

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 19th June 2013,
At the DoC Offices, 32 Nga Mahi Place, Sockburn
Commencing at 6.30pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Serge Bonnafoux, Steve McNeill, Paul Farrow, Hamish Greig, Chris Goom, Ken Lee, Garth Free, Bruce Kelly.
Co-opted Members: Cavan O'Connell (Ngai Tahu).
Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson, Debbie Ambler, Dirk Barr, Emily Moore, Andrew Currie (NZ Council).
In Attendance: Kelvin Wright (Canterbury Lure Fishing).

2. **Apologies:** Malcolm Gilbert (Federated Farmers), Trevor Isitt, Brian Smart
"That the apologies be accepted".

Moved: Cr Kelly
Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux **Carried**

3. Notification of General Business

3.1 Cr Greig General statement
3.2 Cr Goom Contact Order
3.3 Cr Bonnafoux R Millichamp

The Licence Fee Recommendation was moved up the agenda so Council could make a decision prior to a conference call that required the attendance of Cr Robinson. After background was given and general discussion, it was agreed that Cr Robinson check on the status of the Licence categories with R Sowman. Cr Bonnafoux expressed concern that the increase would not be enough to cover expenses.

"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council endorse the NZ Council recommendation that the 2013/2014 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$121 and an adult whole season game licence of \$91 (inclusive of a \$2 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) both inclusive of GST."

Moved: Cr McNeill
Seconded: Cr Farrow **Carried**
Cr Bonnafoux recorded his vote against the motion

4. Minutes from the Previous Meeting dated 17th April 2013

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

Moved: Cr McNeill
Seconded: Cr Kelly **Carried**

Amendments:

"No 5 - Public Notification Session - fence in twice, should read "deer fence".

4.1 Matters Arising/Action Sheet

Action Sheet:

From 20th February Meeting - 4. Change the spelling from Dame Beazley to Bazley.

Add to 20th December Meeting - Add signage for Rakaia and Waimakariri river mouth.

From 17th April Meeting - 2- Remove R Millichamp name from Person Responsible.

S Terry thanked E Moore on the successful application from Pub Charity for an Electric Fishing Machine.

Matters Arising:

Van Eeghen's Hut - R Cullinane reported the need to progress the claim. After general discussion, R Cullinane is to confirm the replacement value (not indemnity) for the Hut will be paid by the insurance company at another yet to be agreed location. Cr Clements stated the need to pursue the youth gamebird program and that careful consideration be given as to where the replacement hut would be located. Cr G Free noted he would like to see a cap on the spending to that of the insurance claim payout.

6. Meeting Business

6 a ii Council Elections

Proposed Change

1. (Membership) Lower threshold for election to more than nine candidates.
DECISION: NO
2. (Voting) To utilise reminder prompts and methods to make it easier and quicker to vote in future F&G elections.
DECISION: YES
3. (Specified Licence Period) Set 1 September as the deadline for current or preceding season eligible licence holders to have their name added to the electoral roll.
DECISION: YES
4. (Electoral Roll Enrolment Period) Adopt a set date (say 1 September) as the deadline for enrolment.
DECISION: YES
5. (Regional Preference Changed) Allow for licence holders to change regional preference for voting up to 1 September of election year.
DECISION: YES
6. (Form of Voting) Make provision to accept postal voting up to four days after voting closes on Election day.
DECISION: YES
7. (Reminder Prompts) Prompt licence holders to record their email address.
DECISION: YES
Provide for text and email prompt messages prior to Election day.
DECISION: YES
Cr Bonnafoux stated should get costings for sending text messages and that it be email only.
8. (Candidate Profiles) Require electronic registration of candidate profiles, with a photograph.
DECISION: YES

Require candidates to acknowledge possible conflicts of interest in their profiles.

DECISION: NO

Include candidate profiles on website and in special regional election newsletters.

DECISION: YES

9. (Repositioning of Election Date) Adopt a new Election day early to mid October of the third year.

DECISION: YES

10. (First Meeting Date) Allow for first meetings of new Council to be held prior to the final week of November.

DECISION: YES

6 a iii Drift Dive Report

Cr Bonnafoux commended staff on the tabled report. T Hawker summarised the report by stating that drift diving was the primary technique for assessing and estimating trout populations to enable regulations to be set and to note and compare changes in fish populations at a site and also between rivers over time. He explained how the drift dives were carried out and in what rivers, then explained how the resulting information is compared with one another over the years.

General discussion followed on the requirement to have a good control site and to possibly look at where the more intensive farming occurred along the banks of the Hurunui River and monitor above and below where this occurs.

"To continue to monitor the Hope, Boyle, Waiau and Hurunui drift dive sites to monitor trends in fish populations at these sites. That a lower Hurunui drift dive be added to the current drift diving program".

Moved: Cr Goom

Seconded: Cr Robinson Carried

6 a iv Operational Work Plan and Budget

R Cullinane stated that the Operational Work Plan and Budget had to be reworked due to the change in the staffing hours allocation, which had also reflected in changes made in the budget on the departure of R Millichamp.

"That the 2013/2014 Operational Work Plan and Budget be adopted".

Moved: Cr Goom

Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

6 a v Regulations Review

T Hawker stated the current Regulations Review process was flawed and was tasked to bring recommendations on improving the process to the next Council meeting. General discussion followed on the general structure of the Regulations meeting, that a submission form template be introduced to make submissions easier to identify and process and that all Councillors should attend this meeting.

The Council then voted on each submission in turn.

- "That the fishery be closed at 31 March above the gorge bridges at both the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers."

Disagree - No Change

- "Cora Lynn should be closed at the end of March in line with other Waimakariri salmon spawning streams."

Agree

- "Close Otukaikino for salmon fishing above the junction with the Waimakariri River"

Agree

- "Waikari, Waipara, Waitohi, Hawkins, Irwell, Kaituna, Mandamus, Okuku and Pahau rivers - reduce to 1 brown trout limit to reflect low numbers of trout and recognition of the degraded state of these fisheries".

Agree

- "Poulter River - 1 fish and slot size introduced".

Disagree - No Change

- "Avoca should be listed separately and have the same rules in the regulations as the Harper".

Agree

- "No bait fishing for salmon in the Kaiapoi River".

Disagree

General discussion points:

Cr Free suggested to have a TAKF day at Courtney Lakes, Kaiapoi. To also increase the salmon restocking of the Lake and this could be a catch and release area .

- "Boats not being mechanically propelled allowed in Lake Letitia as lake shore fishing very limited".

Agree

- "Name change Wairewa River"

Disagree - No Change

S Terry reported back that it was not worth changing as the alternative was too long.

- "Close Winding Creek & Lake Blackwater until 10th December in line with landowner imposed closure for lambing on Flock Hill Station (remove chance of exclusive capture during this period)".

Agree

- "Why Lakes Pearson, Selfe and Taylor open until end of September".

Disagree - No Change

- "All lakes closed at end of April except Lake Coleridge".

Disagree - No Change

- "Finish the salmon season on 31 March to allow any fish to go up stream and spawn. Limit the daily catch to one per day. Ban pilchard fishing in the Kaiapoi River and have under 15 years of age able to bait fish. Print a recommendation that a personal limit of 6 salmon per annum be applied by anglers to enhance the fishery."

"That the status quo remain for the salmon fishery and that the Regulations reflect promoting catch and release".

Moved: Cr McNeill

Seconded: Cr Robinson

Carried

Cr Goom

Opposed

General discussion:

There are two problems; the state of the fishery and angler catch. Angler behaviour and regulations would help this problem but needed to be enforced. That independent research be undertaken rather than relying on hearsay. Fish and Game need to be more proactive relating to catch and release. That this debate be brought into the

open through the Fish and Game website. Cr Clements suggested the subject be brought back to Council for further discussion.

- "To help reduce the harvest of salmon in the region, bring into the regulations an annual or season bag limit."

Disagree

- A. "That fishing within 100 metres of river mouths flowing into Lake Coleridge be allowed", and; B. "impose a one trout limit for Lake Coleridge in the winter season."

A. Agree

B. Agree

General discussion:

It was noted that Council were concerned about the decline in trout spawning numbers since the 1990's. That the total bag limit remain at four but of which only one can be trout.

- "To allow the use of chine/stern/transom mounted electric motors on boats as well as the rowing boats/canoes already allowed".

Agree - although already permitted

S Terry to ensure enabling language is used in the rewrite of the Regulations as currently, there is little consistency. Improved interpretation is required for almost every rule or regulation.

- "That the regulations be amended for Loch Katrine to become a child's fishery who should be able to fish from boats, dinghy, canoes and from the shore."

Disagree - No Change

- "Rakaia River western zone open season, extend the open season to 30th April".

Disagree - No Change

- "That fishing for trout between the cattlestop at the Upper Selwyn Huts to Coes Ford be a catch and release only".

Disagree-No Change

General Discussion:

Due to incidents occurring in the area, the possibility of the landowner becoming a Ranger was supported. Initially give landowner cell phone numbers of local rangers in areas for first response to incidents. Staff to meet with the landowner to discuss further.

- "Reinstate that a gaff be used in landing salmon".

Disagree - No Change

- "That from Lake Coleridge to the spawning streams - the season be closed at the end of February".

Disagree - No Change

Soft scented baits - to clarify in the Regulation booklet.

Future Rivers

R Cullinane tabled a letter of introduction from F Chirnside. He stated an agreement was ready to be signed and was initially for a six month period. He explained the organisation was an entity which sought third party sponsorship and was an intermediary. General discussion focused on the agreement and on the financial involvement versus risk. C O'Connell stated that Ngai Tahu may want involvement due to the use of waterways.

"That the Council endorse the progression of the Youth Initiative and Future Rivers "

Moved: Cr Free
 Seconded: Cr McNeill Carried

6 b i Oath of Office

General discussion with consensus that the Oath had no substance and that Cr Robinson reply to the NZ Fish and Game Council acknowledging and thanking them for the suggestion.

6 b ii Medial Protocols

After some debate, it was decided that R Cullinane is to produce a media policy for all Councillors to follow and bring back to the next meeting.

7 Reports

7 a Chairman's Report

Cr Clements reported he had been unwell for three or so months and most of his Fish & Game work had been via telephone. He did however attend a City Council meeting relating to identifying land options for the new Fish and Game building.

7 b. Staff Report

Cawthron Trout Monitoring (1116) - T Hawker gave an overview of the three year project and spoke of record keeping and historic data.

Fish and Game Hatcheries (1141) - R Cullinane acknowledged the efforts of D Barr and K Wright with the great percentage results in hatching salmon at the Hatchery. D Barr explained the forthcoming program at the hatchery.

7 c. Financial Report

7 c i Financial Report

R Cullinane reported that year to date expenditure (to end April) was tracking at 72.72% of total budget and that the Contact payment had yet to be received.

7 d. New Zealand Council Report

Cr Robinson reported that the NZ Council would be reviewing the financial systems and governance matters.. He stated the introduction of portfolio's within the Council had been well received.

7 e. Portfolio

Media - Cr Farrow visited retail outlets to see how the gamebird season was going for them and how the impact of Southland's stance on 20 gauge and sub-gauge shot related in comparison. A Currie would be doing a mid winter fishing season article.

Relocation - Cr Goom reported there had been meetings with St Albans/Shirley Community Board and the Christchurch City Council. He reported the proposed Styx Mill site might be difficult to get, but stated the Council was committed to helping us find land.

Water Fowl - Cr Isitt was absent for this meeting.

Salmon Trout - Meeting postponed due to Amuri salvage.

Youth Programme - Will be up and running once contract is finalised and signed.

8. General Business

8 a D Ambler to re-agenda item for next Council meeting - Staff and Organisational Knowledge Retention - Cr Mc Neill

8 c **Gamebird Trust Board** - R Cullinane and E Moore to work through suggestions from Mr Arps.

Cr Greig - Notified Council of his resignation due to work placement overseas. He thanked the Council for their support and stated he would hopefully be able to offer expertise in other ways. Cr Clements thanked Cr Greig for his time served on the Council.

R Millichamp - Cr Bonnafoux expressed surprise on the sudden departure of R Millichamp. Cr Clements explained the process surrounding his departure and that Management and Council members observes all necessary processes..

Clutha Contract - Cr Goom wanted to know why this order was lost. R Cullinane answered concerns and spoke of the necessity to avoid being involved in loss making contracts..

Hurunui River - It was reported that signage had been broken at the confluence between the north and south branch going up to Lake Taylor.

8 b. **Sand Wand** - E Moore gave a presentation on the sand wand stating that due to the high costs associated with staff time and maintenance of the equipment, she would be presenting Council with recommendations for further funding. E Moore advised she was in the process of obtaining a "global" consent to allow silt to be put back onto the land around the rivers. Cr Clements suggested the Fish and Game logo be put on the equipment.

There being no further business, the Council meeting concluded at 11.10 pm.

Chairman: _____ Dated: _____

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 21st August 2013**
Venue: **TBA**