

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 19TH August 2015

At the DoC offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 p.m.

1. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Garth Free, Serge Bonnafoux, Jonathan Brooks, Bruce Kelly, Cavan O'Connell, Malcolm Gilbert, Martin Clements, Paul Farrow, Ken Lee

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

Public: Colin Eaton

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Nil

Staff: Nil

4a. Minutes from Previous Meeting(s):

"That the minutes from 17 June 2015 meeting be accepted with amendments as stated."

Moved: Cr Brooks

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

Under 3a – General Business – Change Cr Brooks to read Cr Free

Under 5.3 of the Regulations Review - Delete Cr Free as Opposed

Under 8d – Youth Program – change the resolution to read – "That the committee of Cr Isitt, R Cullinane, A Currie, Cr Robinson and Cr Brooks be formed to seek funding of \$50,000.00 and to seek sponsorship for the Youth Program".

4b. Matters Arising/Action Sheet:

Action Sheet

Cr Clements commented about the length of time items were on the Action Sheet and that actions should be reviewed more rigorously and take out actions that cannot be completed.

The following items have been deleted from the Action Sheet as being completed.

Under – **New Matters - No 2** – Notification of upcoming activities to council members

Under – **New Matters dated 16th April 2014 – No 8** - Changes to the salmon catch limit

Under – **New Matters dated 20th August 2014 – No 10** – High Country Fishing – plan for young anglers

Under – **New Matters dated 17th December 2014 – No 3** – International Sales Figures & **No 5** – Access to Waimak River

Under – **New Matters dated 18th February 2015 – No 2** – Email gamebird contacts to K Lee & **No 5** – Cooking demonstrations at Swan Hunt Prizegiving

Under – **New Matters dated 15th April 2015 – No 1** – Ecan Structure & **No 2** – Z Moss presentation to NZC & **No 5** – Nephew of principal licence holder on family licence & **No 7** – salmon caught over 20lb be released

Under – **New Matters dated 17th June 2015 – No 1** Regulations Review & **No 2** – Legal definition of “Take” & **No 6** – Access of scope of works carried out at Johns Road

R Cullinane stated that the definition of “taking” was included in the definition of “fishing” covered under the first schedule (s1) of the Fresh Water Fishing Regulations 1983.

Scope of works for Johns Road – information had been supplied from the previous owners with all insurance rights assigned to NC F&G. R Cullinane to talk separately to Cr Free on this matter regarding cracks he had observed in the building.

5. Public Session:

Colin Eaton presented arguments from the NZSAA to ECAN regarding the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988. NZSSA is contesting the water take by the Trustpower scheme and how this relates to the water flow in the Rakaia river. It is also questioning the meaning of “mean river flow” in the river which it suggests impacts the temperature and oxygen levels of the water.

Discussion on establishing natural oxygen levels to understand what was happening and the importance of knowing when the water is diverted to the Central Plains. D Barr raised concern of decreased water flow at the river mouth and the fact there is only flow monitoring done at the Rakaia Gorge and not further down stream.

It was decided that prior to taking the matter up with Ecan, T Hawker undertake a review of the arguments put forward by the NZSAA and present recommendations to the next Council meeting.

6. Presentations

E Moore gave a brief update on the Otukaikino Restoration Project. Discussion followed on giving the landowners a letter of acknowledgement for the excellent work completed to date on restoring habitat along the Otukaikino and its tributaries. Funding for habitat restoration projects was also discussed.

7. Meeting Business:

7a i Youth and Family Programme

A Currie outlined the meeting held with S Barrer, a professional fundraiser who specialised in fund raising for charities and not for profit organisations and the decision to engage her services. A Currie thanked Cr Isitt for his work done to date looking at securing potential funding for the Programme. Discussion ensued regarding the direction and in particular interim funding for the Programme. Points raised:

- Programme needs to be extended beyond the current format with a five year growth projection;
- Due to the slow uptake nationally for financial support of this Programme, it continue to be run in the current format but as a North Canterbury initiative and further that it be treated as user pays for intellectual property. This means that other F&G regions would be asked to contribute as appropriate.
- That the programme has been so successful for North Canterbury that it was considered critical that it should not be brought to a halt because of lack of national financial support.

- It was pointed out by R Cullinane that any further support from North Canterbury reserves would however require the support of the NZC.

The Sub Committee recommended:

“That the North Canterbury Council resolves to allocate a further \$60,000.00 from reserves to the Youth and Family budget for the 2015/2016 financial year”

Cr Bonnafoux asked if there would be any consequences of a one off payment to support the programme until the contract expiry of the Facilitator on 31 August. R Cullinane advised there would likely be enough funding through to at least November 2015.

There was also discussion on whether sponsorship funding might be available, and if so how this might affect the need for further North Canterbury funding. It was agreed that if substantial sponsorship funding did become available, that was unlikely to be in the immediate future.

The following motion was then put:

“That the North Canterbury Council resolves to allocate a further \$60,000.00 to the Youth and Family budget for the 2015 / 16 year.”

Moved: Cr Clements

Seconded: Cr Brooks

CARRIED

Cr Robinson and Cr Bonnafoux Abstained

7a. ii Request to Purchase Two Quad Bikes

After discussion of the staff proposal to purchase two quad bikes to enable access to difficult locations and to support ranging activity, it was decided that S Terry and K Lee obtain more detailed costings and bring back to the next Council meeting.

