

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 19 October 2016

At the DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Malcolm Gilbert, John Cumberpatch, Denis Kelliher, Craig Maylam, Bruce Kelly, Alan Strong, Ron Stuart

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Debbie Ambler, Dirk Barr, Scott Pearson, Emily Arthur-Moore

Public: Tony Hallams

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Jacques Botha, Ken Lee

Staff: Richard Cosgrove

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

3. Notification of General Business

Nil

4. Health and Safety Update

R Cullinane reported that an updated national Health and Safety manual was currently being modified to North Canterbury specific requirements.

5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 24th August 2016 be accepted after recording Cr Stuart being absent".

Moved: Cr Lee

Seconded: Cr Smith

CARRIED

Note: Cr Stuart had provided an apology for absence and the minutes will be noted accordingly.

5b. Matters Arising

Items discussed from 15th June 2016 Meeting:

1. 6a iv Donations Received In Memory of Graham McDonald – After discussion with his widow, it was decided that a tree be planted in G McDonald memory.
2. 7b i. Development of McIntosh's – to be discussed under General Business.

Item discussed from 24th August 2016 meeting

3. 7a i. Ban on the Use of Leadshot – change inevitable. Concern was expressed of the earlier deadline for Gamebird Notice when the surveys were still to be completed.

Items to be taken off the Action Sheet

17th February 2016 – No 3 Lanyard for licence holders

15th June 2016 – No 6 Wheelchair and Blind disability – access to the Groynes

24th August 2016 – Donations received in memory of G McDonald

7. Meeting Business

7a i Angling Ethics – Catch and Release

Points raised in discussion;

- Promotion of catch and release to be done regionally for salmon as is for trout fishery;
- Have a page in the Regulations Book on “A How To Guide” to catch/release and handle fish once they have been landed;
- Limit catch and release to six in one day;
- Angling ethics should be a promotion and education exercise;

R Cullinane to write to NZC outlining discussion.

7a ii Land Occupier Licence to Hunt and Fish

Discussion focused on the information gap that currently exists by excluding land owners (or occupiers) from having to hold a Licence (gamebird in particular). That the reasons for requiring landowners to ‘purchase’ a licence at no cost would need to be clearly communicated or else it may be seen as information gathering with unclear ramifications for those affected.

:"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the proposed change for no cost fish or game licences for land owners (or occupiers) when fishing or hunting on their own property".

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Maylam

CARRIED

R Cullinane to write to NZC outlining discussion.

7a iii Functions for SOP Treatment

Each region was asked to consider their top 5 priorities of F&G functions that would lend themselves to initial SOP treatment. After discussion it was agreed that this was not necessary as there were national policies and procedures already in place and that regions required more flexibility to customise work methods.

R Cullinane to write to NZC outlining discussion.

7a iv Annual Aerial Trend Count of Paradise Shelduck, Black Swan, Mallard & Shoveler Duck and White Swan

D Barr stated that the new timeframe for notification of the Game notice to NZC (30 January 2017) was too early as the aerial trend counts would not be completed prior to this. The trend count flights could not be altered as Paradise Shelduck need to be counted at their moulting sites before taking flight. He stated the trend count sets the forthcoming season's regulations. A better timeframe for notifying NZC would be towards the end of February 2017. As there is no scheduled Council meeting until mid February 2017, the decision on any regulation change(s) would need to be made via email.

"That in the case of regulations relating to the Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan, that special consideration be given to a procedure of email correspondence, from staff recommendations immediately after annual aerial trend counts, to the Gamebird Advisory Committee and Council to ensure regulations reflect current population numbers".

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

7a v Whiskey Creek

D Barr reported timeframes for the project had been met to date which was largely due to the assistance of volunteers. A point was made of meeting with Lake Coleridge Village residence, who along with Trustpower seem very supportive and enthusiastic of the project. Future assistance by many of the locals was offered.

Raceway screens would be ready by mid November with feeders and timers in place by end of November 2016. The next stage would be the diversion of the creek with a temporary test to ensure that all diversions and the native fish bypass would be working as planned.

The release of 30,000 fin clipped salmon smolt at Whiskey Creek by 15th December 2016 would be recognised by a social occasion for all involved.

D Barr thanked volunteers R Tobin and W Henwood for their assistance with the project thus far.

\$7,500.00 (excl gst) was sought to complete the raceway and surrounding works in preparation for a workshop/shelter/storage shed to be erected.

