

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15TH August 2012,
in the DOC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn, Christchurch
commencing at 6:30pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements (Chairman), Peter Robinson, Barry Cleghorn, Serge Bonnafoux, Trevor Isitt, Steve McNeill, Bruce Kelly.

Co-opted Members: Cavan O'Connell (Ngai Tahu).

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Brian Ross, Dirk Barr, Ross Millichamp, Debbie Ambler

Public: Kelvin Wright

2. **Apologies:** Malcolm Gilbert, (Federated Farmers), Brian Smart, Bob Stanton, Paul Farrow.

3. Notification of General Business

3.1 Cr Clements - Regulations Change - Night Fishing Lake Coleridge

3.2 Cr Bonnafoux - CERT Course

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

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

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr McNeill

Carried

Amendments:

- i. Present: Public - Name change from Kevin to Kelvin Wright
- ii. Selwyn Limits - change wording "the industry groups seem to remain unconcerned..."
- iii. Item 7d. Fish In Schools - change "He" to "Mr" Crawley.....
- iv. Item 7d. Fish In Schools - change "involved in" to involved with"
- v. Item 7d. Salmon/Trout Report - R Cullinane explained that there needed to be a deeper investigation into the accuracy of data being used in the reports before presenting them to Council. It is now the intention to present these reports to Council at the October meeting, where time be specifically set aside to discuss them. After further discussion it was decided that R Cullinane contact the Salmon Anglers Association explaining that there would be a delay while further analysis was being done on the information gathered but that an interim report would be forwarded to them.
- vi. Item 9a under General Business - change hydrowaters to hydrawaters.

- vii. Item 7b - Anadromous Chinook Salmon (1111) - DoC to become DOC
- viii. Item 7b - Selwyn River Trout Monitoring (1114) - at the end of the first sentence, add the words after upper Ashley River "following a request from ECAN". Delete the rest of the paragraph.

Discussion ensued on how Councillors should be referred to in the Minutes - ie by Christian / full name or by 'Councillor' (Cr). It was decided to continue with the newly introduced format of Councillor (Cr) as this observed a degree of appropriate formality.

5. Public Notification Session

Nil

6. Reports

6.a Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Cr Clements reported he had spent much of his time in meetings with various agencies regarding the building at 3 Horatio Street and discussing possibilities for potential sites around the Christchurch area. He reported he was the only attendee at the Salmon/Trout Committee Meeting.

6.b Staff Report

Anadromous Chinook Salmon - Salmon Management Plan - R Millichamp reported that as the Management Plan had just been received, staff would need to meet to discuss any changes in response to it. He explained that progress was slow and legal advice had been received (initiated by DOC) as to whether it covered all the obligations in terms of management of the species under the Conservation Act. In light of this, further advice was now needed prior to submitting the Plan.

Ranging - Cr Clements read a letter from Mr Holmes regarding concerns about night fishing at Lake Coleridge and a possible change in regulations. R Millichamp to write a letter to Mr Holmes to thank him for his letter and that it would be kept on file to present at the next Anglers Regulations Working Party meeting and in the interim Honorary Rangers would visit the Lake to monitor compliance.

Resource Consents - T Hawker spoke on these points

Grassmere Station - still concerned over water quality. General conversation centered on the growth of dairy farms in the North Canterbury region and the effects this is likely to have on habitat and waterways. Cr Robinson expressed concern that F&G did not attend the Rakaia WCO hearings. R Cullinane commented that Managers at their August meeting together with the NZ Fish and Game Council Office were keen to share expertise which has been developed internally and cited the offer by National Office to make Corina Jordan available where her expertise could be used.

Mt Hutt Station - An application for consent to take water from Avalanche Creek had been made and that NC Fish and Game would oppose this. An application by Fish and Game seeking funding for further legal assistance on this matter had been supported at the August Managers meeting..

Ranger Training - Discussion on this matter would be taken 'in-committee'.

6c. Financial Report

6c i - Financial Summary - R Cullinane explained the A3 financial summary was not included in this meetings papers due to insufficient information. He reported that as from 1 September the accounts would be transferred to our office. He raised concerns over there being no financial forecasting tool presently available but this would hopefully be rectified when accounts were brought in-house.

R Cullinane reported he was investigating other banking options with possible sponsorship options and required Council approval before progressing.

"That the Council approves in principle R Cullinane to progress discussions regarding banking facilities and if appropriate invite the interested party to present a formal presentation at the next Council meeting in October."

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux

Carried

6c ii - Building Report - R Cullinane reported that the site at 3 Horatio Street would become part of the proposed new sports stadium. He reported that CERA would be offering market value on both the land and building whereas the insurance company was offering settlement on the building only. R Cullinane expects to hear from CERA in the next few weeks. He also reported that Mangers and the NZ Council Office had supported in principle North Canterbury region to borrow from National Reserves for rebuilding or purchasing should the need arise and also that they had supported an alternative request for assistance with lease costs.

6c iii - Vehicle Replacement - R Cullinane reported that a review of the existing vehicle fleet had been undertaken and due to financial constraints this had been put on hold for the last 2 years. Approval from Council was sought to purchase new vehicles on a replacement program over the next financial year as set out in the written submission presented with the Council papers.

"That the Council approves the replacement vehicle program on the basis as outlined, provided that it is within the reserves allocated for such purpose and that the cash flow of the organisation is not compromised."

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux

Seconded: Cr McNeill

Carried

6c iv - Operational Work Plan - this was submitted in the Council papers in final form with changes noted from the earlier draft.

"That the 2012/2013 Operational Work Plan as detailed in both the hourly and descriptive format be approved by Council and the 2012/2013 budget be approved by Council."

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

General discussion ensued particularly on identifying projects for the incoming two French students who were arriving this month for six months.

6c vi - Eyede Report - D Ambler spoke about the Eyede Income Licence Sales Report Comparison which showed that the NC Region is slightly up on 2011 sales as at 31 June 2012.

6d. Portfolios

NZ Council - Cr Robinson reported that most of the National Council meeting was 'In Committee'. They did however discuss non resident fishing licence which would be 1.3 x the whole season licence. Cr Clements asked Cr Robinson to pass on his concerns to the National Council about the lack of information to regions as a result of much of the business being discussed 'In Committee'.

Fish in Schools - It was stated that J Crawley wanted the education resource for the Fish in Schools program to be updated so it is able to be presented in a nationwide initiative.

6e. Lower Rakaia/Waimakariri Project

R Millichamp spoke about his paper on the 2012-13 Operational Work Plan that included a new project relating to the Lower Rakaia/Waimakariri river fishery and about concerns being raised about how little was known about these reaches and of a belief that more work in these locations would help raise the profile of Fish and Game amongst stakeholders.

"That the Council adopt the report of 24 April 2012 as a likely project in the 2013-14 financial year.

That the Council undertake an angler opinion survey and implement the Local Residents Communication Plan during the 2012-13 financial year.

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

6f. Compliance Program Report

Cr Isitt spoke about the tabled report relating to the new direction the Compliance Committee was taking in relation to training and support; having a tighter knit environment with the Honorary Ranger group; to place more focus on catching offenders; to implement regular communication between Fish and Game and Honorary Rangers; to recruit new members as others retire and to improve the quality and quantity of the written reports received from Honorary Rangers. Discussion followed on the issuing of complimentary licences to Honorary Rangers.

"That the Council endorse the new direction of the compliance program.

That the Council continue to provide complimentary fish and hunting licences to the Honorary Rangers who wish to receive them.

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Bonnafox Carried

7. Meeting Business

Agenda - Cr Clements commented that in future, matters that need Council resolution would be placed at the front of the Agenda. Cr Clements, R Cullinane and D Ambler to liaise.

B Ross Retirement - Cr Clements gave thanks on behalf of Council members to B Ross for all his tireless efforts over the past 35 years working with Fish and Game and wished him well with his future endeavours. He then presented B Ross with a retirement gift on behalf of the Council members. B Ross responded.

7a. Minister of Conservation - Approvals for Licence Increase - Completed.

7b. 2013 Rakaia Fishing Competition - Rakaia River Fishing Promotions Incorporated sought approval from Council to hold its annual Fishing Competition in 2013.

"That approval be given to allow the 2013 Rakaia Fishing Competition to take place."

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Kelly Carried

R Cullinane to advise outcome to Rakaia River Fishing Promotions.

7c. Sub Gauge Exemption to the Use of Non-Toxic Shot - Cr Isitt spoke to the letter submitted by B Johnson Chief Executive, Fish and Game New Zealand on behalf of Southland Fish and Game Council, requesting that Councils look at the sub-gauge exemption to use lead shot and whether or not changes be allowed to use only non-toxic shot to be used while hunting waterfowl over water. General discussion followed on the types of shot sizes used to shoot ducks and the resulting effects of using such and also the environmental impact on ducks with lead poisoning.

“That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council do not support the recommendation from the Southland Fish and Game Council about removing the sub-gauge exemption to use lead shot and advise the NZ Council as to its views”.

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Cleghorn Carried

R Cullinane to advise NZ Council of the decision.

7d. Report to Council re Practicality of Game Bird Releases to Supplement Existing Stocks - B Ross presented his report on the history of game birds in New Zealand, their arrival, the success and/or failures in rearing and the establishment of a variety of game birds throughout Canterbury and elsewhere through out the country. Good discussion followed including the topics of bag limits and the game bird season review in 2014. B Ross in conclusion summed up by stating that there should be a precautionary approach to game birds and suggested the status quo be kept with emphasis on monitoring.

7e. Report on Possibilities of Adding Value to the Game Bird Licence - B Ross spoke about his report with the main points being to lobby special interest groups to reinstate the goose hunting competition which would encourage hunters to shoot geese and significantly assist in their control; to consider Fish and Game sponsorship prior to the duck hunting season at local gun clubs; to lobby landowners and irrigation companies to allow Fish and game balloted or organised hunting on water storage dams and ponds and expand the "young hunters' program with more co-ordination with outside agencies to assist in doing this.

D Ambler to send Cr Isitt reports mentioned in 7d and 7e to enable him to present at the next Game Bird Sub-Committee Meeting.

As a sideline, B Ross suggested that a trout release programme for high country lakes be instigated to look after the angling fraternity.

8. General Business

8a. Rules to be Applied to the Coarse Fishing Club Members at Take a Kid Fishing Day - Cr McNeill said this issue need to be addressed. General discussion followed on the need to establish rules and inform rangers and participants of them and the possibility of setting aside a demo area so newcomers can be shown the techniques of fishing. That when informing all of TAKF, have the criteria for each pond set out in the letter. D Barr to talk to D Denton.

8b. CERT Training - Cr Bonnafoux wanted to acknowledge the efforts of R Millichamp and the Compliance Committee for the work carried out for the recent training.

In Committee Cr Clements announced that there being no further business this section of the meeting open to the public closed at 9.40pm 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 and staff to leave the meeting.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.45pm