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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2015**

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

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

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Rhys Adams (Officer), Kim McPherson (Administration Officer), Tim Shaw (DoC), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Owen Smith, Terry Parkinson.

**APOLOGIES:**

***No apologies received.***

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

**MINUTES**

Resolved: (Jan Derks/Rob Roney), carried

**That the Minutes of the April 2015 meeting, as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Mr Roney enquired about the correspondence from Neil Hayes. Mr Willis responded that NZC has discerned that the letter does not warrant responding. MR Heine stated that he believes some of Mr Hayes concerns have merit, but in other aspects the letter loses focus.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

NZC – Licence Fee Recommendation

*Resolved: (Bruce Erickson/Dean Phibbs), carried*

***That Fish and Game West Coast approve the New Zealand Council licence fee recommendation for the 2015/16 fishing season. Fish and Game West Coast would also like to note that the timing of the NZC meeting to decide the licence fee is inappropriate considering 3 regions would not have had time to deliberate on the recommendations and provide feedback to the meeting.***

NZC – National Reparation Policy

The Council discussed the proposed policy from the NZC. Mr Kelly committed to receiving comments via email over the next week and then to provide a summary to council for approval.

NZC – Changes in Ethnicity

The letter from NZC regarding changes in ethnicity was considered. Both Mr Erickson and Willis identified that different cultures have different values regarding sportsfish and game. Mr Roney stated that a sportsfishing and gamebird hunting were a central part of kiwi culture and that it would be a shame to lose that. Mr Roney also commented that increased urbanisation of the population was having an effect on that culture. M Heine suggested that Councillors only need to view the TV program Coastwatch to identify these different attitude associated with ethnicity.

*Resolved: (Jan Derks/Jean Willis), carried*

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council respond to the NZC stating that; some issues had been identified on local farms associated with immigrant labour. No compliance issues had arisen yet but poor contact with these groups could be an issue in the future with it being suggested that there may be an option to educate these individuals through community groups. It was also noted that it was pleasing to see the NZ council address the issue.***

NZC – Non-resident fish licence revenue

Mr Harris presented the letter from NZC. Mr Heine used the definition of backcountry fisheries to highlight Lake Brunner as meeting the criteria. Mr Kelly offered to review the backcountry fisheries list from Fish and Game West Coasts Sportsfish and Game Management Plan and repopulate the list using the definition provided by the NCZ and to then circulate via email for comment.

OSPRI – Placement of 1080 in riverbeds

Mr Roney provided a verbal response to the letter from OSPRI statinmg that he belived there were some inaccuracies in the response. Of particular concern to Mr Roney was the fact that there have been change to methods and processes that now allow for the application of the toxin near riverbeds and therefore in close proximity to anglers and hunters. M Shaw commented on DoC application and notification standards.

*Resolved: (Jan Derks/Rob Roney), carried*

***That the council thank OSPRI for their response and extend an invitation for a representative from OSPRI to attend a council meeting to discuss the issue.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms McPherson presented the financial report. She drew attention to the fact that an apparent increase in revenue above budget was likely due to improved payment by agents and Eyede from online sales rather than increased sales.

*Resolved: (Jan Derks/Dean Phibbs), carried.*

**That the Financial Report be received**

# MANAGERS REPORT

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

* Fish and Game Officer departure.
* Salmon Otolith collection for analysis of fisheries enhancement success.
* Fisheries enhancement and the ordering of fish.
* A submission on the WCRC Regional Policy Statement.
* Heaphy Road Access update.
* Assisted Hunting with thanks to Andy Harris for hosting the members from the Californian Waterfowlers.
* A meeting with the NZ Conservation Authority to discuss amendments to the Paparoa National Park.
* Health and Safety.

Resolved: (Bruce/Mark), carried

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

Mr Adams presented an interim report on the Investigation of the Mawheraiti River Brown Trout Fishery.

Mr Adams answered questions from Mr Heine, Roney and Phibbs regarding the impacts of development in the catchment on the fishery. Mr Kelly provide an update from the Grey River catchment consultation group and highlighted the actions being taken by the West Coast Regional Council to address issues associated with water abstraction.

Resolved: (Dean Phibbs/Bruce Erickson), carried

**That the council receive the Investigation of the Mawheraiti River Brown Trout Fishery report.**

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Harris provided a report from the recent NZ Council meeting highlighting;

* Discussion on the Fishing guides licence.
* Environmental Scan.
* Health and Safety.
* Grey Teal as a game bird.
* Non-resident licence revenue treatment.
* Independent directors to the NZ Council.

Mr Smith enquired about discussion regarding Health and Safety. Mr Harris responded that the NZ Council was aware of the issues.

*Resolved: (Rob/Dave, carried)*

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

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Anglers Notice

Mr Willis identified a possible improvement to the regulation booklet to include the region at the top of each page. M Phibbs identified the confusion between the two Wanganui Rivers and provided clarification. The Little Wanganui to be open during the winter months downstream of SH67 and that the ‘Big’ be removed from the Wanganui River.

*Resolved: (Dean/Rob, carried)*

**That the circulated gazette notice with changes noted above be recommended to the Minister.**

Operational Workplan and Enhancement Strategy:

Mr Kelly present a draft workplan with reviewed operational policies for the 2015/15 financial year. Mr Kelly thanked Mr Smith for his input into the Sportsfish Enhancement Strategy and advised the council of changes to strategy and the more specific project objectives in the workplan. Mr Roney asked that abstraction of water for consumptive uses be incorporated into the issues identified in section 2 of the plan. Mr Kelly advised the council of an offer from Mitre10 to contribute a ‘one-off’ sponsorship of the Salmon enhancement on the coast.

*Resolved: (Jan Derks/Jean Willis), carried*

**That the council approve the draft operational workplan including the changes noted to section 2 and gratefully accept the offer of $8,000 from Mitre10 to further the Salmon Enhancement project in the West Coast region.**

Fish and Game West Coast Strategic Direction

Mr Heine provided a report on the Birchfield Mineral Ltd resource consent hearing stating that he believed the sport fish resource will be severely impacted by the West Coast Regional Council Decision. Mr Heine stated that he believed Fish and Games issues, such as undergrounding of streams and parry moulting areas, had not been addressed appropriately in the consent granted. He further stated that Fish and Game need to research important fisheries, in particular invertebrate populations, so as to have accurate baseline information for these proposals. Mr Roney stated that it would be cost prohibitive to research every aspect of these fisheries. Mr Heine stated that it appeared only legal submissions get listened to in hearings with Mr Willis commenting that this was not economically sustainable for Fish and Game in every case.

Mr Will further commented that Public Awareness is a valuable and underutilised tool.

Mr Heine asked that Fish and Game consider increased invertebrate monitoring on important fisheries as in the case of the Grey River hatches of Mayfly have disappeared in the reach where the Dredge has previously operated. Mr Phibbs added that Fish and Game and the West Coast Regional Council are reactionary rather than proactive in protecting the fisheries resource. Mr Phibbs stated that Fish and Game need to identify key fisheries and activities threatening these fisheries. Mr Kelly provided and overview of the West Coast Regional Councils role to monitor and maintain the habitat of Trout and Salmon giving an overview of the State of the Environment Monitoring Program and the responsibility of any applicant to provide this type of information is association with their consent application.

*Resolved: (Rob Roney/Jan Derks), carried*

**That the council receive the report from Dave Heine regarding the strategic direction of Fish and Game.**

Councillor Service Recognition

The Council committed to a dinner with an invite to the CE of Fish and Game New Zealand to attend to recognise the voluntary contribution of Councillors.

Gamebird Pegging and Licencing issues.

Terry Parkinson provided an overview of some issues he had encounter trying to get a licence in preparation for pegging day. Mr Kelly informed the Council of the timing issues associated with approval from the Minister and subsequent availability of the licences. The Nz Council had also raised the issue at the recent Managers Meeting. Mr Kelly was to follow this up as see if any progress has been made in this area.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.53pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….