

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 4TH November 2015

At the DoC offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 p.m.

R Cullinane welcomed newly elected and returning councillors members to the meeting. He outlined the meeting agenda and that in the past, meetings had run very late and asked if consideration be given to the agenda and timeframes so the meeting could be concluded by 10pm. If this could not be achieved then procedures would need to be looked at.

2a. Appointment of Chairman

To give newly elected councillors time to get to know those around the table, it was decided that an interim chairman be appointed, with a permanent appointment being made at the December 2015 meeting.

"That J Brooks be appointed interim Chair for this meeting."

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

2b. Co-opted Members

R Cullinane gave special mention to the two co-opted members from Ngai Tahu, C O'Connell and Federated Farmers, M Gilbert.

"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council confirms the appointment of the co-opted representatives from Ngai Tahu and Federated Farmers to this Council."

Moved: Cr Brooks

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

2c. Co-opted Member from Public

P Robinson asked if member of the public who had no involvement in the election process could be co-opted onto Council. The ruling was they could be c-opted with speaking rights but no voting rights.

"That B Kelly be co-opted onto the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council."

Moved: Cr Brooks

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

3. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Jonathan Brooks, Cavan O'Connell, Malcolm Gilbert, Ken Lee, Jacques Botha, John Cumberpatch, Denis Kelliher, Craig Maylam, Ron Stuart

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Scott Pearson, Andrew Currie, Emily Moore

Public: Bruce Kelly

4. Apologies:

Councillors: Nil

Staff: Nil

“That the apologies be accepted.”

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

6. Background and Current Status Presentations

R Cullinane introduced this topic by outlining the responsibilities of councillors and the need for all to contribute robustly to the decision making process and not just “fill a seat”.

6a. Governance –R Cullinane explained the difference between governance and management. He outlined the function of the Council and its statutory obligations, explained the role of the Manager and staff relating to the Operational Work Plan and budget and his role as Manager and responsibilities.

6b. Staff Presentations – each staff member spoke on their area of responsibility;

- i. T Hawker – Trout, fish salvages, spawning and drift dive surveys, Cawthron Cumulative Effects study and Lake Coleridge.
- ii. S Terry – Salmon monitoring, threats to spawning grounds and watering monitoring project in conjunction with ECAN.
- iii. D Barr – Hatchery. Spoke on numbers grown, support given to other regions and interested groups on stocking programmes, fin clipping and the volunteer base used to assist in the operation of. Gamebirds – counts, trends and managing populations. Compliance and signage.
- iv. E Moore – Habitat management, landowner partnerships, advocacy, sediment removal.

It was suggested that a familiarisation bus trip be arranged for Councillors to the high country (Glenariffe) and to the Montrose hatchery.

6c. Environmental Activity - S Pearson - responsible in areas of regional planning, resource consents, a “watch dog” role for our region, Resource Management Act workshops and collaboration.

R Cullinane to send an email to councillors asking for nominations for a Fish and Game delegation to meet with a Tasmanian Agricultural delegation on the 12th November and midday.

6e. Media – A Currie responsible for media liaison and communications advisor for the South Island. His responsibilities were developing media and communications strategies, video production, website administration, magazine content, EZINE production, Fish and Game branding, Youth and Family Programme promotion.

R Cullinane advised that all media matters be passed to A Currie in the first instance if commenting/responding to anything in the media in their capacity as a North Canterbury Fish and Game Councillor.

6d. Youth and Family – P Robinson explained the 5 Pillars that make up the Programme, wanted the programme wanted to achieve and the roll out nation wide of the North Canterbury initiative.

Each Councillor then in turn outlined their background and the reasons they sought office to the North Canterbury Council.

7. Minutes from Previous Meeting(s):

“That the minutes from 19th August 2015 meeting be accepted.”

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

8. Meeting Business

8a i Nomination for and Appointment of NC Representative to NZC.

After a brief discussion the following was resolved:

“That J Cumberpatch be the North Canterbury representative on the NZ Council.”

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Brooks

CARRIED

8a ii Operational Work Plan and Budget Special Meeting

The meeting dates for 2016 were amended with the inclusion of a special meeting to discuss the Operational Work Plan and Budget.

Dates for 2016 are; 17th February, 16th March, 20th April, 15th June, 17th August, 19th October, 14th December (this date for the AGM as well).

8a iii 2014/2015 Salmon Management Report

After brief discussion, Cr Stuart asked that other organisations who had a hand in gathering data for this report be added to the “Acknowledgments” at the end of the Report. Those organisations/individuals being; Rakaia River Fishing Promotions, New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association, C Eaton, the Hartlands and all Fishing Clubs.

