

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 17TH February 2016

At the DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Malcolm Gilbert, Ken Lee, John Cumberpatch, Denis Kelliher, Craig Maylam, Ron Stuart, Charles Smith, Jacques Botha
Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Debbie Ambler, Scott Pearson
Public: Bill Southward

4. Apologies:

Councillors: B Kelly (lateness)
Staff: Dirk Barr

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 16th December 2015 meeting be accepted with one amendment. Cr Maylam was marked as present when he was not."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

6. Meeting Business

6a i Delay in August 2016 Meeting

"That the August 2016 Council meeting be delayed to the 24th August 2016 due the absence of the Chairman".

Moved: Cr Cumberpatch

Seconded: Cr Smith

CARRIED

6a ii Review of NZSAA Information Regarding Trustpower and the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988

T Hawker explained his comments (as set out in the Council papers) the concerns raised by NZSAA that at times the Rakaia River flow was falling below the minimum flow and at these times the Harper and Wilberforce should not be diverted or discharge water through the Coleridge tail race. Another concern was the calculation of the minimum flow as a "mean flow". NZSAA also argues that the downstream effect of these "breaches" is higher water temperatures and less dissolved oxygen in the water.

T Hawker explained he felt there were not breaches of the order based on the information received from Trustpower. He felt that the water released by Trustpower to the Central Plains Water (CPW) is the major concern.

It was decided that a field visit would be beneficial for NC Fish & Game staff, NZSAA and ECAN and this be undertaken to the take/release points along the CPW site.

6a iii NZSAA Application to Hold its Annual Fishing Competition

R Cullinane to send a letter of approval including outlining the section of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulation relating to the levy payable to F&G.

6a iv Donations Received in Memory of Graham McDonald

Suggestions for use of the donation money received were; something permanent/memorial situated at the Johns Road site, Certificate/trophy/prize at a fishing competition.

“That the matter be held over until the next council meeting”.

Moved: Cr Maylem

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

6b i Policy on Reparation for Non-Compliance

The following points were made in general discussion after the current process was explained:

- There is a National Reparation policy in place for F&G regions which elect to offer reparation
- NC region does not offer reparation, but prefers prosecution but only after careful consideration particularly that one of the outcomes is a Criminal Conviction.
- Currently Fish and Game does not have the statutory authority to seek reparation, and if successfully challenged might be repayable;
- The Minister is currently in talks with Doc - wait to see outcome;
- Educate first, then if offend again, prosecute;
- Honorary Rangers basically have two hats; one as public relations the other compliance;

“That the status quo be kept relating to the reparation policy”.

Moved: Cr Kelliher

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

- That more time was required to consider the subject, then bring back to next meeting;
- That the policy on reparation be adopted, but decision to prosecute be based on Compliance sub-committee findings on a case by case basis;
- Canvas rangers as to thoughts on warning, reparation or prosecution.

D Ambler to send a copy of the National Policy on reparation to Councillors for information.

5. Public Session

B Southward commenced his session stating that cameras similar to the ones installed on the Hurunui River were being investigated to put around the Rakaia Lagoon and he would be working with other agencies on funding. He stated that water quality was impacting fish numbers and he was in the process of getting a study started on the “life of the streams” flowing into the Lagoon.

He outlined the decline of numbers of sea run trout and suggested that the opening of the fishing season should be celebrated on all the rivers (similar to the high country lakes opening) which would mean the need for more fish. To do this he suggested that waters below the state highway bridges be closed for winter fishing. He stated he was collecting signatures on a petition and asked if it was worth while doing.

General points raised were;

- Act on sea-run trout numbers as are in decline;
- Keep fishery closed below the main bridges on all braided rivers in region;
- Hold a public meeting to discuss issue;
- No fish, could be a symptom of bad habitat;
- Closing the suggested waterways for the winter season would be a good public relations exercise

“To protect the sea run trout fishery, the winter season be closed from state highway bridges down to river mouths of rivers in the North Canterbury region. These rivers would require to be defined”.

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

7. Reports

7a. Chairman's Report

Cr Isitt stated he had had one meeting with R Cullinane. That as this Council was largely new, a Councillor only meeting be held with a view to getting clear direction for this Council and to bring back findings to next Council meeting.

Compliance

Cr Isitt stated that compliance was operating very well with a keen group of rangers and with submitted paperwork improving all the time. He stated the need to educate anglers on having their licences on them at all times and suggested investigation be started on lanyards for licence holders be undertaken.

Appointment of B Kelly to Council

Cr Isitt suggested that as there is the ability of Council to appoint as opposed to Co-opt and that having an appointed Councillor would give that person full voting rights, then he was recommending the Cr Kelly be appointed.

“That this Council approve the process to appoint B Kelly to Council with full voting rights”.

Moved: Cr Kelliher

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

Mallard Survey – on agenda for next meeting.

7b. Staff Report

- 1141 D Barr reported the success of the fin clipping weekend at Montrose with approximately 100 people volunteering over the two days.
- 1143 Staff completed brown trout high country releases stating highland streams had priority over lowland streams.
- 1211 S Pearson reported the investigation / feasibility of a monitoring programme possibly on a bi-ennial basis to enable an inventory of key rivers relating to visual impact, land use, sediment cover etc. might be able to be undertaken by staff.
- 1234 Reported there was a large issue with rubbish/human waste on banks of rivers not being cleaned up. S Pearson to talk to DoC about rubbish disposal on and around the riverbank.

D Ambler to circulate a letter regarding anti-Lead Shot to all Councillors/Staff.

7ci Financial Report

R Cullinane explained several of the overspends in the January 2016 spread sheet were due to a combination of timing and higher than expected costs such as external accounting / audit, however these would be largely absorbed within the overall budget.

7e Youth and Family Programme

Cr Robinson explained that a web programme was being designed to facilitate online communications between participating schools in the youth and family programme. That fundraising was underway to assist in supporting the programme and a purpose built trailer to house fishing gear was currently being designed with the intention that the build cost of this be met from a yet to be made funding application.

He explained the Groynes Lakes would be closed while a treatment programme was being undertaken to eradicate a lagarosiphon infestation.

Cr Robinson explained he was working with various organisations to help restore whitebait (inaka) spawning habitat in the Avon, Otakaro and Heathcote rivers. That the Sandwand would be used where schools had been releasing salmon they had raised along the Upper Wairarapa Stream.

That enquiries from schools continue with three new schools participating in this year's programme.

7g. Portfolio Report

Building Update

Cr Kelliher reported that the plans would go out for further pricing in the near future and that a Quantity Surveyor would be retained to review that pricing. Once pricing was received, this would be brought back to Council.

Discussion on funding from various reserves followed.

Environment

S Pearson stated the Media Award was ready to be presented but would require media coverage for this significant event. May look at involving D Rood (NZC Communications Manager) when he is next in Christchurch.

It was reported by Cr Robinson that Fulton Hogan had been approached regarding the discolouration of the Waimakariri River. After a meeting between F&G (Cr Robinson and S Pearson) and Fulton Hogan, activity ceased on the River and the beginnings of a closer working relationship was forged.

Gamebird

Cr Lee reported that a meeting would be held in approximately three weeks and invited new Council members to attend.

NZC

Cr Cumberpatch stated he would be attending an induction meeting of the NZC on 27 February 2016 and a NZC meeting would be held in Wanaka in March.

8 General Business

8a Salmon Ova Planting Guides (Cr Stuart)

The paper outlined the process of how to handle salmon ova when planting and during incubation.

"That the salmon ova planting guides be adopted and distributed as appropriate".

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

8b. Adopt and Recognise a Maori Name Interpretation (Cr Stuart)

It was decided that this subject be dealt with at a national level. Cr Cumberpatch (North Canterbury NZC representative) to raise at the next national Council meeting.

8c. Language Interpretation (Cr Stuart)

That suitable language interpretations of our Regulation Guides be considered. J Cumberpatch to raise at next national Council meeting.

8d. Groyne Given Reserve Status (Cr Stuart)

That S Pearson undertakes to discuss the Reserve Status of the Groyne with the Christchurch City Council and report back to the next Council meeting.

8e. Aviary and Aquatic display at Johns Road Site (Cr Stuart)

That an aquatic and aviary display be considered as an educational, informative and inter-active feature to the site at Johns Road. That this option be tabled for future planning.

8f. Avon-Otakaro River Clean Up (Cr Stuart)

After discussion, T Hawker stated that surveys would be undertaken before and after clean up and will be continued to be monitored.

8g. Change of Sub Committee Names (Cr Stuart)

After discussion the following was endorsed.

"That the Portfolio Committees be renamed 'advisory' committees".

Moved: Cr Kelliher

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

8h. Rangers' Fishing Competition

"That the Rangers' fishing competition to be held on 24th March 2016 be approved".

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40p.m.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____ Next

Next Meeting

Date: 20th April 2016

Time: 6.30p.m.

Venue: DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn