hold the Rangers annual fishing competition on the Waimakariri River (Between the Yacht boat ramp to the river mouth) on Monday 9th March 2015 from 8.00am to 2.00pm be granted."

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Farrow Carried

7 b i Origin of the Greenpark Fund

R Cullinane explained that the intention of the Fund was earmarked for gamebird habitat. Cr Clements noted that the potential purposes for the use of the money in the Fund had changed over the years and that this should be reviewed having regard to the current needs of NC F&G. A Councillor suggestion was that the funds could for example be used to raise pheasants.

D Barr raised the issue of funding prizes for the "Swan Hunt". R Cullinane tasked to find money in the budget for this. R Cullinane advised that the Public Liability Insurance was under review as if NC F&G was deemed to be an organiser and an incident occurred by or to a competitor or other person/bodies than we could potentially be liable.

Cr Free suggested that the promotion of swans (cooking demonstrations, food, recipes) be done at the Tahr Show. Discussion then focused on doing this at the prize giving of "The Great North Canterbury Black Swan Hunt". A Currie to inquire with a chef regarding cooking demonstration.

8. Reports

8a. Chairman's Report

Cr Clements reported he continued to have meetings/discussions with R Cullinane and that he had not attended any external meetings.

8b. Staff Report

1181 Gamebird Population Control

Discussion centred on involving stakeholders in landowner control of gamebirds. R Cullinane raised concern around the potential F&G duty of care and liability issues.

1221 Fish and Game Controlled Land

R Cullinane advised that the Bogy Creek sale and purchase agreement was about to be signed and stated that it had been agreed with the purchaser that a covenant be registered against the title prior to execution of the agreement. This was to preserve balloting rights for stands and hunter access.

1215 Lowland River Advocacy & 1411 Statutory Liaison

Cr McNeill questioned what F&G's role was, either as participants in the process or as advisors/ experts then questioned if there was too much mandate given without Council discussion. R Cullinane advised that he was very conscious of the need to have matters of substance referred to Councillors for input and decision but that there was a need to make the distinction between governance versus day to day decision making on lesser issues. He also advised that this had recently been discussed with Scott Pearson.

8c. Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that NC F&G was now number one nationally in licence sales - both in the current year to date as well as in the 2013/14 year. D Ambler to produce a report on demographics of NC F&G stakeholders for presentation at the next Council meeting.

8d. New Zealand Council Report

NC F&G has no NZC representative. However Cr Clements advised that he had written to the Chairman of the NZC expressing Councillor concerns as well as offering constructive suggestions as to how this matter ought to be dealt with. He advised that this letter will be formally considered at the March 2015 NZC meeting.

8e. Youth & Family Programme Report

A Currie reported the Youth & Family initiative was being presented at the next Managers budget meeting in April for support to full national rollout. He stated the programme was now not running as a pilot, and was now under the umbrella of the national Communications

section. A Currie to write to E Russ, the person responsible for this Programme's instigation, explaining where the programme is now and where it is heading.

8g. Portfolio Reports

Building - R Cullinane reported that the further change of use resource consent would be lodged shortly as there had been a delay with the landscape plans.

Compliance - Cr Isitt reported a good turnout of rangers at the Waimakariri ranging evening. He stated that D Barr was running the compliance team very well and there are now good keen volunteers. R Cullinane reported that because of the increased compliance he had just arranged to be served a further six summonses with a similar number pending.

9. General Business

9a. Northern Pegasus By Law Review

Cr McNeill stated the need to put in a submission on behalf of stakeholders and encourage stakeholders to submit as well. R Cullinane undertook to ensure that a NC F&G submission would be lodged. A Curry to add to the weekly report.

Discussion turned to the ability of ECAN to respond to pollution and extraction of water and river access as well as compliance of consents. D Ambler to agenda for Commissioners meeting.

Cr Isitt and A Curry to photograph shut gates and roped off areas to take to meeting to show ECAN the issues.

D Ambler to send out items of discussion to NC F&G attendees prior to the meeting.

9b. Yarrs Lagoon

Cr Free raised the need to facilitate shooter access to the area.

9c. Red Zone Area

Cr Isitt suggested an investigation be undertaken into wetland restoration, fish-out ponds etc on vacant red zone land.

9d. Policy Folder

R Cullinane advised the folder was under active update..

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Dated: _____

Next Meeting:

Date: 15th April 2015

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn