**FISH & GAME NZ – WEST COAST REGION**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2015**

**AT GREYMOUTH AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Rob Roney, Dean Phibbs, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chair), Jean Willis,

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Lee Crosswell (Officer), Kim McPherson (Office Administrator), Trevor Johnston (DoC), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Owen Smith

**APOLOGIES:**  Jan Derks, Dave Heine

*Resolved: (Dean Phibbs/Bruce Erickson), carried.*

***That the apologies be received.***

Mr Harris introduce Lee Crosswell as the new Fish and Game Officer.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER:** No conflicts of interest were noted.

Mr Kelly noted the tight timeframes for council correspondence advised and suggested the Council move towards an email system, so all councillors receive their packs in a timely manner. Mr Kelly requested that all Councillors ensure their emails addresses are provided to the office.

**MINUTES**

Resolved: (Mark Smith/Rob Roney), carried

**That the Minutes of the June 2015 meeting, as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

No matters were raised.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Letter from NZC in relation to Non-residents Licence Revenue:

Mr Kelly gave an overview of the correspondence regarding NRL Revenue. Mr Kelly had circulated an email after the June meeting to seek opinion from each of the Councillors and advised that there is no consensus on how they wished to address the licence revenue. In the meantime there has been correspondence from the Northland Region to the NZ Council which suggests all NRL Back Country Revenue goes to a central fund.

Points noted from the discussion:

* Mr Roney agreed with Northlands approach
* Mr Harris would like to see the revenue retained locally and the conditions around the expenditure of this revenue be made broader; also expressing that to utilise these funds should be done through the contestable funding process
* The questions was raised “what is classified as a back country and would Lake Brunner come under this classification?” reference was made to the letter from the NZ Council – paragraph 5. Mr Kelly thought that Lake Brunner should be included and Mr Phibbs added that the wording is quite wide.
* Mr Roney reminded the council that these funds belong to the country not the region
* Mr Willis’s view was that the overseas angler should pay for the privilege of fishing in our back country areas, but also raised the issue that licences are purchased in other regions but fish in the West Coast region, so is of the opinion that the revenue should be a national fund and that back country fisheries need to be clearly defined

*Resolved (D Phibbs/R Roney), carried*

***The West Coast Fish and Game Council supports option 2 presented by the NZ Fish and Game Council where the extra revenue generated from the non-resident licence is held in a centralized contestable fund. The West Coast Fish and Game Council also supports option 3 where criteria are developed and consistently applied for spending the revenue.***

PF Olsen / stakeholder feedback sought:

Mr Harris enquired about the feedback sought from PF Olsen on the specific use of herbicides and pesticides and if this effected Fish and Game. Mr Kelly responded this was likely to have no more than minor effect on Fish and Game populations.

*Resolved: (Bruce Erickson/Dean Phibbs), carried*

 ***That the inwards correspondence be received.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Kelly advised that due to a coding error the income figures have changed. The Game Bird and Fishing Licence sales were amended to: $27,996.51 and $225,892.42, respectively.

Mr Kelly explained that the West Coast region will still be down approximately 30 Game Bird licences and in particular the Westport area saw the largest decline.

Mr Kelly said next year a focus would be made on promoting Game Bird hunting in the region.

Mr Kelly brought to the Councils attention the changes to the XRB reporting standards and that a national wide template was being produced by Carmel Veitch from NZC. This means that all regions will be reporting on an Audit approved format. How the revenue from licence sales is entered will be apportioned to the appropriate year with a new formula, so councillors may note some changes going forward.

Mr Willis enquired about current NRL revenue and whether it is attributed to the regions at this stage? Mr Kelly confirmed that was the case. Councillors discussed reserves and what reserves are used for in other regions along with the process to use these reserves. From this discussion it was then decided to add to the previous resolution made in relation to the response to NZC on the NRL reserve funds

*Resolved (D Phibbs/M Smith, carried).*

***The funds accumulated during the introductory year (2014/15) of the non-resident licence be transferred from regional funds to a centralised contestable fund.***

Resolved (Bruce/Mark), carried

**That the Financial Report be received**

**MANAGERS REPORT**

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bimonthly operational report.

Okuru Hut

Mr Harris commented that Hut rental nights appeared to be low. Mr Kelly responded that this was normal at this point in the year with whitebait season just around the corner and reminded the council, this hut is not a holiday home. The question was asked about staff use of the hut – Mr Kelly advised that staff would utilise the hut during salmon spawning counts and other trips throughout the year equating to around 20 nights per year. Mr Roney commented that the hut had little usage.

Fisheries enhancement

Mr Mark Smith enquired why the Fisheries enhancement costs were so low and asked if we haven’t been doing any enhancement. Mr Kelly explained that the costs reported on the Managers Report is the internal costs which have been reduced due to transporting of the fish by North Canterbury staff.

This lead on to a discussion about a donation from Mitre 10 for fisheries enhancement. Mr Kelly answered by advising that this donation will fall into the next financial year. Mr Kelly added that we will need to note in our Annual Report the liability of the fish currently being grown by North Canterbury region for release.

Spawning survey

Mr Erickson queried the time frames on the spawning surveys. Mr Kelly explained the surveys for trout and salmon are done at different times of the year. Mr Kelly also noted that Geologists Creek will need to be removed from the Salmon survey list from next year.

Resource Consents:

It was noted the increase in Resource Consents being received. Mr Kelly explained that due to the last few floods, the July one in particular, has caused significant issues for farmers and these applications are mostly to deal with the diversion of streams through lowland pasture. Mr Kelly is concerned that this will be an ongoing issue, as he believes that farmers need to start planning ahead in the summer. Mr Kelly feels it would be beneficial to have discussions with farmers and the Regional Council now to avoid this influx of consents. Mr Kelly made the councillors aware that these flood events have wiped out a lot of spawning this year.

Westland Milk Products

Mr Harris enquired about the Resource Consent to discharge. Mr Kelly explained that the consent was for an increase in discharge but there would be no increase in pollutants.

Access

Mr Willis asked for an update on the Heaphy Road case. Mr Kelly said there would be an interview on TV 3’s new show, Story, in coming weeks. Mr Kelly said it is in Fish and Game’s best interests for this case to go the Environment Court and as at last week the Court had still not received this application.

Discussion was had around the MOU with the Christian Community and the upcoming Junior Pheasant hunt. Mr Willis voiced he would support the cancellation of this MOU, Mr Kelly advised the Councillors that the MOU still has two years to go.

New licence categories

Mr Kelly advised the Council of the new licence categories and that they would be on sale from 20th August online. He said that Ms McPherson had been out seeing agents preparing them for the new licences

Resolved (Dean Phibbs / Mark Smith) – carried.

**That the Managers Operational Report be received.**

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Willis provided a report from the NZ Council meeting held on 24th July in Wellington, highlighting:

* This meeting was a one day meeting instead of two
* The planned review of the governance policies and the environmental scan was delay to the next meeting
* Walking Access Commission Representatives addressed the meeting; this included giving information on the mapping system and its resources.
* Health and Safety legislation is still before the parliamentary system
* Lou Sanson, Director General of DoC addressed the meeting, outlining changes within the Department partnerships division and Fix our River Policy. Mr Sanson was comfortable with the proposed Fishing Guide Licence.

The councillors discussed processes requiring Overseas Investment Commission consent.

Mr Willis recommended that council write to the Walking Access to request they put a map overlay in their system to show 1080 control.

 *Resolved: (Rob Roney / Bruce Erickson)*

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council write to the Walking Access Commission asking if they can provide an overlay on their mapping system that shows where 1080 poison has been laid.***

 *Resolved: (Jean Willis /Mark Smith), carried*

**That the NZ Council Report be received.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Fish & Game Councillor Elections

Mr Kelly reminded councillors that all the information regarding the elections is on the Fish and Game website.

Council Meetings

As this was the last meeting of the current council, Mr Kelly advised that it is up to the Manager to notify within 7 days of the next meeting and that the new council must convene before 18th November 2015. The new council comes in to Office on Wednesday 28th October and this will be the next council meeting. Mr Kelly explained the process of the first council meeting with the new council.

Mr Kelly also recommended that the AGM should be held on 9th December 2015 and this is a decision that will need to be made by the new council on 28th October.

*(Imogen Squires and Scott Peters joined the meeting at 8:00 pm)*

OSPRI – Imogen Squires and Scott Peters

OSPRI were invited to this meeting after previous correspondence had been sent regarding a death of an angler’s dog associated with a lack of signage, Mr Harris explained.

Mr Roney provided an overview of the incident as he was present.

A lengthy discussion was held around the use of 1080 and anglers and hunters with dogs.

The outcome of this meeting was:

* An agreement that anglers and hunters should check the relevant websites to ensure that the areas they are heading into have no 1080 present.
* Anglers can source muzzles and pills from OSPRI and Imogen would send Mr Kelly details of the company providing material to OSPRI
* OSPRI noted that in regard to particular dog death incident signage wasn’t put in the area discussed adequately and Mr Roney stressed that it was paramount that old signage be removed and new signage installed at appropriate areas
* Councillors would like to see OSPRI work with WAMS to get map overlays
* Mr Kelly added that OSPRI have been supportive in ensuring they don’t lay poison in popular hunting areas before opening weekend of the gamebird season.
* Councillors generally agreed that the newspaper advertising by OSPRI was inadequate – in particular the size of the maps, and that this could impact visiting hunters who were unfamiliar with the areas.

*(Imogen and Scott left the meeting at 8:33 pm)*

Invitation to Councillors received from Rhys Barrier, Manager of F&G Nelson Region (email)

Mr Kelly reads the email received as above. After some discussion the councillors agreed that Mr Kelly would liaise back to Mr Barrier with the willingness to attend a weekend meeting, possibly in the Murchison area, in January to coincide with the normal council meeting.

Service Recognition Dinner, Thursday 27th August

Mr Kelly informed councillors that he was still trying to seek a reply from four past councillors and if anyone could assist that would be appreciated.

The order of the evening was briefly outlined by Mr Kelly and advised that Bryce Johnson would be attending.

Meeting closed at .8:44pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….