

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 24 August 2016

At the DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Malcolm Gilbert, John Cumberpatch, Denis Kelliher, Ken Lee, Charles Smith, Craig Maylam, Bruce Kelly.
Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Debbie Ambler, Dirk Barr, Scott Pearson, Richard Cosgrove
Public: Tony Hallams, Christen Jenson, Ben Exton

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Jacques Botha, Alan Strong, Ron Stuart
Staff: Emily Arthur-Moore, Tony Hawker

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

Cr Isitt welcomed Tony Hallams, Christen Jensen and Ben Exton to the meeting.

3. Notification of General Business:

1. Eyede Licence Agreement Extension

4. Health and Safety Update

S Terry gave an overview of the 4WD Training Course recently completed, with a lot being learnt on the use/operation of the newer vehicles in the fleet. This course would be completed every five years.

5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 15th June 2016 be accepted".

Moved: Cr Lee

Seconded: Cr Smith

CARRIED

Matters Arising

Items discussed:

1. 6a iv Donations Received In Memory of Graham McDonald – R Cullinane to discuss ideas on what to do with the donations received with his widow S McDonald.
2. 7b i. Development of McIntosh's – ECAN has agreed to further discussions with Cr Stuart.
3. 7b iv. Hunting and Harvest Ethics – Cr Maylam be invited to the next Gamebird Advisory Committee to discuss his paper.

7. Meeting Business

7a i Ban on the Use of Lead Shot

The ban on the use of lead shot was due to be discussed in 2017, but the Minister of Conservation has asked the topic be brought forward to enable a reassessment of phasing out of lead shot in all waterfowl hunting. Points raised in discussion;

- Lead shot should remain on junior licences;
- If there was change, the introduction of this change be done gradually over a two to three year period;
- Need to be more pro-active in our communication to stakeholders;
- Need to support fully despite a possible backlash from stakeholders.

“That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the enquiry for the ban on the use of lead shot, being brought forward as proposed by the Minister to the NZ Council.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

R Cullinane to advise NZC of this decision.

7a ii Whiskey Creek

D Barr gave background and updated on the work being carried out at Whiskey Creek –

- Imprinting prior to Christmas 2016;
- Ova planted over past couple of years thanks to Rakaia River Fishing Promotions;
- Smolt release over next few years;
- Building a trap for re-capture on return;
- Volunteers continue to be of great assistance;
- Locals wanting to assist.

Discussion turned to establishing a dedicated reserve in order to ‘ring fence’ funding for Whiskey Creek.

“That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council agree to establish a separate reserve to be called “The Whiskey Creek Reserve” with immediate effect”

Moved: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

“That the cost of the Whiskey Creek resource consent be allocated from the Rakaia reserve to Whiskey Creek reserve to cover consent costs”.

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Smith

CARRIED

7a iii Hunting Areas in the Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park

A letter received from Environment Canterbury, Parks and Forests seeking support for confirmation of the hunting safety restrictions for the more populated areas of the Park.

“That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council endorse the hunting restrictions in the Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park in principle.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

7a iv 2016 Salmon Management Report

S Terry reported the 2016 angler and spawning catch was lower than in previous years. He stated his concern of when these counts were completed and their frequency. Loss of fish to irrigation schemes and what happens to salmon at sea was concerning. Fish screens, their technology and effectiveness were discussed.

“That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council continue with the peak count salmon monitoring program.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

7a v Plan Change 4 – Decision Plan Outcomes

S Pearson outlined the focus of Fish and Game within this Plan Change was on stock access in the hill and high country. Fish and Game proposed a plan to exclude stock from spring-fed streams, with a proposal of up to 3 degrees in slope gradient, averaged over 1km to target fencing in areas that would be most likely to be developed. This was declined but pressure would be put on ECAN to include this analysis in future plan changes.

“That the report be received as read”.

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Kelly

CARRIED

7a vi. Reserve Status of the Groynes

S Pearson reported the Groynes was a River Protection Reserve managed under ECAN. Given the Groynes recreation status, it was reported that it was unlikely to allow the building of significant infrastructure in this area but equally unlikely to allow the removal of the fishing ponds.

“That the report be received as read”.

Moved: Cr Maylam

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

7b i. Hunting and Harvest Ethics

To be referred back to the Gamebird Advisory Committee with an invitation extended to Cr Maylam to discuss his paper.

7b iii. National Policy on Reparation

Discussion on the National Policy on Reparation was as follows:

- Reparation could be useful in borderline cases - leave to the Prosecutions Advisory Committee could decide if case is either reparation or prosecution;
- May not have the statutory authority to implement a reparation scheme;
- Ranging is more about education than policing;

R Cullinane to advise NZC that the status quo will remain regarding North Canterbury Fish and Game’s stance on reparation.

8. Reports**8b. Staff Report**

i. General Habitat

Two streams have been identified by E Arthur-Moore and Cr Strong for a works project on habitat restoration; Days/Powell's Road drains that run into the Halswell River and Silverstream which runs into the Selwyn River. S Pearson stated that sediment was a major concern in lowland streams and could see that in the future anglers and farmers working together in habitat restoration. He also stated his need to be more involved with this project. Cr Robinson suggested that Days/Powell's Road could be a good example for the Working with Nature Awards.

ii. Maimai Removal

S Terry stated there had been a lot of debris in Lake Ellesmere this year but most not from F&G sanctioned maimais.

iii. Rakaia WCO

Need to investigate as to when the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society would be releasing funds for projects on the River.

iv. Ranger Training

D Barr advised there would be CERT training on 3/4 September 2016 for new rangers and a pre-season ranger training meeting on 13 September 2016.

v. Catch and Release at the Groynes

Due to the publication deadline having passed for the regulations books for the 2016/17 season, there was a need to publicise widely catch and release in the Groynes Lakes.

8ci Financial Report

Non Resident Licence Sales – R Cullinane advised that Councillors/Staff needed to start thinking on uses for the accumulated funds in this Reserve. Cr Isitt noted that all our releases were as a result of hatchery activity and as such there is justification for a contribution from this Reserve towards offsetting the hatchery costs of raising these fish.

"That approval be given to transfer \$20,000.00 from NRL reserve to hatchery code to offset spending".

Moved: Cr Cumberpatch

Seconded: Cr Kelly

CARRIED

8e Fresh Waters Programme

Cr Robinson reported that two possible projects to have two new lakes available for fishing in Christchurch was currently being investigated with a potential sponsor for the program being identified.

8f. Building Update

R Cullinane reported that the delay in getting the foundations being poured was the result of a second soil test that had to be completed. However it was expected that this would be completed very quickly and that the building permit was imminent.

9 General Business

9i. Licence Extension Agreement with Eyede

R Cullinane and D Ambler advised that overall the service contracted to Eyede worked very well and suggested that Council should support the suggested extension of the contract. Cr Kelliher noted that there had been one significant lapse in the service, but acknowledged that this should not be sufficient reason not to support an extension.

“That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the two year roll-over extension to the current Eyede agreement.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30.p.m.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Next Meeting

Date: 19TH October 2016

Time: 6.30p.m.

Venue: DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn