

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 16TH March 2016

At the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, 57 Riccarton Avenue, Addington

Commencing at 6.35 p.m.

1. Present:

Councillors: Trevor Isitt, John Cumberpatch, Ron Stuart, Charles Smith, Jacques Botha,

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Ryton Barr

Public: Approximately 110 attendees

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Denis Kelliher, Malcolm Gilbert, Ken Lee, Peter Robinson (lateness)

Staff: Emily Moore (lateness), Scott Pearson

Public: Tony Humphries

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: W Windleburn

CARRIED

Cr Isitt thanked those present for attending this meeting to give consideration to closing the fishing season for all sports fish on all rivers east of State Highway 1 from 1 May until 30 September.

After receiving a submission from B Southward who gave an account of the decline in numbers of sea run trout on the Rakaia River and with other factors such as the decline in mainstream flow reduction, spawning stream deterioration and an increase in fishing activity at river mouths, Council decided this was now an urgent matter and required stakeholder input before making a decision to close the fishery as stated.

Points raised in discussion;

- Celebrate the opening of the season
- Foul hooked fish on riverbed a concern
- Leave spawning fish to spawn
- Support initiative to ensure there is a fishery for future generations
- Reduce harvest numbers of fish
- Review in a couple of years, need to monitor to see if working
- Season should open on 1st November not October
- Ban bait fishing with under 12's using artificial bait
- Release trout in lower reaches
- Water take great concern, which in turn affects water flow

- Consideration given to number of fish caught in fishing competitions. Maybe a catch, photo, release an option
- Demise of small rivers/streams contribute to the decline of fish numbers in the main rivers
- Political pressure brought to bear on ECAN/farmers
- With shifting climates may need to look at moving seasons

An indication by show of hands was sought with unanimous support for the proposed action.

Correspondence received by stakeholders who could not make the meeting was tabled and discussed. D Ambler to inform those of outcome of meeting.

The public meeting closed at 7.45pm

The North Canterbury Fish and Game Council meeting (called to discuss 2016 / 17 OWP and Budget) resumed at 8.20pm.

1. Present:

Councillors: Trevor Isitt, John Cumberpatch, Ron Stuart, Charles Smith, Jacques Botha, Peter Robinson

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Ryton Barr, Emily Moore

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Denis Kelliher, Malcolm Gilbert, Ken Lee

Staff: Scott Pearson

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Smith

CARRIED

That after consideration to points raised in the public meeting (minuted above), North Canterbury Fish and Game Council resolved:

"That all waterways in North Canterbury east of State Highway One be closed to fishing for all sports fish from 1st May to 30th September each year".

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Botha

CARRIED

R Cullinane to investigate procedure for implementing including whether or not notification to the Minister of Conservation is required and speak to D Rood regarding a press release.

DRAFT 2016/17 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

General Discussion

- Focus needs to be on the environment
- A foundation document to outline each project in detail was required
- Increase budgets to meet income
- Possibly understaffed
- Need more public interface
- See what money is available from reserves to use for environment projects
- Need to spend more money on environment and hatchery to get better results

Discussion then focused on the increasing problem of fodder paddocks close to streams in the high country. ECAN compliance was seen to be a hole in the process. Staff to come up with suggestions to address the problem by next council meeting.

T Hawker and D Barr to look at lower Rakaia habitat with a view of adding stocking that part of the river in the 2016/17 stocking plan.

"That the 2016/2017 Operation Work Plan and Budget be adopted".

Moved: Cr Cumberpatch

Seconded: Cr Botha

CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____ Next

Next Meeting

Date: 20th April 2016

Time: 6.30p.m.

Venue: DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn