**FISH & GAME NZ – WEST COAST REGION**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2014**

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Dean Phibbs, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chairman), Jean Willis, Dave Heine 7.10pm

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Rhys Adams (Officer), Leanne Johnson (Administration Officer), Tim Shaw (DOC), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Nick Moody, Terry Parkinson.

**APOLOGIES:**  Rob Roney

*Resolved: (J Derks/B Erickson), carried.*

***That the apologies be received.***

Mr Harris congratulated Rob Roney on his appointment to the West Coast Conservation Board.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER:** No conflicts of interest were noted.

**MINUTES**

Resolved: (D Phibbs/B Erickson), carried

**That the Minutes of the April 2014 meeting, as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Mr Phibbs enquired about the Crooked River access issue. Mr Kelly provided an update including the proposal by the Grey District Council to close Heaphy Road at Haupiri.

Mr Willis commented that the NZ Council has discussed the same issue regarding district councils not fulfilling their obligations regarding roads.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Letter from Northland F&G to NZC:

Mr Willis said we just need to receive it.

*Resolved: (J Derks/D Heine), carried*

***That the letter from the Northland Council be received.***

NZC - Licence Fee Recommendation:

Mr Kelly provided an overview of the process and stated that in the attached proposal the West Coast Region would receive an increase of $6000 to its base funding.

Mr Willis provided an overview of the NZ Council process and commented that the application for funding of a youth program by the North Canterbury region was denied.

*Resolved: (J Derks/ B Erickson), carried*

**That the West Coast Region supports the NZ Council licence fee recommendation to the Minister.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Phibbs questioned the licence income figures. Mr Kelly stated that the budget figure needed work to better align with periods of higher licence sales.

Mr Phibbs enquired about the Okuru hut maintenance with Mr Kelly stating that maintenance will now be performed by staff.

*Resolved: (D Phibbs /J Derks), carried.*

**That the Financial Report be received**

# MANAGERS REPORT

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bimonthly operational report. Expanding on;

* Mr Phibbs enquired about salmon spawning with Mr Adams providing an update.
* Mr Kelly informed the Council that a review of gamebird regulations was in progress.
* Mr Smith enquired about Fisheries Enhancement and the meeting with Development West Coast. Mr Kelly provided some background.
* Mr Kelly provided an update on online licencing issues for the gamebird season.
* A review of insurance has been completed with more comprehensive insurance and a different broker.

Mr Adams presented the Investigation of the Mawheraiti River Brown Trout Fishery Report. Stating that it builds on last years report and further outlined some concerns regarding the fishery. Mr Heine questioned high toxicity levels in high flows with staff committing to investigating the issue.

Mr Adams presented the Greylard Trend Surveys and received questions on the report

Resolved: (B Erickson/D Heine), carried

**That the council receive the, Investigation of the Mawheraiti River Brown Trout Fishery Report, Greylard Trend Survey Report and the Managers Operational Report and commend Mr Adams on a thorough investigation.**

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Willis provided an overview of the NZ Council meeting. Mr Willis stated that Lou Sanson the newly appointed Director General of Conservation attended the meeting and gave a talk. Mr Willis also commented that approved National Legal Cases will now be required to have someone responsible for them.

*Resolved: (J Willis/J Derks), carried*

**That the NZ Council Report be received.**

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Anglers Notice(Recommendation to Minister):

Mr Kelly sated that he is proposing no changes to the anglers notice unless there is a favourable response from the other South Island Regions to the request for support to remove the ban for felt soled waders in the South Island.

*Resolved: (D Phibbs/M Smith), carried*

***That the West Coast Region recommend no changes to the West Coast Sportsfishing regulations unless there is a favourable response from other South Island Regions to remove the ban for felt soled waders in the South Island.***

Terry Parkinson (public*)*

Mr Parkinson spoke about 20 gauge shot, the reason for the change, and the politics involved. Mr Willis asked if Mr Parkinson was for or against 20 gauge shot and why he wanted it to remain the status quo. Mr Parkinson stated that he doesn’t want it to change. Mr Harris said it is under review by NZC. Mr Parkinson said the debate will always be long and robust and there is reason for concern considering Greylards are declining in some regions.

Budget, Operational Workplan & Policies (Draft for approval):

Mr Smith noted that the updated version of the enhancement policy was missing from the workplan. Mr Kelly apologised for the error and committed to correcting the version. Mr Derks bought up about noting that the dates for drift dives reports were unrealistic, Mr Kelly committed to fixing the error.

Mr Smith enquired about reduced licence sales and how that would impact our budget. Mr Kelly provided some background to the budgeting process.

Mr Derks noted an incorrect reference to Canada Goose in the Gamebird Predation Policy. Mr Kelly committed to fixing the error.

Mr Phibbs enquired about adequate resourcing of gamebird monitoring. My Kelly stated that this is always a moving target and that he is in favour of more resources being provided for species management.

Mr Moody noted that North Canterbury Gamebird numbers were improving.

*Resolved: (D Heine/J Derks), carried*

**That the 2014/15 Operational workplan with amendments noted be approved..**

Councillor Recognition Medals:

Mr Kelly enquired with councillors about allocation of councillor service medals. The consensus was that only the longest period service medal be awarded to those eligible for multiple medals.

Mr Erickson asked Mr Shaw about the access options for fishing between the gorges of the Hokitika River. Mr Erickson also mentioned about Mr Harcourt having a stile over his fence. Mr Shaw committed to talking to Mr Davidson at DOC regarding this issue. Mr Shaw said that if the track had gone ahead it would have fixed all of that.

Meeting closed at .8.21pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….