

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 17th April 2013,
At the DoC Offices, 32 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn
Commencing at 6.30pm

1. Present:

- Councillors:** Peter Robinson, Serge Bonnafoux, Trevor Isitt, Steve McNeill, Paul Farrow, Hamish Greig, Brian Smart, Chris Goom, Ken Lee, Garth Free, Bruce Kelly.
- Co-opted Members:** Cavan O'Connell (Nga Tahu).
- Staff:** Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson, Debbie Ambler, Dirk Barr, Andrew Currie (NZ Council).
- In Attendance:** Ron Stuart (NZ Salmon Anglers), Kelvin Wright (Canterbury Lure Fishing)

R Cullinane conveyed an apology from Cr Clements that due to illness he was unable to attend this meeting. Following Cr Clements' suggestion to R Cullinane, he invited Councillors to consider the need to elect a Deputy Chairperson on the basis that this office should be a permanent arrangement. Crs Isitt and Smart commented on and supported the need for a permanent Vice-Chairman.

Accordingly, after discussion;

"That Cr McNeill be elected Deputy Chairman".

Moved: Cr Isitt
Seconded: Cr Goom **Carried**

2. Apologies:

Martin Clements, Malcolm Gilbert (Federated Farmers)

"That the apologies be accepted".

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux
Seconded: Cr Isitt **Carried**

3. Notification of General Business

- 3.1 Cr Smart Media
- 3.2 S Pearson Regional Collaboration
- 3.3 R Cullinane Oath of Office
- 3.4 Cr McNeill CERA Work on Riverbeds
- 3.5 Cr Free Irrigation Initiatives in the Wider Canterbury Area
- 3.6 Cr Bonnafoux Native Eel

Cr Goom congratulated A Currie (NZ Council South Island Media Adviser) on the amount of media coverage Fish and Game has received recently.

4. Minutes from the Previous Meeting dated 20th February 2013

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted with corrections as noted." (refer below).

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux
Seconded: Cr Smart **Carried**

Amendments:

"Present: Cr Free be added to the list of Councillors who attended the February meeting."

4.1 Matters Arising/Action Sheet

R Cullinane stated the Action Sheet had been reduced and that once items had been completed, they would be marked as such, stay on the Action Sheet until the next meeting so that Councillors can note the completion of that action point. They will then be deleted for the next meeting.

The following items were noted as being "Completed"

New Matters - Item 6 - Gamebird Release Report

New Matters - Item 7 - Waimakariri Salmon Fishery

17 October 2012 - Item 3 - Additional Research to Support Salmon Management Report

17 October 2012 - Item 6 - Grasmere Station

17 October 2012 - Item 9 - Licence/Regulation Books

17 December 2012 - Item 4 - Didson Application (application not proceeding)

17 December 2012 - Item 5 - Regulations for Future Harvest Regulations for possible inclusion in 2013-14 Anglers Notice

Van Eaghans Hut - Cr Isitt advised that no information from interested parties was forthcoming. R Cullinane advised that DoC would be amenable to us rebuilding the hut but would need to be to their specifications and be available for public use.

The insurance company advised they would be receptive to a rebuild on another site as long as the hut served a similar purpose.

D Barr advised that very preliminary discussions had been held with Trustpower regarding the water supply for a hatchery if it was decided to proceed. He also raised the question of whether the insurance payout could go towards the building if the proposal proceeded.

After further discussion it was decided that the first option would be to rebuild the hut at a different location and that D Barr come back to the next Council meeting with more specific requirements for his proposal.

5. Public Notification Session

R Stuart (on behalf of NZ Salmon Anglers Assn) sent his wishes to Cr Clements for a speedy recovery. He congratulated D Barr and K Wright for their organisation on the fin clipping day at Montrose. R Stuart reported that he, Cr Isitt and S Terry investigated and identified an area by Clearwater Resort for ova planting and suggested it was a great area for growth. He reported that together with an ECAN representative and park ranger had discussed moving a deer fence at McIntosh's for easier access which has been well received by anglers. On 20th April volunteers would be taking an incubator to One Tree Swamp by hand. R Stuart stated the volunteers would be clearing the banks of Hacketts Creek and putting in big boxes.

6. Meeting Business**6 a i & ii Draft Operational Work Plan & Draft Budget**

R Cullinane stated he was taking the Plan to the next Managers' meeting on the 29th and 30th April 2013. He explained the first number beside the "Hours" for each project was the

current year allocation, with the second number being the allocation against next year's Work Plan.

Each project was then taken in turn for discussion. Issues raised/discussed were:

1.1.1.4 Brown Trout Spawning Survey Report - That more information was required on how this survey was going to be completed. That R Millichamp provide further information to Councillors with any issues being raised with R Cullinane.

1.1.1.6 Cawthron Trout Monitoring - T Hawker explained this was a nationally co-ordinated project of which three separate projects were in our Region. That North Canterbury was contributing work hours which monitored sites that had historical data on trout which included land and environmental effects, water extraction etc. Cr McNeill asked for a progress report next year.

1.1.4.1 Fish & Game Hatchery - R Cullinane to add note at the bottom of "Planned Result that the Hatchery was self funding. He explained that with the loss of the Contact order, N/C F&G would need to reduce activity in the hatchery to avoid subsidising the hatchery beyond what was required for F&G needs.

Cr Goom queried the Proposed Stocking Plan and asked why do F&G stock areas with little access. D Barr replied this was essentially a public relations exercise between F&G and farmers.

D Barr to take Blackwater out of the list of lakes to be stocked.

1.2.1.2 Local Plans - Cr Robinson suggested to revisit the second paragraph under "Planned Result" relating to the participation in the collaborative process of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy pending discussions later on in the meeting on the collaborative process. R Cullinane to review

1.2.1.3 RMA Compliance - R Cullinane to take out "where issues are identified" in the last sentence in the paragraph under "Planned Result" so that the sentence reads....."policies in the appropriate plan are identified".

1.2.1.4 Hurunui River - R Cullinane to delete out of report as it has been completed.

1.2.1.5 Lowland River Advocacy - After discussion on how to best use the talents of the French students in their time with N/C F&G, projects raised were water sampling; Otukaikino mapping; M Taylor nitrate project. R Cullinane to list a couple of projects as explanation in the OWP and change the allocated hours to read 60 not 160.

1.2.1.6 Crown Pastoral Leasehold and Land Tenure Review - Cr Goom suggested it may be worthwhile for a study to be completed on this subject and that it could be a topic for a thesis.

1.2.2.1 Fish and Game Controlled Land - Cr Goom suggested that part of Boggy Creek be sold to release some capital. R Cullinane to add to "Planned Result" "and to investigate future options for this land".

1.3.1.1 Access Advocacy - R Cullinane and staff to discuss investing staff hours/time to addressing specifics access points on the north side of the Lower Rakaia river at the next OWP meeting.

1.3.1.3 Access Brochures - R Cullinane to add \$5,000.00 to the draft Budget. D Ambler to do stocktake of brochures to identify printing requirements.

1.3.5.2 Young Angler Training - Suggestion to introduce/issue a "Free Licence Day" or have an introductory day for young anglers. Capture personal details for future licence sales.

1.3.5.3 Young Hunter Training - R Cullinane to include a reference to the identification of a junior wetland. Cr Isitt requested that staff time be increased and that access to private land be addressed.

1.3.6.3 Angler and Hunter Relations - R Cullinane to reduce hours from 700 to 600.

1.8.1.3 Annual Reporting - R Cullinane to revisit budgeted hours.

Draft Budget

R Cullinane presented the draft budget and advised that having regard to the fact that NCF&G had accumulated excess expenditure over budget of \$535k since 2004/2005 and that NZC had recently written to the NC Chairman, there was considerable pressure to reduce expenditure. For example, the methodology behind the annual salmon count has been reviewed and it was proposed to significantly reduce expenditure on aerial counts. This was the recommendation of the recent Salmon & Trout sub-committee. The hatchery activity was also another area where downsizing would be essential to reflect the loss of the Contact Energy order. R Cullinane was confident that the reductions planned would enable the region to come within the designated annual budget levels set by NZC

Schedule 1 - Draft Salmon & Trout Stocking Program 2013/14

D Barr explained that "priority order" related to costing rather than the order in which the fish were to be released. The releases were from last year's growing stock which were ready for sale. He explained a catalogue had been sent to other South Island F&G regions, with two significant orders already in the pipeline. There would be another catalogue sent to the general market in the near future.

"That the Draft Operational Work Plan and Draft Budget for 2013/2014 be adopted, subject to changes as notified".

Moved: Cr Isitt
Seconded: Cr Smart Carried

6 a iii Funding for Electric Fishing Machine

"That the Council approves an application to Pub Charity in support of a purchase for an electric fishing machine".

Moved: Cr Kelly
Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

6 b i Proposed N/C F&G Building Plan and Site

Cr Goom reported the Christchurch City Council Reserve on Styx Mill Road next to the Refuse Station had been identified as a possible site for the new F&G headquarters and presented draft architectural plans for the proposed new building for the site. As this proposal was on Council reserve, Cr Goom also sought authority to approach Deputy Mayor N Button to garner support.

"That Cr Goom be given authority to take the proposed N/C F&G building plans to the Shirley/Papanui Committee Board to seek support for the planned new building".

Moved: Cr Smart

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

6 b ii Licence Category Research

General discussion ensued on licence categories with the following points being raised;

- Current categories too rigid, need to maximise the amount of revenue being collected;
- Need for overseas and guide licences;
- Licence Agents' views need to be considered.

D Ambler to send DVD presentation to Councillors, then collate responses which were due by noon 24 April 2013.

6 b iii Salmon and Trout Sub Committee Minutes Dated 9th April 2013

S Terry spoke in reference to the Minutes stating the need to cut costs and reported they had reduced helicopter survey flights for peak counts from 7 to 4 in this season. He felt the actual peak count and angler catch more important. That the issue of trap avoidance was significant and suggested the need to count fish below traps rather than ignoring them.

"That the Fish & Game Council adopt the proposed peak count method immediately and that the current year's external expenditure be capped at \$10,000.00".

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux

Seconded: Cr Smart Carried

Draft Salmon & Trout Stocking Program 2013/14 -Brown Trout released in the upper Okuku River that was partly sponsored - D Barr advised 1,000 trout would be released into the river with the balance yet to be determined.

7 Reports

7 a Chairman's Report

Not presented due to absence of Cr Clements.

7 b. Staff Report

Gamebird Population Control (1181) - T Hawker advised there was no crisis with numbers of mallards in our region and in fact numbers were up. He reported that permits issued this year for unwanted invasions ranged between 15 and 20 then general discussion focused on the control of issuing permits and its limitations.

T Hawker to look at the process and provide recommendations for improving the control of issuing permits. D Ambler to put on Action Sheet for next staff meeting.

Fish and Game Hatcheries (1141) - D Barr stated that to date Montrose had returned 80 - 90 salmon with the peak of the return being around 23rd - 25th April. He stated there needed to be a return of 400.

Enforcement/Compliance (1513) - Noted that No 4. - fine should read \$600.00 not \$5,600.00.

Councillors took the opportunity to congratulate Cr Robinson on his election as NZ Fish & Game Council Chairman.

7 c. Financial Report

7c i Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that year to date the expenditure was tracking at 57.43% of budget against a theoretical 58.3% and that the accounts were on a cash and not accruals basis. He also advised that the interest on fixed term investment accounts in relation to the land & building were compounding and being reinvested.

7c ii Eyede Licence Sales Report

R Cullinane reported that Angler licence sales were up by 8.5% from this time last year.

7 d. New Zealand Council Report

Cr Robinson stated he would like to see more unity throughout the organisation and that would be his primary focus. With the retirement of J Norris, he stated there would be a review of the financial system in the near future.

7 e. Portfolio

That each portfolio Chairperson advise D Ambler who is on their committee and when their first meeting is.

Compliance - Cr Isitt reported the committee were altering plans for Gamebird season opening day. That a Ranger training session was to be held at Rangiora on Tuesday 30th April, and that Rangers were performing above expectations.

Media - Cr Robinson met with A Currie to discuss the forthcoming year's media requirements.

Relocation - Committee consisting of; Cr Goom, Cr McNeill, Cr Isitt

Water Fowl - Cr Isitt to send previous committee papers to Cr Smart.

Youth Programme - Committee consisting of; Cr Robinson, A Currie, R Cullinane. Cr Robinson advised they were busy seeking sponsorship for the programme.

A big thank you was passed to Cr Smart on a great evening with the various groups that fished at the Groynes on 20th March and for looking after and maintaining the kids fishing gear.

8. General Business

Media - Discussion focused on an article released by Cr Farrow and the policy surrounding councillors' responsibilities towards publishing articles. Cr Smart expressed his concerns that the article could be interpreted as expressing a Council view whereas it was not and he had felt awkward when asked by members of the public for comment.

D Ambler to agenda the article for the next Council meeting in June, but that the article be circulated early to staff/council members so that a policy could be formulated on the correct protocols to be followed when Councillors are expressing their personal views as opposed to Council views.

Regional Collaboration - S Pearson spoke to his paper regarding F&G representation on regional Zone Committees and the reasons for the recommendation relating to the collaborative process.

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council offer its services to Zone Committees and similar collaborative processes on the basis of providing specialised expertise, as opposed to a directly or indirectly appointed representative".

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Goom

S Pearson to email D Ambler a copy of the F&G Submissions on RMA and Freshwater Reforms document for circulation and comment by Councillors.

Oath of Office - D Ambler to circulate the letter regarding Oath of Office to Councillors and agenda for the next Council meeting in June.

Irrigation - Cr Free raised questions relating to the Central Plains issue. Cr McNeill stated that this had been dealt with and referred Cr Free to last year's Salmon Management Plan. This highlighted the need for new Councillors to be updated on current issues when they are elected to the Council.

Native Eels - Cr Bonnafoux reported that a licence for eeling should only apply to commercial eeling and pointed out the need to protect the long fin eel and its habitat. He requested that a staff member follow this issue and report back to Council.

There being no further business, the Council meeting concluded at 10.12 pm.

Chairman: _____

Dated: _____

Next Meeting: Wednesday 19th June 2013

Venue: DOC Offices, Sockburn