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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2014**

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 6.55pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Rob Roney (Deputy Chairman), Dean Phibbs, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Dave Heine

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

**APOLOGIES:**  Andy Harris, Jean Willis, Nick Moody. Gary Webbs attendance and its effect on quorum numbers was discussed.

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

***That the manager, on behalf of council, write a letter clarifying Mr Webbs status and that the apologies be received.***

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

**MINUTES**

Mr Derks noted that a motion proposed not passed in the minutes of August meeting. Mr Kelly noted the error and corrected it.

Resolved: (B Erickson/D Phibbs), carried

**That the Minutes of the August 2014 meeting, with the amendment noted above, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Mr Phibbs produced a letter by Graeme Marshall in the Rod & Rifle magazine for circulation. He noted that this was regarding the felt soled wader ban which the West Coast Region had written to the other South Island Regions about. He suggested the council write to the CSI and Otago Regions, as the council had received no response from these regions.

Resolved: (D Phibbs/D Heine), carried

**That the Manager on behalf of council write a letter to the Otago and CSI regions, to gauge their support for removal of the ban in the South Island.**

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Mr Phibbs enquired about the location of the Buller mining application. Mr Adams responded

Mr Heine enquired about the Blackwater Creek Gold Project. Mr Adams responded

Mr Roney enquired about the black sand beach mining application from Paringa Gold Ltd.

Mr Smith questioned the pollution noted by whitebaiters in the Hokitika river and if anyone had heard anything. Mr Climo stated that he had heard it had come from the gravel island.

Letter from NZC - Co-ordination & Audit Function Legal Opinion:

Mr Roney explained the audit function. Mr Kelly stated that he wasn’t aware of any completed audits to date but noted that one was proposed for the CSI Region.

Mr Smith enquired as to whether Health & Safety is a part of the Audit Function. Mr Roney stated that he thought it could be.

Mr Kelly stated that since his appointment, he has requested a copy of Approved National Polices that have been through the consultation process, and his frustration with procuring this information.

Mr Roney proposed that the region write as a council to have a list of these polices provided.

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

**That the Manager, on behalf of council, write to the NZ Council requesting a list of approved National Polices which have been through the consultation process.**

Letter from NZC - Fishing Guides Licence:

Mr Roney requested any questions or comments on this topic, he mentioned it has taken a long time to get this far.

Mr Heine enquired about the Prosecutions Policy in the NZ Council Minutes. Mr Kelly said it is the same operational policy the West Coast Region adopted in February. Mr Kelly further stated that he favours the process, as it removes bias from the decision making.

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

***That the inwards correspondence be received.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Kelly provided an overview of the final profit & loss for the year. He made the council aware that as predicted we will be making a loss this year and using reserves. He also stated that the region is currently going through the audit process. Mr Kelly made the council aware of the LEQ targets for licence sales not being reached.

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

**That the Financial Report be approved.**

# MANAGERS REPORT

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

* Birchfield Minerals Ltd application for consent on the Grey River with a proposed hearing date mid November. This is to be a joint hearing between Greymouth District Council & West Coast Regional Council. Birchfield Minerals have supplied no more information from the last hearing. Mr Heine commented about the cost and time of contesting the application. Mr Kelly stated that we will be seeking legal advice regarding costs. Mr Heine stated that the consent lapses if the dredge doesn’t work for a certain period of time and that Birchfield Minerals can also apply for a break down period of 2 years.
* Crooked Gate Access – Mr Kelly had written to the Grey District Council and got a response from Paul Pretorius stating that the lock had been removed. Mr Adams had checked and this was not the case. Mr Heine stated that the lock was present a week ago.
* Heaphy Road Stopping – Mr Kelly stated that the road stopping had been notified and he had contracted Anderson Lloyd Lawyers to prepare the Fish and Game Submission. He informed the council, the entire formed road to the river may be legal road, as government funds had been spent constructing it, it had been used by the public and a survey plan was lodged in 1933.
* 1080 & Trout – Mr Kelly provided an overview of the research and issues. He stated that it was best to get all the information to anglers for them to make informed decisions. He further stated that the likelihood of an angler in a real life situation getting poisoned were slim. Fish and Game are pushing for more research in a wild situation, other than laboratory testing.
* Non-residents licence – Mr Kelly informed the council that there had been teething issues with overseas anglers who bought whole resident season licences instead of a non-residents licence. If you aren’t a permanent resident or NZ citizen you are only eligible for a non-resident licence.
* Okuru Hut – The hut water tank has a slow leak. Mr Kelly will fix the issue in the coming month. A deposit has been paid for the re-cladding.

Mr Heine raised an access issue at the confluence of the Haupiri and Ahaura Rivers. The Butcher property has been leased to Murray Coates. Access is being restricted to the road down the stop bank. Mr Kelly will investigate.

Mr Derks enquired about attendance numbers for Junior Fishing Day – Mr Kelly stated that approximately 80 juniors attended on opening day with a great add in the paper about the follow up day on the Tuesday. There had been issues with Salmon survivability which reduced catch rates. Despite this it was an excellent success with improvements already planned for next year.

Resolved: (J Derks/D Heine), carried

**That the Managers Operational Report be received.**

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Willis provided a pre-circulated report on the NZ F&G Council Meeting that was held in Wellington on Friday 19 September 2014.

Mr Roney commented about the region and the appointee who is the centre of controversy at the meeting. Mr Roney advised the council about Governors Workshop on Saturday November 22nd for the Regional Chair and Manager.

Mr Heine enquired about the mallard research having a completion date, Mr Kelly said there was a commitment of 3 years funding with regular updates provided on the website and via social media. As of February next year Mr Kelly will be the research co-ordinator.

Mr Kelly went over the agenda and to circulate items to councillors of the Governors Workshop meeting

*Resolved: (B Erickson/D Phibbs), carried*

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

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Shaw stated that he had talked to John Thomas of Westport DoC regarding the Heaphy Road stopping and that advice had been given to the Federated Mountain Clubs.

Mr Smith provided a review of the Locals for Locals Event attended by Councillors Erickson, Harris and Smith. Approximately 80 people attended with 40 of those attending stands. Ruud Kleinpaste saved the day in his opinion. Mr Smith commented that it wasn’t marketed very well and stated that Fish and Game would have to look seriously at going again. Mr Erickson commented that there was teething issues and that the speeches went too long. Mr Kelly thanked the three council members for attending.

Honorary Ranger Program:

Mr Kelly initiated a discussion about the Honorary Ranger Program. The catalyst being the likely resignation of two long term rangers, who are frustrated with recent changes to the program.

Mr Phibbs stated that there is an increasing amount of red tape, it is increasingly becoming like professional law enforcement, he feels it’s the wrong direction for voluntary people. Further reasons given for dissatisfaction were; implementation of new regulations were sometimes embarrassing to enforce, refresher training was over the top.

Mr Heine stated that with too much to remember the chances were high of making a mistake that could be challenged in court. Mr Heine stated that it was getting too technical for part time rangers.

Mr Kelly stated that they were all valid issues and perhaps the reason why Fish & Game is the only organisation that still has unpaid honorary rangers, that he is aware of. He also commented that different classes of rangers, with differing authority have been mooted.

Mr Adams stated that it is consistent around the country, a lot of the rangers have been let go that are over 70, we need to be more professional, and that compliance is getting more dangerous. He stated that Offence Notification Booklets are too big and that he is working on new booklets, folders, vests, but it takes time and resources.

Mr Roney suggested it may be worth raising it at the upcoming Governance Forum.

Mr Shaw commented that interestingly this issue is mirrored in DoC. Stating that very few DOC staff are warranted anymore.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….