7a.iii Operational Work Plan and Budget – September 2015 – August 2016

The meeting decided that the timing to discuss the Operational Work Plan and Budget needed to be completed before being presented at the Managers Meeting and not after the fact as is the case currently.

“That in future, once the draft budget and Operational Work Plan are ready, an extra Council meeting be held solely for the purpose of considering these (late March), prior to the Managers’ Meeting and that this date be set for 2016 at the next Council meeting.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Kelly

CARRIED

Discussion on new projects and the ability to reallocate hours to these followed. Hatchery expenditure required to be regularly measured.

7b.i. 2015 Councillor Elections

A Currie briefly outlined the media publicity surrounding the 2015 Council elections.

7b ii. Potential Brown Trout Spawning Project for Consideration to add to the 2015/16 Workplan

T Hawker outlined the need to include some northern catchments in the trout spawning survey focusing on the spawning/rearing areas without downsizing the current drift dive programme. These areas on a rotating programme could include the Poulter, Upper Hurunui and the Hope/Boyle catchments.

It was decided to include "angler experience in the High Country Lakes" in the Angler Satisfaction Survey. It was also decided to revisit this subject once a decision had been made on the purchase of quad bikes.

7b iii Potential Projects for Funding From Non-Resident Licence Income

Discussion on the identification of catchments and potential projects for North Canterbury's back country fisheries, which would be funded through a percentage from the sales of the non resident licence (as defined in a Minister of Conservation letter) was discussed.

Some points raised were the possible need to designate a back country fishery in our region and promote it; habitat issues could be included.

New Zealand Council presented three options that required each region's preference with North Canterbury's being:

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game supports Option 1 (of the New Zealand Council's recommendation) that the extra revenue from the Non Resident Licence be ring fenced and put into a dedicated fund by each region."

Moved: Cr Brooks

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

7b iv North Canterbury Appointee to the New Zealand Council

It was decided that in light of the most recent letter from the NZC Chairman to M Clements (24th July 2015) a North Canterbury representative (Cr Bonnafoux) should attend the next National Council meeting and that the new North Canterbury Council following the 2015 elections would need to appoint a representative as it is required to do in compliance with the legislation.

7b v Upper Selwyn Brown Trout Spawning Surveys

T Hawker briefly spoke to the paper with there being no questions or further comment / recommendations.

7b vi Salmon Report

Noted that the information required to complete the Report from Central South Island Region was delayed. This Salmon Report would now be presented at the next Council meeting.

8. Reports

The Staff Report, Financial, Eyede and Youth reports were briefly discussed with no issues.

8a Salmon and Trout Sub Committee

The first resolution from the sub-committee was on concerns around the Rakaia Water Conservation Order.

"That Fish and Game write to ECAN in support of NZSAA's concerns about the breaches of the Rakaia Water Conservation Order and the potential adverse affects to habitat and ask that oxygen levels and temperature be recorded at the Rakaia Gorge especially during March and April".

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

NOT CARRIED

It was decided that more research needed to be completed and that Fish and Game write to NZSAA outlining this and advise they would be kept informed and appraised of the situation. Note: Refer above to earlier decision that T Hawker was asked to review the paper presented by Colin Eaton.

The second resolution after discussion was amended to read:

“That at the first opportunity the regulations to allow for wheelchair anglers of any age to fish at Lake 3 at the Groyne be discussed at the next regulations review meeting”.

Moved: Cr Clements

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux

CARRIED

It was also agreed that time be set aside at the next Council meeting for discussion surrounding Lake Coleridge – spawning and releases.

8b. Building Update

J Brooks presented a more detailed version of the concept building plan that would be submitted to Council for change in land use. Indication of costs were now required to be sought, with a couple of building companies happy to work in conjunction with volunteers from our stakeholders database should this happen.

It was pointed out in a response to Cr Free’s question about sub-committee input, that the process was still at a fact gathering stage and that no decisions could or should be made without reference to Council.

“That more detailed plans be drawn up (at the indicated cost - circa \$2,000) so that suitable building firms could price up and that these would then be brought back to the next Council meeting with a view to deciding on the next step”.

Moved: Cr Clements

Seconded: Cr Brooks

CARRIED

8c. Media and Awards

The question was asked if there should be one award Certificate to go to as many of those who qualify, or rather a general award with one supreme winner.

“That one award be given with a release of salmon in the waters of the local winner’s land”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Brooks

CARRIED

Council members were asked to come back with a list of potential recipients by the end of the week.

8d. Governance Session

Noted that this be run when the new Council had been appointed. R Cullinane to organise as well as a suitable induction manual for each Councillor.

8e. Gamebird

Cr Lee notified that the sub-committee had a good turnout to the meeting on 23rd June and discussed habitat enhancement. Further discussion on the administration charge (\$95 + GST) for gamebird permits was required. He advised the next meeting was set for 22 September 2015 and invited Council members to attend.

8f. Next Meeting

Due to the need to change the scheduled October meeting to align with the Regional elections, **the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 4th November 2015.**

The meeting then turned to thanking Cr Clements as he had earlier advised that he would not be standing for re-election. This would therefore be his last meeting as Chairman. Cr Kelly spoke on behalf of Councillors and thanked him for his leadership and outstanding contribution. He then presented him with an inscribed gift of appreciation for his lengthy (15 year) service as Chairman of North Canterbury Fish and Game.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30p.m.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____ Next

Next Meeting

Wednesday 4TH November 2015, 31 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn, 6.30p.m.