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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2014**

**AT GREYMOUTH AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Rob Roney, Dean Phibbs, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chairman), Jean Willis, Dave Heine

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Rhys Adams (Officer), Tim Shaw (DoC), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu)

**APOLOGIES:** Trevor Johnson (DoC)

*Resolved: (J Derks / B Erickson), carried.*

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

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

**MINUTES**

Resolved:( J Derks / B Erickson), carried

**That the Minutes of the June 2014 meeting, as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Mr Harris enquired if there were any responses to the felt soled waders regulation change to other regions. Mr Kelly read out the letters not supporting the proposal from Nelson/Marlborough, Southland and North Canterbury. There were no responses from Otago or CSI regions.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Letter from Neil Hayes:

Mr Harris proposed that the pre-circulated correspondence from Neil Hayes be received. Mr Heine stated that he believed there was an region wide reduction of mallard duck numbers and provided Lake Brunner as an example. Mr Roney proposed that Councillors note topics for future discussion from the correspondence and let the Manager know so as to include them in subsequent meeting agenda’s

Letter from South Westland Area School:

Mr Kelly apologised for not circulating this letter as was his intention. Mr Kelly then outlined the letter of thanks from the South Westland Area School students.

*Resolved: ( J Derks / R Roney), carried*

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Kelly drew the councils attention to one licence agent who was becoming increasingly unreliable making payment. He stated that they have now been restricted to 2 licence books at any one time to reduce Fish and Game’s exposure to risk.

Mr Kelly also highlighted that the increase in Fisheries Enhancement income was from TrustPowers contributions associated with their Memorandum of Understanding commitments in relation to Lake Kaniere.

Mr Derks enquired about the GST collected and paid figures. Mr Kelly committed to providing a response after consultation with the Office Administrator. Mr Phibbs commented that the high figure was probably due to brought forward figures from previous years.

Mr Harris enquired abour the high cost of rents with Mr Kelly stating that the figure included an advance payment to the Airport which would be corrected at the end of the financial year. Mr Harris also enquired about the reduced cost of project 1831 with Mr Kelly stating that the majority of cost were associated with the Annual Report which comes at the very end of the year.

*Resolved: (J Derks / D Phibbs), carried.*

**That the Financial Report be received**

# MANAGERS REPORT

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bimonthly operational report. Expanding on;

* The proposed stopping of Heaphy Road by the Grey District Council.
* The upcoming fisheries enhancement and junior fishing day with an invitation for councillor assistance.
* An issue regarding the over allocation of water by the West Coast Regional Council in the Mawheraiti River catchment.
* Compliance and Officer Adam’s recent success in a guilty conviction for two poachers in South Westland.
* Licence agent liaison and the introduction of the non-resident licence.

Mr Adams presented the annual Sportsfish Spawning Survey Report. Mr Roney and Mr Smith enquired about tagging and Otolith analysis.

Resolved:( D Phibbs / R Roney), carried

**That the Sportsfish Spawning Report be received and the recommendations adopted.**

Resolved:( B Erickson / J Derks), carried

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

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Willis provided a report on the recent NZ Fish and Game council meeting focusing on the presentation provided by the Minister.

 *Resolved: (D Phibbs /J Derks), carried*

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

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Heaphy Road Stopping - Presentation from Gloriavale Christian Community:

A group from the Gloriavale Christian Community provided an overview of the issues regarding public access on Heaphy Road. The group outlined their reasons for approaching the Grey District Council to stop the road which included;

* Safety of individuals at the community from criminal trespassers
* Safety of property at the community from criminal trespassers.
* Obligations to protect the safety of individuals crossing their private property.
* The current access through private property was in jeopardy due to an unsavoury element causing trouble.
* The presence of a game preserve upstream which could have hazards present.

An overview of their history and commitment to the area was also prescribed.

Councillors then posed some questions regarding; the current situation, Fish and Game’s statutory responsibility and specifics about how they believed a suitable access arrangement could work for the benefit of anglers.

*Meeting adjourned for supper 8:48pm*

*Meeting resumed at 9:15pm*

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Heaphy Road Stopping.

A discussion to provide council direction in the road stopping progress ensued. J Derks proposed a motion on the issue which failed to gain support. The council instructed Mr Kelly to continue to negotiate with representatives from the community to achieve a suitable access outcome for anglers which provides enduring access to the Haupiri River fishery. In the event of a notification of road stopping by the Grey District Council and an unsatisfactory outcome in the negotiations Mr Kelly was to reassess the situation and look at all options for improving access to the river.

Department of Conservation – Tim Shaw (DoC)

Mr Shaw updated the council on;

* The application from Westpower Ltd for a concession to construct a Hydro Electric Power station on DoC administered land at Waitaha.
* Mining exploration permits on Department of Conservation administered land. Mr Shaw provided an overview of the process and provided assurances that the environmental impact on sports fisheries was no more than minor.
* The style for walking access to the Hokitika Gorge has not been erected but Mr Shaw assured the council progress being made.
* 1080 and trout research being conducted by the Cawthron Institute.
* Lagarosiphon and Rudd monitoring at Lake Ianthe.

Mr Shaw also acknowledged a report on gamebird crop predation provided to the department in relation to the councils crop predation permit.

Locals for Locals – Nick Moody

Mr Moody provided some background and outlined an upcoming volunteers day at Greymouth and Westport. Four Councillors have committed to the event and will be promoting the work of volunteers within Fish and Game to the wider public at the event.

Meeting closed at 10:08 pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….