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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2015**

**AT REEFTON AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Rob Roney, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chair), Dave Heine, Owen Smith,

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Lee Crosswell (Officer), Kim McPherson (Administration Officer), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Tim Shaw (DoC)

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from D Phibbs and M Smith who had both indicated they would be arriving late to the meeting. T Shaw apologised for no representative being present from DoC at the October meeting.

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

***That the apologies be accepted.***

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

A Harris enquired about the status of the councillor Declaration of Interest register. Mr Kelly stated that he had not completed this list yet. Mr Heine enquired about the definition and process for conflicts of interest. Discussion ensued.

**MINUTES – as circulated**

J Derks noted some typographical and grammatical errors in the October minutes.

Resolved: (M Smiths/B Erickson), carried

**That the Minutes of the October 2015 meeting, with amendments noted, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

T Shaw provided a response from the DoC regarding anglers overstaying in backcountry huts. He stated that DoC were unlikely to discourage the practice as DoC wanted to increase use in the huts. Mr Shaw suggested use of signage and the DoC website to encourage ethical use. R Roney and D Kelly both expressed their disappointment at DoC’s response with Mr Roney suggesting more needed to be done to encourage back country ethics.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

A Harris suggested a letter of acknowledgment and thanks to the South Westland Lions Club for their donation to enhance the Lake Ianthe fishery.

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

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council write to the South Westland Lions Club thanking them for the donation to sportsfishery enhancement.***

*Resolved: (B Erickson/D Heine), carried*

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

# FINANCIAL REPORT

D Kelly presented a revised financial report with updated income budget figures. A Harris enquired about the continued payment of NZ Council levies when the region has an expected deficit. D Kelly stated that despite protestation to the NZ Council this will continue until the region falls below the 50% bulk fund threshold which at current rates will be another 2 years.

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

***That the Financial report be received.***

# MANAGERS REPORT

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bimonthly operational report, expanding on;

A Harris enquired about Heaphy Road with Mr Kelly stating that the issue was still in mediation but a Heads of Agreement had been signed.

D Heine enquired about Drift Dive results and the low numbers of juvenile fish observed in the Mawheraiti River. D Kelly stated that this is the case and the expected resurgence of the fishery is not happening. Discussion ensued about reasons for the continued depressed state. A common theme was the increased mobility of gravels as a consequence of remedial earthworks. D Kelly stated that he will be proposing an increased monitoring regime for the tributaries to ascertain if there are recruitment issues in the system.

*7:40pm Mark Smith and Dean Phibbs entered the meeting*

*Resolved: (B Erickson/R Roney), carried*

***That the Managers report be received.***

7:50pm

Resolved (A Harris/J Derks**)**

**That the public (including staff) be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss the Managers annual performance appraisal**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED** | **REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER** | **GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION** |
| *Information provided in confidence* | *Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982* | *Section 48(1)(a)(ii)* |

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

(a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and

(b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

8:05pm

*Resolved**(A Harris/J Derks), carried*

**That the open meeting of the West Coast Fish and Game Council resumes.**

# NZ COUNCIL REPORT

The council discussed the pre-circulated NZ Council report from J Willis. R Roney provided an overview of the latest meeting and noted that he attended a function to celebrate 25yrs of Fish and Game as a past council chair. R Roney informed the council of Mark Neesans present from the Walking Access Commission and the progress towards a 1080 overlay on the mapping site. R Roney also mentioned the use of surveillance cameras and their effectiveness in monitoring.

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

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

# GENERAL BUSINESS

**Gamebird Regulation setting**

A Harris presented a pre-circulated discussion document on Gamebird regulations. The council discussed a reduction in Paradise Shelduck daily bag limits to ensure sustainable harvest of the species. Research and anecdotal evidence supports the council stance that increased pressure in the form of organised hunts on crop paddocks was rapidly reducing the population.

A Harris also suggested a special junior Paradise Shelduck and Pukeko hunting weekend in March. This was supported by the council.

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

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council recommend a change in the west coast hunting regulation to reduce the Paradise Shelduck bag limit to 15 birds and introduce a junior only Paradise Shelduck and Pukeko season for the first weekend in March.***

**Regulation setting and consultation**

D Kelly presented a discussion document regarding a 3 yearly review of regulation with licence holder consultation. D Phibbs stated that he supported this approach as it would provide more engagement with licence holders. Discussion ensued incorporating some recent regulation changes in other regions to gamebird hunting.

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

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council conduct a consultation process with licence holders regarding key regulation proposals being considered for implementation in sufficient time to enable the feedback to be considered for regulation setting in 2016 and use this as a basis for a 3 yearly regulation set to be reviewed 3 yearly.***

**Gamebird Hunter Survey**

L Crosswell presented a pre-circulated Gamebird Harvest Survey report. He provided an overview of hunter harvest and effort in the region and noted the increase in out-of-region hunters targeting Paradise Shelduck.

L Croswell recommended that the Council look at initiatives to increase local hunter participation with a suggestion to focus on improving and promoting access opportunities. D Phibbs reinforced this comment by stating that restricted access is one of the barriers to new hunters.

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

***That the Gamebird Harvest Survey report be received.***

**Councillor information evening**

B Erickson presented a pre-circulated discussion paper regarding a proposed Fish and Game information evening and asked for feedback.

J Derks suggested some content on angling and hunting ethics combined with some field component. R Roney provided some feedback and advice regarding the instruction of juniors. D Kelly questioned the focus of the event and the issues Fish and Game are trying to address. B Erickson stated that he was also interested in the social component and interacting with anglers regarding what Fish and Game does.

M Smith stated that he believed there needed to be a strategy in place as there were plenty of other issues that Fish and Game was required to deal with. D Phibbs noted that the upcoming OWP review and setting was the time to put such a strategy in place.

J Derks proposed that an approach be made to scouts to gauge interest in Fish and Game instruction and involvement in their programs. D Kelly also suggested a session be set aside at the upcoming combined meeting with the Nelson Fish and Game council in February.

**Annual Report**

A Harris thanked staff on the production of audited Annual Report which had no issues identified.

*Resolved**(A Harris/D Phibbs), carried*

***That the 2014/15 Annual Report be adopted.***

**Recognition of Jean Willis contribution on the NZ Council**

M Smith recommended that the council write to Jean Willis thanking him for his representation and contribution on the NZ Fish and Game Council.

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

***That the chair write to Jean Willis thanking him for his representation on the NZ Fish and Game council.***

Meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

Chair……………………………………… Date…………………….

**Annual Public Meeting**

Meeting commenced at 9:45pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Rob Roney, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chair), Dave Heine, Owen Smith, Mark Smith, Dean Phibbs.

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Lee Crosswell (Officer), Kim McPherson (Administration Officer), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Tim Shaw (DoC)

A Harris (Chair) presented the 2014/15 Annual Report (see following transcript);

*I am able to report that the Operational Work Plan was satisfactorily completed and that West Coast Fish and Game remains in a strong financial position with reserves above the minimum holding required.*

*A contestable funding application to transfer $6000 from reserves highlights the need for increased bulk funding to avoid further use of reserves for operational expenditure, and ultimately a sudden large increase in license fees once reserves are depleted.*

*Additional license money from non-resident license sales is currently held in a dedicated account pending NZC direction on its application.*

*Some comments on the year in retrospect;*

* *Fisheries enhancement continues in line with council's adopted policy, with yearling Brown and Rainbow trout and Salmon smolt introduced to various catchments.*
* *Ongoing monitoring of the Mawheraiti [Little Grey] river with assistance from West Coast Regional Council temperature and flow recording.*
* *Salmon spawning counts at historically monitored sites were below long term averages. Intermittent surveys were undertaken to monitor recent liberations.*
* *Trend counts of Paradise Shelduck and Pukeko show numbers to be relatively stable. It should be noted, however, that the recent increase in maize being grown and harvested for silage has resulted in large concentrations of naive Paradise ducks on post-harvest fields. This has allowed a small number of hunters to take very large total tallies which may reflect in future trend counts.*
* *Methodology for counting mallard and grey ducks (Greylards) is still being developed and at this stage does not give meaningful data.*
* *Sec.95 Affected Party Applications were processed, of which 26 were related to mining, 11dairying and land development, 9 water take consents*
* *Pleasing progress has been made by the Lake Brunner Catchment Care Group in which F&G is a stakeholder. Local dairy farmers are to be commended for their 'buy-in'.*
* *Youth engagement: A junior 'fish-out' day at the Grey Gun Club' was very successful in spite of atrocious weather. A small number of junior hunters were hosted by Gloriavale Christian Community for a pheasant shoot, and following from F&G facilitated clay target shooting, others were able to try for Paradise Ducks over decoys on farmland.*

*On behalf of Council I wish to acknowledge the professional approach of management and staff throughout the year in carrying out their duties and upholding the F&G image, not only with anglers and hunters, but also the public at large.*

*Also, my thanks to Councilors and Honorary Rangers who give up their time for free.*

D Keely thanked Kim McPherson and Carmel Veitch for her help in producing the report to the new reporting standards. Mr Kelly wished Lee Crosswell all the best for his expected new arrival to his family over the Christmas period. Mr Kelly also noted that the number of robust discussions at the council meetings were a good sign and provided excellent direction to staff.

A Harris presented J Derks with a 6 year service award.

J Derks thanked the council for the recognition and stated that his involvement in the Lake Brunner farm planning process had been particularly rewarding.

Meeting closed at 9:52pm.

Chair……………………………………… Date…………………….