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council supports the Whiskey Creek proposal, with a further sum of \$7,500.00 (excl gst) from the Rakaia Reserve to enable the completion of stages 1 and 2 which will enable imprinting of salmon in December 2016".

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

8. Reports**Restoration of Streams in the Ellesmere Catchment**

Cr Strong stated the current focus was on Cowles Road/Days Road system and was at the point of holding a stakeholders meeting to discuss a paper plan with a view of getting consensus to move forward to consent stage. He stated that funding for this project would be through "Living Stream" which is a Department of Conservation initiative.

8a. Chairman's Report – Cr Isitt stated he had been heavily involved with the Fresh Waters Programme.

8b. Staff Report

1211 – Resource Consents – That monitoring of the Hood's Irrigation Activity continue through 2016/2017 summer, with results being reported on once completed.

1213 – RMA Compliance – Meetings with ECAN were required to be held more regularly to enable a more consistent approach on compliance and enforcement matters.

Cawthron Study – Funding from reserves could be sought to further a study on water quality indicators and where some priority NC F&G rivers sit in comparison against the CLWP and Ecosystem Health levels.

Observation Monitoring Project – a proposal seeking funding would be submitted to the next Council meeting to complete a trial monitoring project in the Rakaia catchment.

1312 – Angler Access - As some angler access signage has been damaged, it was commented that the use of a reflective light (possibly blue) be put on gates instead of using stickers to denote angler access could be considered.

1411 – Statutory Liaison – It was identified that further training by ECAN staff on fish screens was required and this could be carried out in conjunction with a visit to the CPW.

8c. Financial Report

R Cullinane reported the prepared draft accounts had been handed to the Auditors which was well ahead of schedule compared to previous years. He gave a brief verbal summary of the year's results. The sales figures record that licence sales were down for the 2015/2016 season as a direct result of the change in licence categories with NZC having decided that the present model be run for a further year before evaluating it further.

Cr Isitt thanked R Cullinane for the positive financial results in recent years.

8d. NZC Report

Cr Robinson (as the delegate to the September NZC meeting in Cr Cumberpatch's absence) reported the Guides Licence policy was being finalised; that the F&G brand was being brought back from Fairfax Media to enable in house publication, with a policy currently on magazines being finalised; that an extra administration person was being appointed to the NZC office.

8e. Fresh Waters Programme

Cr Robinson reported on fundraising outcomes to date and the commitment of two major sponsors over a two year period. Cr Isitt spoke on the opportunities that were available to the Programme and the need to recognise as such.

8f. Building Update

R Cullinane reported the framing was up and the roof would be next. The estimated completion date would be late April early May 2017 and the build was on budget. It was advised there was only a very limited budget for landscaping and that to complete any significant work would be reliant on voluntary assistance.

R Cullinane also reported that a new kitchen would most likely be needed in the existing dwelling and the water supply upgraded before it could be rented and that the rent be used for the upkeep of the grounds.

8g. Salmon & Trout Advisory Committee Minutes

- **Development of the Otukaikino stream and streamside riparian enhancement with adjacent landowner involvement.** – Review application to Groynes Management for angler visit to Otukaikino perhaps May 2017. D Ambler to put on Action Sheet for December meeting.
- **Wheelchair and Blind Anglers Proposed Regulation Change** – proposal to grant 50% discount of licence category fee.

“That subject to further investigation, the proposal be supported”.

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Isitt

R Cullinane to check with NZC Policy & Planning Manager on discounting of licence fees.

- **Public Meetings** – recommendation to have public meetings in different district locations. D Ambler to put on Action Sheet for December meeting.
- **Nominees for Ian “Mac” McCrory Trophy** - Nominees were Wayne Henwood, Bill Southward and Dave Denton.

“That Dave Denton be nominated for the Ian “Mac” McCrory Trophy for 2016”.

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

- **Salmon Quest Game** – Great educational tool. Cr Robinson to take to Barrer & Co for comment/ incorporation into possible sponsorship opportunities then report back to next Council meeting.
- **Economic Value of Trout in NZ Survey** –
“That Cr Cumberpatch take the recommendation of including salmon in this survey to the next NZC meeting”.

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

9 General Business**9 c Cultural Name Change**

After discussion it was decided not to progress as this had already been presented/discussed at NZC level.

9 e Lanyards

Decision taken not to proceed on this matter.

Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition – 5 November 2016

Councillors were invited to stay overnight with staff prior to the fishing competition should they wish to do so.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15.pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Next Meeting – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 14TH December 2016 Time: 6.30p.m.

Venue: Christchurch Horticultural Centre, 57 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch