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

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

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Rob Roney, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chairman), Jean Willis, Dave Heine, Jan Derks

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Leanne Johnson (Administration Officer), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Owen Smith.

**APOLOGIES:** Dean Phibbs

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

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

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

***Gary Webb’s resignation from the West Coast Fish and Game Council be acknowledged***

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

**MINUTES:**

Resolved: (J Derks/R Roney), carried

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

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Mr Heine enquired about a change in season length for Paradise Shelduck – Mr Kelly informed the council of the changes recommended to the Minister from the December meeting. Mr Roney enquired about the promotion of the upcoming special season – Mr Kelly commented that at this stage considering the 2015/16 changes and decline in Paradise Shelduck he would prefer not to advertise the season heavily.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Mokihinui River consent - Mr Smith stated that it would be the first consent in 30 years that Avery Bros have applied for. They have been illegally conducting river works for 4 years. Mr Kelly offered to follow this up with the West Coast Regional Council. Mr Smith said they were conducting the illegal activities on the weekends. Mr Smith stated that they will be back when they run out of gravel or in the Whitebaiting season.

Heaphy Road Opinion – Abercrombie & Associates

Mr Kelly provided an update on the issue stating that the Grey District Council (GDC) had referred the proposal to the environment court which had subsequently been rejected and returned to the GDC. An opinion had been sought from David Abercrombie a LINZ accredited agent who would likely be required as an expert witness in the Environment Court. Mr Abercrombie stated in his opinion that approval from the minister should never have been given. In response Mr Kelly is checking with Fish and Games Legal Counsel and has also applied to the National Legal Fund. Mr Heine stated it would all hinge on the definition of public use. Mr Kelly said the section of road they are talking about stopping is used for access to the valley. Mr Kelly stated that if Fish and Game were successful that the public awareness message would be, that the regions roads are not for sale.

Felt Soled Waders – Otago Fish &Game Council

Mr Willis enquired if any South Island Region had supported the West Coast stance. Mr Kelly replied that there had been no support received. Mr Heine stated that other rivers don’t get slippery like West Coast Rivers do. Mr Heine requested that it be recorded the current stance is very hypocritical of the organisation. Mr Heine also questioned whether non-resident anglers were cleaning their gear between rivers.

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

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Kelly raised the issue of financial reporting on the previous month stating that Fish and Games licensing system only provides licensing sales figures on the first week of the following month, which results in their unavailability for the financial reporting. Mr Kelly proposed moving the council meetings to the third Wednesday of the month apart from the December meeting. Mr Willis enquired about internet income, are the anglers picking the regions they live or where they fish? Mr Kelly stated that if anglers are picking the region where they live rather than where they fish the West Coast Region will be disadvantaged. Mr Roney stated that we need to recognise all regions are vying for the money and regions should be getting resources based on needs. Mr Kelly circulated licence sales figures for this year up to January compared to last year, which indicates the introduction of the non-resident licence is bringing in increased revenue compared to last year.

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

**That the West Coast Fish and Game Council hold its public meetings on the third Wednesday of every second month.**

Mr Willis enquired about the increase in income associated with sports fishery enhancement. Mr Kelly informed the council that this is due to unbudgeted income from mitigation associated with the Lake Kaniere Power Scheme.

Mr Derks enquired about over expenditure on some projects. Mr Kelly provided the rationale for this including renovations to the Okuru Hut, the timing of the invoicing for the sport fisheries pamphlet, and legal costs associated with the Heaphy Rd issue.

Mr Harris enquired about expenditure in the purchases under $2000 category. Mr Kelly stated that he had been trying to conform with other regions treatment of vehicle costs but considering they were purchase costs it was more appropriate to have them laying with vehicle purchases. Mr Kelly stated that he would correct the issue.

Mr Willis stated that if it was standard within the organisation it was not appropriate and he would raise it at the New Zealand Council Meeting.

Resolved: (J Willis/J Derks), carried

**That the Financial Report be received**

**NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL REPORT**

Mr Willis stated that the legal fund is nearly depleted. Mr Willis informed the council of the legal fund allocation process. Mr Kelly stated that there was an opportunity to increase the funding level last season but this was not taken. Mr Kelly also commented that there has been no budgeting for increased revenue for the non-residents licence which may eventuate. Mr Willis stated that the money is tagged and is required to be used for back country fisheries management. Mr Willis informed the council of Neil Dean’s resignation from Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game and stated that Corinna Jordan is proving very effective in her new RMA role.

# MANAGERS REPORT

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bimonthly operational report. Further updates were provided on the completion of the Nelson Drift Dives.

Mr Roney brought the new set of standards regarding OSH to the attention of the Council. Mr Kelly also noted that landowners have raised the issue about letting anglers onto farms. Mr Willis stated the new Health and Safety Legislation makes the council liable and that is based on Australian Legislation. Mr Kelly is aware of the changes and stated that although compliance with Health and Safety Legislation is a moving target he is comfortable with where Fish and Game is at present. Recent revision of policies, manuals, and procedures incorporated into work plans has greatly improved health and safety of employees.

Mr Smith suggested this could be an audit function of the NZ Council to review health & safety functions of the regions. Mr Derks suggested the West Coast Council write to NZ Council requesting such.

Resolved: (J Willis/J Derks), carried

**That the West Coast Fish and Game council write to the NZ Council and request;**

1. **NZ Council develop a National Policy to provide for its audit of Regional Councils Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.**
2. **NZ Council develop a Health and Safety Policy and Procedures set that ensures national consistency with new legislation and to be used by all regional councils.**
3. **NZ Council implement the polices outlined above by way of auditing or providing for auditing of regions Health and Safety Policies and Procedures and how they are being implemented to ensure**
   1. **Compliance with new legislation**
   2. **Conformance with the National Policy to ensure consistency for Health and Safety Compliance throughout the organisation.**

Mr Kelly updated the council on recent Paradise Shelduck counts and noted that the report will be available for the April meeting.

An update was provided on the consultation with VCS acting for Birchfield Minerals regarding the Grey Dredge. Mr Kelly voiced his frustrations with the West Coast Regional Council continually delaying the hearing date. Mr Heine asked if they have a dredge path with Mr Kelly responding that they have, but are still applying for the whole area. Mr Heine stated that the gravel is continually moving and the result is that we will never have a fishery there again because there is no food. Mr Kelly stated that this is a new application for a resource consent and they are receptive to restrictive conditions and associated bonds governing the operation. Mr Heine stated the proposed date of the hearing is unavailable for him.

Mr Kelly advised that Junior Clay Target shooting is about to resume and asked councillors to forward names of juniors they think might be interested.

Mr Kelly informed the Council that a ‘local lad’ had been harassing Paradise Shelduck at Taramakau settlement in his jet boat and had received a warning.

Mr Kelly has taken on the National Research Co-ordination Role. He is in the process of getting the project more aligned with the National Research Strategy and this is taking an extended amount of time.

Resolved: (B Erickson/J Derks), carried

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

# GENERAL BUSINESS

2015/16 Work plan

The council worked through the current operational work plan and operational polices. Some noted amendments for 2015/16 were;

* Inclusion of a Health and Safety Project
* The use of extra questions in the National Hunter Survey
* Farmer liaison regarding hunting regulations
* Access issues at Heaphy Rd and the Crooked River Rd
* Junior hunting opportunities including Paradise Shelduck hunting
* Project 1341 can be deleted
* Implementation of a fish in schools program
* Investigation into the progression of young anglers and hunters from junior programs
* More political advocacy especially regarding RMA reforms

At 9:52pm the council moved into a publicly excluded session to protect the privacy of an individual.

At 9:57pm the public meeting resumed.

*Resolved: (J Derks/R Roney), carried*

***The West Coast Fish and Game council has considered and accepted a recommendation from the remuneration committee in respect of the Managers performance appraisal.***

Meeting closed at 10:00pm.

**SUPPER**

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….