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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2014**

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Rob Roney, Dean Phibbs, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chair), Jean Willis, Dave Heine

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

**APOLOGIES:**  Mark Smith, Jan Derks

*Resolved: (R Roney/D Heine), carried.*

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

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

**MINUTES**

Resolved: (B Erickson/R Roney), carried

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

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Mr Roney asked about the access issue at the Crooked River – Mr Kelly responded stating that the status quo remained with the Grey District Council reluctant to enforce its request to the landowner involved.

Mr Phibbs enquired about the amount of legal correspondence. Mr Adams informed the council that it was all in relation to two ongoing prosecutions and provided an update.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Memo to regions regarding licence categories – NZ Council:

Mr Harris presented the NZ Council licence paper. Mr Kelly explained that the NZ council were providing the paper as an update for regions.

Mr Heine commented that it has failed in reducing the number of categories. Mr Kelly responded that the changes were more geared toward the licence holder survey and the poor fit of licences to the way anglers and hunters use the resource. Mr Willis stated that it is now about getting it done. The council noted receipt of the paper

Memo to regions regarding paper licence phase out – NZ Council:

Mr Harris presented the NZ council paper regarding the phasing out of paper licences.

Mr Heine raised concerns about the availability of licences after hours to anglers and hunters that aren’t proficient with the internet.

*Resolved: (J Willis/B Erickson), 5 for/1 against, carried*

 ***Support agency online & phasing out of paper licences & other recommendations made by Robert.***

*Resolved: (B Erickson/R Roney), carried*

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Erickson enquired about the costs associated with lake netting. Mr Kelly informed the council that the financial report only represents external costs and there were none associated with the Lake Ianthe netting program. He further stated that internal costs through staff hours were reported in the Managers Report for that project.

A general discussion ensued about the format of the financial report.

*Resolved: (R Roney/ D Phibbs), carried.*

 **That the Financial Report be received**

# MANAGERS REPORT

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

* Managers involvement in a financial review committee
* Inangahua Hydro, Grey Dredge and Waitaha Hydro.
* Managers performance appraisal.
* Junior Gamebird Hunting at Gun Clubs with a thank you extended to Mr Derks for transporting juniors from Hari Hari.
* Ranger Weekend at Paringa
* The excellent Salmon season and associated releases. Mr Phibbs enquired about Canterbury reports regarding the economic value of Salmon fisheries to the local community. Mr Roney suggested Otago may have something similar and Mr Erickson suggested there may have been an analysis of the Rakaia Salmon competition.

Mr Adams presented the Drift Dive Survey Report. Mr Phibbs enquired about the Mawheraiti raising concerns about the absence of a bounce back in the fishery. Mr Kelly informed the council that the regional council are taking a close look at the catchment, in particular, water abstraction. Mr Heine suggested a change of direction by Fish and Game may be required.

Mr Kelly stated that the depressed state of fisheries is regional and not confined to the Mawheraiti. Mr Roney suggested a review of all the information at hand.

Mr Adams presented the Paradise Shelduck Moult Survey Report. He informed the council that he had observed lower counts than in past years. A general discussion ensued regarding council options to ensure a sustainable harvest. Mr Kelly offered to raise the issue at the Gamebird regulation setting meeting in December.

Mr Adams presented the Game Bird Harvest Survey Report. He informed the council of the record low for Paradise Shelduck harvest. Mr Roney enquired about the telephone surveys, questioning whether data is included for people out of this region. Mr Adams stated the results did not include out of region hunters.

Resolved: (D Phibbs/D Heine), carried

**That the council receive the Drift Dive Survey report, Paradise Shelduck Moult Survey report and the Game Bird Harvest Survey report.**

 Resolved: (D Heine/R Roney), carried

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

Meeting adjourned with Mr Climo leaving the meeting at 8.30pm

**SUPPER**

Meeting resumed at 8.45pm.

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Willis provided an update from the recent NZ Council meeting. He informed the council that there needs to be a staff member responsible for legal costs. He stated that in relation to RMA cost, the NZ Council will be putting pressure on Regional Councils to do their job. He also informed the council that Peter Robinson (NZC Chair) resigned in the last minutes of the meeting.

 *Resolved: (D Phibbs/D Heine), carried*

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

# GENERAL BUSINESS

2014/15 Draft Budget:

Mr Kelly presented a draft 2014/15 budget. He provided an overview of the process through to approval by the Minister. Mr Kelly stated that he could no longer refine the budget to cover inflationary pressures and that he would be applying for contestable funding for inflationary costs.

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

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council receive and approve the pre-circulated draft 2014/15 Budget***

Felt Soled Waders:

Mr Heine raised issues regarding the ban on felt soled waders and safety, stating that; He had ran into anglers from Otago & they laughed at him for asking if they had cleaning equipment with them. He feels even Fish and Game are a bit lax about it. He further stated that Didymo appears to be everywhere in the South Island. Mr Phibbs endorsed the comments made by Mr Heine.

*Resolved: (D Heine/D Phibbs), carried*

***That the Manager, on behalf of Council, canvas support from the other SI councils on this issue. A draft email of the letter to other regions will be circulated to councillors for approval before sending.***

Mr Johnson from DoC introduced himself and gave some background, and suggested that DoC may support an appeal to the Minister regarding the felt soled wader ban.

Mr Heine enquired about the Grey Dredge and an application for resource consent. Discussion ensued about options and effects of the activity with Mr Heine suggesting councillors take time to inspect the area.

Meeting closed at 9.52pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….