

- It was pleasing to be able to report a good surplus and thanked staff for their co-operation in coming under budget for the year as significant cost cutting had been undertaken.
- with the loss of the Contact Energy contract, turnover and expenditure for the hatchery would be significantly less in future years and further adjustments in expenditure would be required.
- the new internal accounting system was running well along with a more efficient banking system permitting much more timely and accurate control and management information.

General discussion followed on the hatchery and the amount and size of fish that would be raised. R Cullinane stated that NC F&G would raise fish to what could be afforded and would not be backing off what was available for release. R Cullinane then thanked D Barr and K Wright for their efforts achieving a high hatch rate of ova (>90%) this season.

R Cullinane went onto explain the refinement of staff responsibilities:

E Moore - working two days per week

D Barr - responsible for hatchery, compliance/ranging and gamebirds and thanked him for taking on the extra responsibility

S Terry - operations and field work

T Hawker - field work and environment issues

S Pearson - environmental advisor. With special thanks for all his efforts in achieving the outcomes over the past year.

A Currie - South Island Communications Advisor (NZN office). Andrew had increased the profile of Fish and Game significantly throughout this year.

P Robinson - Facilitator, Youth program launched mid-year.

Cr Robinson gave a brief overview of the 'Fish in Schools' program explaining there were tanks in classrooms raising salmon from the ova stage, the students learn about the environment as they grow, then release into rivers around Christchurch. He thanked D Barr for making fish available at the Groynes for over 300 children and their families who had taken part in the program. He also thanked sponsors for the program - North Canterbury Hunting and Fishing and Fishermans Loft for rods and tackle and Aqual for parts for the fish tanks. Cr Robinson reported that Jake Williams, a local 15 year old had been assisting in various activities and initiatives. He also thanked A Currie for setting up the Fish in Schools Facebook page and recording videos for the site. He then thanked Future Rivers for their sponsorship with the program start up. He also reported that Sticky TV would run regular segments involving kids in the Youth program next year.

R Cullinane stated that youth are our future and we need to encourage them so that they can play their part in protecting the environment for the future.

Cr Goom thanked R Cullinane and his wife for running North Canterbury Fish and Game from their home.

6. Presentation of the 2012/13 Annual Report

Staff Presentations: -

1. S Terry explained there had been a review of assessing the salmon spawning methodology relating to the salmon peak spawning count.
He spoke on high country changes with pasture development and intensification and the effects this had on rivers. He stated significant amounts of farm land had become freehold as opposed to lease hold following tenure review. He also advised that we were working with ECAN in monitoring water quality in high country streams and would be using French students in forthcoming years to assist with these projects.
2. D Barr explained his roles as Hatchery Manager and Compliance Officer. He stated there had been an increase of trout and salmon released into lakes and rivers this year and that income from orders had

increased. He reported the hatchery had been using two gravity fed raceways at Isaacs and we had secured a five year lease at Montrose. He thanked and appreciated the assistance given by volunteers and clubs throughout the year. D Barr then spoke on the changed focus and increased emphasis on ranging activity during the year and explained the perceived shortfall in ranging compliance within the gamebirds area.

3. T Hawker reported the Paradise Shelduck trend count was up on last year and that the birds had shifted to dairy farm irrigation ponds and not a downward trend as first thought. He stated F&G should be more proactive in educating young hunters for the future. He then went on to explain how the mallard count was carried out. P Armitage raised the issue of having more gamebird information in the Annual Report as it was lacking this year. R Cullinane commented the information was reflective as to the proportion of licence fee gathered but certainly took his comments on board. T Hawker commented that the Gamebird reports could go on the web-site.
T Hawker then spoke on drift dive trends on the Hurunui and stated he felt dydimo had an impact on these. General discussion on drift drive counts on the Waiau, Lake Coleridge and Upper Selwyn followed.
4. S Pearson explained his role as the Environment Advisor and outlined the impacts and threats from irrigation and intensive farming which were very large issues in the Canterbury region. He gave an update on final outcomes in the Hurunui Waiau Regional River Plan, showing both the wins and losses in this process. Further background was provided for the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and the rising battle over nutrient and phosphorous discharges. He said that Fish and Game is currently considering the option of appealing the Hearing Commissioners' decision.
5. Cr Isitt explained the issues surrounding the replacement of Van Eagans Hut which was burnt down mid-year and where the likely use of the insurance payout was to go. General discussion on DoC land and the usage of a building ensued. The comment from P Armitage that the payout should go back to gamebirds somehow was noted. He also raised the use of utilising scare-guns rather than issuing permits to shoot birds. R Cullinane to take the matter to the next Operations meeting.

"That the 2013 Annual Report be adopted"

Moved:

Seconded:

Not completed

7. Presentation of the Ian "Mac" McCrory Trophy for Volunteer of the year

P Robinson (President, New Zealand Fish and Game Council) commented and recognised the professionalism, passion and hard work of staff and that Fish and Game were often "fighting the fight" on our own in relation to environmental issues. He then spoke on the type of man Ian McCrory was, and the very significant and valuable voluntary contribution he had made to F&G. Following his insightful and entertaining speech he then awarded the Ian "Mac" McCrory Trophy to the late Bruce Moody. It was accepted by his widow Anne and four family members.

8. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

Presentations were made to K Rouse and G and S McDonald in appreciation for sponsoring fish releases into local streams and rivers.

Cr Clements thanked staff and wished all a merry Christmas.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

_____ Chairman

Date: _____