

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 13th June 2012,
in the DOC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn, Christchurch
commencing at 6:35pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements (Chairman), Peter Robinson, Barry Cleghorn, Bob Stanton, Brian Smart, Serge Bonnafoux, Trevor Isitt, Steve McNeill, Paul Farrow, Bruce Kelly.

Co-opted Members: Malcolm Gilbert, (Federated Farmers) Cavan O'Connell (Ngai Tahu).

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker

Public: Keith Gibbs, Kelvin Wright, Chris Goom, Loris (French Student), Xavier (French Student)

- 1.1 Steve Terry introduced two visiting French Students who are here for 10 weeks assisting with various tasks in our region.
- 1.2 Martin Clements introduced and welcomed the new office administrator Debbie Ambler.
- 1.3 Cr Clements welcomed Melanie Kuipers, the outgoing office administrator, and thanked her for all her efforts. He presented her with a token of appreciation from Councillors (Gift Voucher at Bridgits of Merivale).

2. Apologies: Nil.

3. Notification of General Business

- 3.1 Trevor Isitt - Junior shooter area, Release of gamebirds
- 3.2 Cr Farrow - Fishing competition - Lake Coleridge Opening Day
- 3.3 Steve Terry - Salmon Counts
- 3.4 Cr Clements - advised that the meeting would be going "in-committee" at the end of the Council meeting.

4. Minutes from the Previous Meeting dated 11th April 2012

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted"

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux

Seconded: Cr Smart

Carried

5. Matters Arising/Action Sheet

Amendments:

- 5.1 Present: Councillors - Cr Robinson on twice

- 5.2 Item 7(d) NZ Council - amend Chris Glenshaw to read Chris Clenshaw
- 5.3 Item 7 (b iv) - Tony Hawker advised there has been no meeting with Mainpower to date
- 5.4 Item 7 (bii) - Rod Cullinane clarified background to the Silverfern Waimakariri discharge and what was happening prior to the pipeline closing at the end of July. It was requested by councillors they be notified when the opening day is so they can attend. Being seen as a good public relations exercise.
- 5.5 Item 8 (a) Cr McNeill asked when the OWP would be presented. Rod advised that this and the Budget would be presented at the next council meeting for final sign off as NZ Council has yet to sign off on the budget and until they did, we cannot lock in the figures in our budget and all items in the OWP.

6. Public Notification Session

A letter was tabled from Craig Maylam requesting the Council consider that Boggy Creek wetlands only be open on weekends for the next game season. General discussion centred on that although restricting access would be ideal, the wetland should be open to all.

"That the status quo be maintained."

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Smart

Carried

7. Reports

7.a Chairman's Report

The Chairman Cr Clements advised that he had had a meeting with Ian Henderson. Attended a Gamebird and Salmon/Trout sub committee meeting. Met with Lambie/Couch (Commissioners) on the subject of Waimakariri access points. General discussion followed about the boy racer issues further upstream and that this problem was not just a local issue. Cr Robinson to talk to Hamish about an article regarding access issues with the view to be published in the next Fish and Game magazine and that good examples of site access be highlighted.

7.b Staff Report

1.1.1.1 Anadromous Chinook Salmon - Cr McNeill asked if the budget for this programme was included in the operational working plan. Rod Cullinane explained that the project to survey the lower Waimakariri and Rakaia was in two parts; that the project needed to be scoped and then from there determine if it should proceed and what it should focus on. It was agreed that this matter be tabled again at the October Council meeting.

1.1.3.1 Fish Rescue - Cr Bonnafoux asked why Council members were not informed of the Amuri salvage and stated that he would have liked to assist. Rod Cullinane to re-institute advice

of selected upcoming activities to Council members. Debbie Ambler to agenda for next Operations meeting.

Rakaia WCO - Tony Hawker advised that because of the death of a Hearing Panel Member, Trustpower wanted all the evidence re-read in totality and that we would not know our position until the end of the year.

Selwyn Limits- Tony Hawker updated the council on the Selwyn nutrient setting workshops. Basically staff were becoming increasingly disillusioned with the use of the collaborative process for setting environmental limits. Tony Hawker gave examples of how the industry groups seem to remain unconcerned about contamination from intensive land use to our environment and drinking water.

1.4.1.1 ECan Pollution Hotline - Tony Hawker advised how the ECan hotline setup worked and said they were basically under resourced. They have made a commitment to do better in the future.

1.5.1.3 Enforcement - Cr Bonnafoux wanted more details. Rod Cullinane spoke about the meeting which had been arranged with the six persons alleged to have been involved with taking salmon from spawning habitat in the Waiau. However the meeting did not take place as the alleged offenders had taken legal advice. However a meeting had been held between staff and the President of the University Canoe Club. Rod also advised that Ross Millichamp who is now handling enforcement had spoken with both the lawyer and the University Registrar, and the matter is now proceeding to prosecution by Fish & Game. Cr Isitt commented that downstream, the publicity from this could deter future events like this happening.

Cr Clements commented that we are now taking prosecution matters more seriously and that they were being dealt with internally with Ross Millichamp responsible for all prosecutions.

1.5.1.2 The Ranger Complaint against Fish & Game - Cr Stanton stated that the person concerned should have been prosecuted and asked for a copy of the report. Cr Clements spoke about the report received from the person engaged by National Office to review the matter and advised Cr Stanton that there was no foundation whatsoever for bringing a prosecution.. He further advised that there were certain recommendations regarding dealing with complaints and that they were going to be incorporated into future internal Fish & Game procedures.

In summary, Cr Clements advised;

-that staff were working under very difficult circumstances and appreciated their efforts to date.

-that thanks be passed onto the Hatchery staff and volunteers for their continued efforts.

-that enforcement matters were now being handled in-house thanks to Rod Cullinane.

-that on the matter of the Otukaikino, Fish and Game need to seek leverage in the hope of getting a fish trap in any realignment plan.

7c. Financial Report

Rod Cullinane explained the comparison between the figures from the budget v Eyede. (Budget figures were gst exclusive and Eyede inclusive). Debbie Ambler to adjust Eyede figures excluding gst for future council reports. Rod Cullinane advised that the accounts will be brought in-house in September and will assist in providing more accurate figures. Cr McNeill asked where the financial responsibility lay - with Council or management. Cr Clements replied that it lay with the Manager on day to day matters and he in turn was responsible to Council with whom ultimate responsibility lay. Cr McNeill also asked about not seeing a list of cheques with the papers as was the case previously. Rod Cullinane replied that this information was not required at governance level. It was concluded that there needed to be adequate information circulated to ensure transparency of budget information. Cr McNeill to meet with Rod Cullinane to go through his concerns with the information.

7d. Portfolios

NZ Council - Cr Robinson gave background to the Licence Fee Increase. Licence fee setting was based on projects/research funding applications. General discussion followed on Mallard research funding and the Didson application. Cr Robinson suggested that high priority be given to the Didson funding application and should be submitted again next year.

Cr Robinson also explained the Conflict of Interest and Exclusive Capture matters.

Fish in Schools - John Crawley was welcomed to the meeting. Cr Crawley reported that 18 schools have tanks with one having two. He gave big thanks to all those involved with the programme in getting the tanks into the schools and the on-going representation from Fish and Game, with acknowledgement going to those who helped set up the programme. He said there was a lot of excitement in schools currently and the programme is gaining momentum to whittle the investment of 10 new feeders. Graeme from Papanui High School is looking at setting up a facebook page so kids can share experiences. Getting information out to schools was seen as a priority. John also said he needed assistance with school visits and needed a backstop list of people he could call on. Discussion on the visit by Kate Wilkinson MP to Ashgrove School. Debbie Ambler to ring Kate Wilkinson's secretary to organise another visit.

Young Hunters - Cr Stanton reported the initiative was ticking along with two schools involved. (Shirley Boys High School and Papanui High School).

Gamebird - Cr Isitt asked Council for endorsement to have a Young Hunters' wetland area set aside and be maintained in conjunction with ECAN and would be seeking funding for a wetland development in an area around Intake Road on the Upper Waimakariri.

"That the Council approves in principal the project for a junior shooting wetland area to be developed in conjunction with ECAN."

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Smart

Carried

Crs Isitt and Smart together with a Fish and Game staff member to take matter to Goose Shooters Committee to develop the project.

Gamebird Releases - Following discussion, it was agreed that Rod Cullinane would speak to Brian Ross to produce a report on the history and reasons why gamebird releases had not worked in the past and what options there might be to consider in order to boost activity options for game shooters. It was also suggested that Brian liaise directly with Cr Bonnafox. Cr McNeill suggested that a feasibility study be included in the next operational work plan.

PR & Liaison - Cr Farrow requested that Karl French be invited to a Salmon Management Meeting and Council Meeting after hearing him talk about fresh versus wild run salmon and various other very interesting associated matters.

He thanked Steve Terry for inviting David Caygill on the salmon count and that his (ECAN) staff needed to analyse photographs to see if the developments at some of the high country farming sites had been done in conformity with the legal requirements. A meeting between F&G and the landowners with eventual involvement from David Caygill and Mathew Hall was discussed.

Salmon/Trout - Steve Terry reported on the Committee Meeting held on Monday 11th June. He reported on cattle in steams and that the tenure report on the Poplars Station ignored all our recommendations. He advised that he was going to have another go at being heard.

Upper Poulter sediment issue - approximately 70 salmon may be lost because they can not get to the spawning grounds.

Steve gave a Powerpoint presentation on the state of the Waimakariri river salmon fishery. He expressed concerns about the sustainability of the fishery resource given the harvest rates. In particular he outlined the large discrepancy between the computer modelled figures and his own based on his observations over a 12 year period. He considers that the assumptions behind the accuracy of the residency times can greatly affect the results being reported. He concluded by saying that in his view the harvest rate is too high and that Council needs to consider the options having regard to the large discrepancy between the two sets of figures. Steve Terry to talk to Mark Webb and issue brought back to next Council meeting with two reports being produced - normal salmon report and Steves' thoughts.

Rangers - Cr Isitt reported they were looking at 5 new Rangers and stated there were quite a lot of interested parties. He reinforced the need for Rangers to get better at collecting data when offences occur and the Rangers need to be better educated on dealing/speaking to the public.

8. Meeting Business

8a. Save NZ Rivers Trust - Cr Clements spoke to the letter from Matthew Hall relating to appointing Trustees from our region to the Trust and asked all Council members that if there were any suitable candidates that they be brought to the attention of Rod Cullinane.

9. General Business

9a **Hydrawaters** - Steve Terry gave an update on angler access to the upper Hydrawaters and on-going liaison with the landowner.

9b. **Rusty's Thank you** - Rod Cullinane reported that he was concerned that the matter of appropriately thanking Rusty for his exceptional volunteer input did not set a precedent. Despite these concerns, both he and staff felt that it was justified and that it was proposed to purchase a gift of a night for two in Hanmer together with dinner at a local restaurant. Debbie Ambler advised that the total value would not exceed \$450. Rod advised that he had prepared a suitable letter of thanks to accompany the gift.

"That the Council approves rewarding Rusty for his efforts at the Hatchery to a value up to \$450.00 ."

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Kelly Carried

9c. **High Country Fishing Competition** - It was confirmed that this competition was in the same format as last year, that was raised by Keith Wright. Cr Farrow suggested that a new category be introduced for the longest fish. This was agreed. Cr Farrow happy to provide a prize and a measuring stick for this category.

9d. **Council Meeting** - Minutes, bi-monthly newsletter and staff reports to be put on to web site. That the staff report also be sent to Sean at Hothouse.

In Committee Martin Clements announced that there being no further business this section of the meeting open to the public closed at 10.10pm and as per Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the Council would go "In-Committee" and requested non council members to leave the meeting.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Next Council Meeting 15 August 2012. Venue to be advised.
Dinner at 6pm, meeting starts at 6.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.10pm