

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 16th April 2014,
At DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn
Commencing at 6.37pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements, Bruce Kelly, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Cavan O'Connell, Paul Farrow, Ken Lee, Garth Free, Chris Goom

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Dirk Barr, Debbie Ambler, Scott Pearson

Public: Richard Weaver, Keith Gibbs, Jake Williams

2. Apologies

Councillors: Serge Bonnafox, Malcolm Gilbert, Brian Smart

Staff: Emily Moore, Tony Hawker

R Cullinane questioned councillors on their receipt of meeting papers. C O'Connell stated he had received his on the 15th April. D Ambler to investigate.

"That the apologies be accepted".

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

3. General Business

a. Boggy Creek Ballot- Cr Isitt

b. Attitude of the Farming Community Representative in the Rural Community - Cr Free

c. Access - Cr Goom

4. a. Minutes from the Previous Meeting Dated 19th February 2014

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Lee Carried

Cr Clements requested that under 7b. last sentence be removed from the minutes.

4 b. Matters Arising /Action Sheet

Gamebird Sub Committee: Cr Isitt expressed concern that the Gamebird subcommittee was not advancing. R Cullinane to again ask B Smart what his intentions were regarding the committee.

R Cullinane to look at "ongoing" items on the Action Sheet and readjust responsibilities if and as required.

Building Update: Cr Goom advised that the Johns Road plans were moving forward with the landscape plans nearly completed. A resource consent application to change the land use was about to be lodged with the CCC. The Council thanked Cr Lee for regularly mowing the lawns at the Johns Road property.

Kahawai Fishing: Debate on the ECAN regulations relating to where the Waimakariri river meets the sea and how far from the coast line going inland can an angler fish for salmon/trout. R Cullinane read out

the regulations from the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations. R Cullinane to investigate any case law/issue further.

5. Public Session

- a. K Gibbs wanted an update on the salmon release into the Ashburton Lakes. As this was a Central South Island matter, no one was able to answer the question.
D Ambler to check with Hothouse Communications to see if they have his correct email address.
- b. Cr Robinson introduced Jake Williams to the meeting outlining his role as a youth mentor/role model to the Youth Programme. He explained the background and reasoning for J Williams involvement in the Programme and went on to outline the successes of the Youth initiative over the past year. The growth of schools wanting to join the programme and the numbers of organised groups that, with the assistance of J Williams, fished at the Groynes last year was encouraging. P Robinson stated that J Williams was growing in confidence and that the children responded well to him.
J Williams replied by stating he was a keen fly fisherman and that he enjoyed the involvement with the programme. He highlighted the need to not only target children, but their parents as well.
A Currie added that Sticky TV had a segment called "Hooked On Fishing" which was a step by step guide on how to fish which showed on the first Saturday in each month. He stated there had been a good response relating to competitions in this segment thus far.
R Cullinane commented he had completed an application for full funding of the programme which he will be presenting to the Managers' Meeting on the 28th and 29th April.
- c. As Cr Robinson had the floor, he continued with the National Council report. He outlined the minutes from the NZC Council meeting held in Methven.
After a question relating to the NZC decision on sub-gauges, Cr Robinson to seek out the original resolution.
Cr Robinson commented on the new licence categories being introduced. This raised questions on the practices of regional representatives being heard on the National Council.
Cr Robinson stated he had resigned from the Chairmanship of the NZC to devote more time to the Youth Programme and its growth.

6. Meeting Business

6a i. Drift Dive Report

After discussion and in answer to a question raised, S Terry explained that the drift dive programme had expanded over the years and was now used to support environment issues and to assist in making recommendations. The report was also used to help monitor changes and assist in protecting the rivers and waterways, particularly in the Hurunui zones.
Cr Free stated that care was needed as to brood stock placement due to the number of large jacks dominating the small to medium fish found in many Canterbury headwater fisheries. He suggested a research project with a budget along side be put into the Operational Work Plan.

"To continue to monitor the Hope, Boyle and Hurunui drift dive sites to monitor trends in fish populations at these sites".

Moved: Cr Free

Seconded: Cr Farrow

Carried

6a ii. New Licence Categories and Phasing Out Paper Licences

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game (with disappointment and reservation) support;

1. New fishing licence categories to be introduced in two phases as per the tables presented;
2. Final licence details to be reported back to NZC in May 2014 before submission to the Minister of Conservation for approval in the Fishing Licences, Fees and Forms Gazette Notice".

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Robinson Carried

General discussion followed on the requirement to consider the impact of any change to the licensing system on licence agents. D Ambler spoke on some of the concerns raised by smaller agencies.

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game support the strategy to phase out paper licences prior to a date and strategy which will be confirmed at the September 2014 NZC meeting."

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Kelly Carried

6a iii. Draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) and Budget

S Terry presented the draft OWP and asked for questions/concerns:

1. **1311** - Cr Goom stated more work needed to be completed on access points. He suggested that paper roads be investigated and if needed, seek permission to use. S Pearson suggested a collaborative approach with the Access Walking Commission be raised. Cr Free suggested that the Walking Access brochure be reviewed to look at legal access points and see if F&G would be able to use them. R Cullinane to allocate sufficient hours as per discussion, as issue seen as a high priority and that the Waiau River be the first to be investigated;
2. **1111** - Cr McNeill suggested that the month change from August to October for presentation of the Salmon Management Report and that to meet the Fish and Game Work Plan, the report, if ready, be emailed to Councillors for approval. S Terry to check with staff.
3. **1116** - To adapt the Cawthron hours if needed to accommodate further investigation to enable a written report to be presented. Staff to set date for report to be presented.
4. **1232** - Lake Ellesmere Maimai Agreement - include the removal of maimais in the "planned result".
5. **Pheasant Rearing** - S Terry suggested that \$500.00 be included in the budget to get the project underway. S McNeill stated the fund could be used by independents to raise the pheasants. Staff to give consideration to pheasant rearing and the fencing for.

6a iv. Pub Charity Funding

"That the Council approve an application for Pub Charity Funding to be submitted for a vehicle up to a maximum value of \$15,000.00 and;

That the Council approve a further application for Pub Charity Funding to be submitted for an enclosed lockable trailer for the sand wand equipment to the value of \$5,000.00." (note: this is an update of a previous motion, not in addition to)

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Isitt

Carried

6b i. Proposal for Changes to the Salmon Catch Limit

Debate was held on the paper submitted by Cr Isitt relating to bag limits and of a tagging system after fish had been landed. Points raised were:

- An article for catch and release be put into the next fishing magazine;
- That overseas findings suggest a high mortality rate with the catch and release practice;
- Logistically, the task of getting tags to licences holders would be a large one;
- That a culture change was necessary to change the attitude relating to catch limits;
- On the Kaiapoi River, change the bag limit to one, limit hours of fishing, and ban "lumos";

A decision was taken that the matter be discussed at the next Salmon/Trout Sub Committee meeting to formulate a plan to bring back to Council with recommendations. S Terry to discuss with Central South Island F&G and advise on the outcome of our Council's decision once it had been made.

Cr Clements thanked Cr Isitt for the paper.

Cr Robinson and J Williams left the meeting at 9.00p.m.

6b ii. Northern Outlook Articles & Media Strategy

A Currie (South Island Communications Advisor) gave background to a series of articles in the Northern Outlook with the question being raised as to where our public relations strategy was heading. Cr Free tabled articles throughout other publications relating to the dairy industry. D Ambler to circulate to Councillors. After discussion it was decided that R Cullinane put together a committee to assist with media strategy comprising of A Currie, S Pearson, Cr Free, Cr Lee, Cr Goom, E Moore.

6b iii Askeaton Boat Ramp Submission (Cr Robinson)

T Hawker and P Robinson to submit in favour of retaining the current position of the Askeaton boat ramp when the plan to move it is publicly notified by the Waimakariri District Council.

7 Reports

7 a Chairman's Report

Cr Clements explained that after 13 years as Chairman, he felt that it was time for him to step aside as Chairman at the end of this term in 2014. He explained that his relocation to Banks Peninsula was also a factor in his decision. He suggested that Councillors might like to start giving some thought as to who might replace him..

7 b. Staff Report

1141 Hatcheries

D Barr reported there were record numbers of fish returning to the trap at Montrose and that stripping would commence on the 23rd April.

7 c. Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that the financial position was tracking well and within budget and that both fish and game sales were up slightly from last financial year.

7 d. New Zealand Council Report

Reported on earlier.

7 e. Youth Programme Report

Reported on earlier.

7 f. Portfolio Reports

Media - Cr Farrow reported that City Care had taken over the problem of the cleanup of the cones in the Avon River.

D Ambler to send out a letter of thanks to The Fisherman's Loft, The Complete Angler and Hunting and Fishing for their recent sponsorship of the Rangers' Fishing Competition.

Salmon/Trout Committee - Cr McNeill advised that the inner city works happening around the Avon would cease during trout spawning.

That a meeting be held by the Committee to discuss fish releases as suggested in the draft Operational Work Plan and give advice at the next Council meeting.

Compliance - D Barr advised new honorary rangers have been appointed with a couple on the waiting list. R Cullinane to discuss the new Search and Surveillance Act at the Rangers meeting on the 23rd April. He also advised there were four prosecutions underway.

8. General Business**8a Boggy Creek**

Cr Isitt advised the Canterbury Rod and Gun Club had asked F&G to consider allocating one maimai position at Boggy Creek on a permanent basis to them. Cr Isitt to ask the Club to put a proposal forward for consideration at the next Council meeting.

8b. Draft Rakaia River Information Signage

Draft needed F&G logo.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Chairman: _____

Dated: _____

Next Meeting: 18th June 2014

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: TBA