

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 20th February 2013,
At the DoC Offices, 32 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements, Peter Robinson, Serge Bonnafoux, Trevor Isitt, Steve McNeill, Paul Farrow, Hamish Greig, Brian Smart, Chris Goom, Garth Free.
Co-opted Members: Cavan O'Connell (Ngai Tahu), Malcolm Gilbert (Federated Farmers).
Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson, Debbie Ambler, Andrew Currie (NZ Council).

R Cullinane introduced Murray Harrington from PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr Harrington presided over a governance presentation to Council members. This session commenced at 6.30pm and was followed by the Council meeting at 7.45pm.

2. Apologies: Bruce Kelly, Ken Lee, Dirk Barr (Staff).

"That the apologies be accepted".

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux
Seconded: Cr Smart Carried

3. Notification of General Business

3.1 Cr Goom Office location and requirements for the facility.

4. Minutes from the Previous Meeting dated 17th December 2012

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted but with the corrections as noted," (refer below).

Moved: Cr Robinson
Seconded: Cr Isitt Carried

Amendments:

- i. 3.2 remove the words "of endorsement"
- ii. 9 a should read "Fish and Game Grasmere Fund"

4.1 Matters Arising/Action Sheet

Cr Clements suggested that because the action sheet was quite long, R Cullinane tidy up the list of action points before the next Council meeting in April. R Cullinane to discuss at next Operations Meeting.

5. Public Notification Session

D Ambler to change "Public Notification Session" on Agenda to read "Public Session".

6. Meeting Business

6 a i Information Signage in the Lower Rakaia & Waimakariri Catchments

Cr Robinson summarised the tabled paper explaining the proposal to develop and erect large information signs/interpretation panels at key access points to these fisheries. The purpose of this was to inform and recruit aspiring anglers, and to garner support from non anglers who visit these areas who may not be aware of the fishery beyond. Cr Robinson requested Council give consideration to initial design costs of \$1,500.00 (excl GST).

R Cullinane commented that there was not enough money in this year's budget to cover all the work required.

The following motion was tabled;

"That Council approve the design work required to develop draft signs for approval at the April 2013 meeting".

Moved: Cr Smart

Seconded: Cr McNeill

Carried

6 a ii Van Eaghans Hut Loss

R Cullinane outlined the loss of the hut to fire in January and presented two options of either being paid out a proportion of the insured figure by the Insurer (Indemnity) and not rebuilding or rebuilding up to the full value of the insured sum on a new location (if agreed to by the Insurer).

General discussion centred around whether the insurance company would agree to insuring a new hut in a different location and if we could get insurance on an empty, unlocked building. The need for a new hut was discussed with one suggestion of possibly rebuilding at Boggy Creek.

It was agreed to defer any decision until April's meeting. In the meantime actions are as follows:

Cr Isitt - to investigate how many people used Van Eaghans Hut and ask interested parties if they would be amenable to having any rebuild at Boggy Creek;

Cr Isitt - ask Mr Scobie for costings to rebuild;

R Cullinane - to see DoC about rebuilding the hut on Doc land;

R Cullinane - check with the insurance company to see if the payout could be spent on a rebuild in another location and if they would insure that building.

6 b Youth Program

R Cullinane thanked Cr Clements, Cr Robinson, H Carnachan (Fish & Game Communications Manager) and A Currie (South Island Communications Advisor) for this initiative and for the development of the tabled paper.

R Cullinane summarised the concept of the report by explaining the need for a dedicated youth program to encourage an increase in participation by boys and girls. That the goal of the program was to create future licence holders by giving positive recreational and educational experiences through progressive skills-based programs to get them hooked on freshwater angling and game bird hunting, as well as raising awareness of water quality and environmental issues fundamental to Fish & Game's core functions. R Cullinane stated there was meeting scheduled in the near future with a potential sponsor for this initiative.

The paper was commended by Councillors. Cr Clements explained that this initiative was a pilot program for North Canterbury only at this stage, with the view to rolling it out nationwide once it was proven. Points raised were; that a similar paper on a youth game bird initiative needed to be developed alongside this paper (because of time constraints, this paper focused only on angling at this stage). Women should be targeted for participation as well. T Hawker suggested that if possible a teaching facility be established in the grounds of the new headquarters. D Ambler suggested to hold more than one TAKF day during the season.

Following discussion, the following motions were tabled;

"That North Canterbury Fish & Game Council supports in principle a pilot program in the region to test and refine the Youth Program initiative for possible implementation nationally".

Moved: Cr Smart
Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

"That North Canterbury Fish & Game Council authorises the General Manager to seek sponsorship to fund the Youth Program's facilitator role to implement and oversee the pilot scheme, with a view to expanding the role into a national position if proven successful".

Moved: Cr Smart
Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

Cr Robinson abstained from vote due to a declared possible conflict of interest.

7. Reports

7 a

Chairman's Report

Cr Clements reported that he had attended a meeting with Kiwibank, with the Solicitor regarding the sale of Horatio Street, with S Pearson, N Deans and R Cullinane on resourcing of environmental issues.

Discussion regarding the Canterbury Management Water Plan strategy followed. R Cullinane advised of an invitation to attend an afternoon tea with Dame M Beazley and suggested S Pearson attend. General discussion followed around the resignation of T Hawker from the Hurunui/Waiapu Zone Committee.

"That S Pearson and T Hawker talk to B Johnson and N Deans to formulate a message to Dame Beazley prior to Monday's meeting on 25th February 2013. That S Pearson and T Hawker report back on outcomes at the April Council meeting".

Moved: Cr Isitt
Seconded: Cr Smart Carried

Portfolio - Sub-committee Convenors

Cr Clements suggested the Convenors be:

Performance & Efficiency Committee:	Cr Robinson/Cr Isitt/Cr McNeill
Relocation Committee:	Cr Goom
Youth Programme:	Cr Robinson
Salmon & Trout Committee:	Cr McNeill
Water Fowl Committee:	Cr Smart
Compliance Committee:	Cr Isitt
Clubs/Public Relations Committee:	Cr Farrow
NZ Council:	Cr Robinson

Convenors were advised to canvas other Council members for assistance. Cr Clements stated that Convenors were responsible for getting their first meetings for the year underway with there being no timeframe or number of meetings.

Cr Greig volunteered to assist S Pearson on the Environmental & Water Sub-committee.

7 b. Staff Report

Fish & Game Hatcheries (1141) - R Cullinane stated that Montrose had a new manager for the property and that a new lease agreement was being prepared to present to the owners in the next couple of weeks.

Cr McNeill asked if there was money in the budget for fin-clipping this year for payments to organisations should the need arise. S Terry replied that there were sufficient funds in the budget.

Headwater River Trout Monitoring (1113) - It was reported that the original course of the Boyle River had been dug out again which would mean monitoring the salmon returns over the next couple of years.

Cawthron Trout Monitoring (1116) - T Hawker reported this was an ongoing project and that they were having problems with the electric fishing machine and had borrowed staff and a later model machine from CSIF&G.

Gamebird Monitoring (1123) - T Hawker reported that this year was the highest Paradise Shelduck trend count since 2003 and that new areas are being monitored. He stated there may be issues for farmers around Lake Ellesmere if the numbers keep growing and suggested there be may need to be a limited summer season instead of issuing permits. T Hawker to investigate numbers in other F&G regions and report back to Council. It was reported that the geese population on Lake Ellesmere was low compared to the high country where they were everywhere.

Resource Consents (1211) - Mt Hutt Station - Avalanche Stream - S Pearson stated that if the river flow in the catchment above the Montrose hatchery changed, it may impact on Montrose and if this did occur then it could possibly be a case for reparation from Mt Hutt Station. S Pearson suggested that F&G enter dialogue with the company to set out conditions on monitoring and water quality and quantity flowing into Montrose and that we monitor the flows alongside the company's own monitoring.

7 c. Financial Report

7c i Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that North Canterbury F&G had tendered for a five year contract with Contact Energy and was expecting a decision in the next few days. R Cullinane to speak to Cr McNeill about financial questions raised in an email separate from this Council meeting.

7c ii Eyede Licence Sales Report

R Cullinane reported that fishing sales were up by 8.5% from this time last year.

7 d. Portfolio Question/Comments

Cr Farrow requested clarification on Regulations:
Repeat column headings on each page (as per page 23).
Scented lures - are these classed as natural bait?
Prawns - are they illegal or not for canal salmon fishing?
Note these matters to be referred by D Ambler.

8. General Business

- 8.1** On behalf of Cr Lee, Cr Free asked the question, "what does Fish and Game stand for," and suggested an adoption of the following mission statement:

"To preserve and defend today's outdoors for future generations"

Cr Clements commented that F&G was not getting the visual F&G message across adequately to the public. R Cullinane commented that the use of F&G vehicles as a medium of advertising our message was currently under investigation. Cr Free suggested that bumper stickers be issued with each licence.

8.2 New Office Premises

Cr Goom asked that discussion be started on what is required in the new headquarters building. D Ambler to put on agenda for next operations meeting.

8.3 Salmon/Trout Sub-Committee Minutes

S Terry noted that the committee had recommended that the Council hold off on the DIDSON application until further discussions into overall salmon management had been had by Council. S Terry to prepare a report for the April Council meeting.

R Cullinane to hold the DIDSON funding application until further notice.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Chairman - M Clements

Date

Next Meeting: Wednesday 17th April 2013
 Commencing: 6.30 p.m. (a light refreshment will be available from 6.00p.m.)
 Where: To be advised