“That NC F&G Council continues to allocate similar staff time and financial resources into habitat restoration in key salmon spawning streams to reflect the importance of maintaining and enhancing the salmon fishery throughout the region.”

“That NC F&G continues with the peak count salmon monitoring programme”.

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

8a iv 2015 Gamebird Report

Discussion focused on concerns of the increase in the black swan population, the reasons for this, the damage they were doing to crops and the need for a regulation change.

Paradise Shelduck

During the 2014 annual trend count, exceptionally high numbers of paradise shelduck numbers were observed. As a result of this, Council supported the recommendation to extend the summer season with a limit bag of 20 birds. The 2015 trend count was comparable to the 2014 paradise shelduck count, but the new summer season regulations did not come into effect until the forthcoming season starting 6th Feb 2016. It is hoped that hunters will take advantage of this extended area resulting in less complaints of crop predation from farmer. **Despite a high population count, it is recommended that the new regulations are given time to have an effect.** Although consideration should be given to

shifting the dates of the summer season, as crop predation issues are being reported by farmers earlier than past seasons.

Black Swan

The 2015 black swan trend count reflected a substantial increase in numbers and is of concern to farmers and the Chch Airport Authority. It is evident by the increasing requests for special permits to control, that black swan populations are causing issues, especially in the Lake Ellesmere and Forsyth areas. **It is recommended that the current bag limit restrictions of five black swans be increased in some way to reflect the population increase and also to support land owners/farmers with their increased crop predation issues.**

“That the recommendations made in the 2015 Gamebird report be adopted.”

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Brooks

CARRIED

8a v. Gamebird Regulations

Paradise Shelduck

To help with crop predation and to benefit young hunters the following was recommended.

“That the season dates for the Paradise Shelduck be amended by moving them three weeks forward in areas A and B and increasing the duration by one week. The new season dates would be Saturday 14th January 2017 to 5th March 2017.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

Shovler Ducks

To mitigate hunter confusion identifying male/female shovler ducks the following was recommended.

“That the current bag limit for shovler ducks be changed to a limit of two for that species, male or female for the duration of the duck shooting season.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

Black Swan

Due to the increase of black swan numbers coupled with crop predation issues the following was recommended.

“That the current limit bag of five swans be increased from the end of the standard Gamebird season at the end of July to 20 birds for the duration of the Black Swan season which finishes at the end of September. This to be reviewed in two years time.”

Moved: Cr Lee

Seconded: Cr Maylam

CARRIED

Other submissions received;

That the length of the Mallard duck season be reduced to the months of May and June only.

That the daily limit bag of Mallard ducks be reduced to 15 on the opening weekend and ten ducks thereafter.

“That the length of the mallard duck season and limit bags for remain the same.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Maylam

CARRIED

Cr Isitt recommended a survey on the mallard duck population in North Canterbury be carried out with staff to report

back to Council with ideas for progressing the issue.

Due to an error in the current regulations relating to the NC southern boundary and which was not described in the current Gamebird Hunting Regulations the following was recommended;

“To correct an error in the Gamebird Hunting Regulations, the definition of the NC boundary be changed to read not only Acton Road but also Rakaia Barrhill Road.”

Moved: Cr Cumberpatch

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

8b i Summary of Gamebird Harvest

Report taken as read.

8b ii Lake Coleridge Rainbow Trout Spawning Survey Report

The continued survey each year to gain a greater understanding of trends in the Lake Coleridge fishery and the continued monitoring of the success of rainbow trout releases into spawning streams was agreed.

9 Reports

9a Staff Report

Under 1513 – Enforcement/Compliance - R Cullinane to bring back to the next Council meeting a recommendation on wording to be used by Rangers on the riverbank when talking to those who need to prove they were not fishing for other than sports fish.

Portfolios

Decision on Portfolio sub-committees be made at next Council meeting.

9d. Building Update

For the benefit of the new Councillors, R Cullinane gave background to the purchase and events leading to current position at 595 Johns Road. He stated new concept plans were ready to be costed with costings being based on stakeholders assistance. A further resource consent was now required to enable a new building to be built. A special meeting would be required in December to approve plans and costings.

Agenda Item for Next Meeting – Purchase of quad bikes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.50p.m.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____ Next

Next Meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 16th December 2015, Canterbury Horticulture Centre, 57 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch commencing at 6.30p.m.