

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15TH October 2014,
At DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Place Sockburn
Commencing at 6.30pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Martin Clements, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Cavan O'Connell, Garth Free, Serge Bonnafoux, Malcolm Gilbert, Paul Farrow, Jonathan Brooks, Bruce Kelly

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Debbie Ambler, Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson

Public: Bill Lambie, Bruce Rule, Walter Keenan

2. Apologies

Councillors: Ken Lee, Chris Goom

Staff: Dirk Barr, Andrew Currie

"That the apologies be accepted"

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux
Seconded: Cr Kelly Carried

Cr Clements welcomed J Brooks, B Lambie and B Rule to the meeting.

3. Notification of General Business

3a. New Councillor Appointment

R Cullinane gave background to the reason for the appointment of J Brooks to the Council. His appointment would be until the 2015 Council Elections.

"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council pursuant to the authority set out in s26ZA95)(b) of the Conservation Act, having received confirmation as to eligibility of appointment and having publicly notified its intention to do so and having received no objections, hereby resolves to appoint JOHATHAN MARK BROOKS as a Councillor of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council."

Moved: Cr Clements
Seconded: Cr Bonnafoux Carried

At this point Cr Robinson raised the question of a succession plan for the Chair of the North Canterbury Council.

"That Cr Clements continue as Chairman of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council until the elections process in 2015."

Moved: Cr Robinson
Seconded: Cr Isitt

Cr Clements agreed to remain until the Council elections in 2015. To enable to move forward Cr Clements stated there needed to be new leadership with fresh ideas and urged Councillors to discuss options with a view to finding a new Chair at the 2015 Council elections.

4a. Minutes from the Previous Meeting Dated 20th August 2014

"That the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted without amendment."

Moved: Cr Free
Seconded: Cr Robinson Carried

4b. Matters Arising /Action Sheet

The following items to be deleted from the Action Sheet:

From meeting 20th February - No 6 - Signage for Rakaia and Waimakariri River Mouths

From meeting 16th April - No 9 Media Sub Committee / Strategy, No 10 Askeaton Boat Ramp, No 11 Walking Access

From meeting 18th June - No 9 Fish Releases, No 10 Boggy Creek

From meeting 20th August - No 1 - Council Vacancies, No 7 Gamebird Population Control, No 9 Conference Notes from Staff Conference, No 11 Budget for Youth Programmeme

Further to 20th August No 4 Decline of Aquatic Life Kaiapoi, Styx and Otukaikino Rivers and No 12 Lake Pearson Water Samples

Discussion focused on the need for firmer control over monitoring lowland areas and for better reporting by ECAN regarding water quality/sampling reporting. T Hawker advised there had been a slight improvement in the Lower Styx river water quality and that ECAN was currently producing a Fish and Game specific report on water sampling and quality. Complaints were still being received relating to Percival River, it was felt that a sustained media campaign be under taken over the next few years to get ECAN to furnish better water sampling results/reports. Along with Cr Bonnafoux, T Hawker was tasked to go back to ECAN for better answers relating to the Percival River. The internal procedure for reporting pollution complaints was discussed with nil outcomes by ECAN be taken to Commissioners/Councillor meetings. It was decided that staff bring a recommendation on how to deal with ECAN and their approach to water sampling and reporting to a Council meeting.

6. Presentations

6i. Appointment to the Aoraki/Mt Cook Conservation Board - Bruce Rule - R Cullinane introduced B Rule and outlined his involvement with NC F&G. B Rule spoke on his background in fishing, his work with the Lady Isaac Conservation Trust and the appointment to the Aoraki/Mt Cook Conservation Board by the Minister of Conservation. He explained the Boards' role was one of governance which was responsible for and involved in tenure reviews, water quality and implementing DoC's plan of action in the coming years. B Rule stated the Board met by-monthly and gave his email address brule@isaac.co.nz should any issues needed to be raised. Cr Clements recommended reading, "Tenure Review" by Anne Brough. He asked that the Board tidy up land ownership issues relating to the Queens chain. It was then decided that R Cullinane collate any questions for the Board and put these in a formal letter to B Rule. Cr Clements thanked B Rule for his attendance.

6ii Update on Resource Management Issues in North Canterbury - S Pearson presented on:

Selwyn Waihora Variation 1 - explained Lake Ellesmere was most polluted lake in the country but was still very active in terms of its use. Outcomes for this issue would be able to maintain/enhance the water quality but found that would be difficult with a lag effect of between 10-30 years which meant it was not a quick fix. Limited representation on Zone Committees along with Committees making decisions on poor science and short lead in times for submitters and agencies were problems.

P&E Ltd Lake Grasmere (Environment Court Appeal) - hearing scheduled for early December, with no funding available for this.

Ngai Tahu Farming Ltd Appeal - Case expected to commence in February with Ngai Tahu challenging the scientific basis of the Commissioner's decision. Aim to defend decision in co-operation with Forest and Bird.

5. Public Session

Bill Lambie - Stated he had just been appointed to the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee. The reason was that he saw what was happening at Ellesmere and wanted to try to affect some change. He spoke on and agreed that changes needed to happen for future generations and that all agencies needed to work together to make this happen. B Lambie stated that if Council wanted, that someone from their Committee could address a Council meeting if required. Cr Clements thanked B Lambie for attending this meeting.

Presentation of Certificate to Walter Keenan

Cr Clements presented W Keenan with a Certificate in recognition of the long association and valued support to the NC fishery over the many years of being a stakeholder.

7. Meeting Business

7 a i 2013/14 Salmon Management Report

S Terry gave an overview of the Report, stating the 2013/14 salmon fishing season had a slow start but by the end of the season, reasonable numbers were being caught. Angler catch and total estimated peak run trend in most of the NC fishery were similar to previous seasons, but still below long-term averages. He then gave background to how the salmon monitoring programme ran and the various methods used for gathering data to determine the returns of salmon to the spawning grounds versus salmon catch. S Terry added that all figures were trending the same, so the system for counting and the angler survey was good and robust.

Discussion centred on the reliability of the data that is collected and Cr McNeill asked staff to report back to council on suggestions on how to improve the peak count methodology in reporting and the implications on the budget. Cr Free suggested that in the lower stream areas hatchery fish be released so that they do not compete with the wild fish returning upstream in the high country to spawn.

"That NC F&G continues with the peak count salmon monitoring programme and that Cr McNeill's comments be considered."

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Kelly

Carried

7 a ii Revised Youth Programme 2014/2015

R Cullinane outlined the Youth Programme from its inception to the present. He spoke of funding that had been approved by NZC and NC F&G Council and on the formal request made to NZC for the programme to become the responsibility of the NZC office communications department, as it was felt it was better positioned there if and when it became a national programme.

Cr Clements stated this was about taking the programme to the wider public to create environmental awareness and let people know that F&G was not all about selling licences. Cr Free stated he did not think our role was to teach the programme in schools and felt it was getting away from the core business of F&G. The possibility of rolling out a similar proposal for gamebird in 2015 was noted.

That a committee be formed of B.Johnson (NZC Executive Officer), the new Communications Officer (when appointed), A.Currie (South Island Communications Officer) and R.Cullinane to meet in two weeks time to discuss formally taking the Youth Programme to the national level.

- "1. That the NC F&G Council endorse the concept of the Youth Programme falling within the future responsibility of the NZC Communications Unit.
2. That the prime responsibility for promoting the programme including such matters as applying for future funding be from within the Communications Unit.
3. That the programme continue to be developed in North Canterbury for the 2014/2015 year and extended where appropriate by agreement with other regions who wish to adopt it.
4. That North Canterbury contribute \$30,000.00 from reserves to be matched by NZC agreed funding for the 2014/2015 programme."

Moved: Cr Bonnafoux
 Seconded: Cr Brooks Carried
 Cr Robinson - abstained - conflict of interest
 Crs' Free and Farrow - against

7 a iii Youth Programme - Application to the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Trust (CERT)

Cr Robinson presented a proposal to seek funding from CERT for 12 tank systems for the Fish In Schools Programme to enable to increase the Programmes capacity in 2015. This system has been trialled in 2014. As the Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust maybe winding up, the application would be made on behalf of NC F&G. An application to the Sunrise Rotary, who granted \$2,750.00 towards the tanks, suggested there maybe future possible funding from other Rotary branches.

"That Cr Robinson make an application to CERT for funding of \$7,511.72 (excl gst) to purchase 12 tank systems, each comprising of a 60 litre tank, bio filter and chiller."

Moved: Cr Isitt
 Seconded: Cr Kelly Carried

7 a iv Creation of a Mai Mai Fund Reserve

S Terry stated that a percentage of the gamebird licence fee was used to fund works around Lake Ellesmere and to clean up areas, not for mai mai removal. Projects were discussed between Ngai Tahu, DoC and F&G to where money was spent. \$30,000.00 was currently earmarked for the Erwell River.

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game hereby resolves to create a reserve to be known as "Mai Mai Reserve" and that existing accumulated funds dedicated as being held under the name of the Mai Mai Fund be transferred into that Reserve."

Moved: Cr McNeill
 Seconded: Cr Free Carried

7 b i Summary of the North Canterbury Gamebird Harvest Survey

Paper was noted. Bag limit timing was raised. (On Action Sheet for next year).
 Mallard - currently completing a national survey to see if they were in decline.

7 b ii Sale of Boggy Creek

R Cullinane gave background to the purchase of Boggy Creek and the reasons why this land was being considered for sale. Question on whether Boggy Creek be sold and some or all of the proceeds used as required towards the new headquarters or explore a purpose built facility including any further consenting requirements.

The following points were raised in discussion;

S Terry - have an education mai mai at Lake Ellesmere and build purpose built mai mais around the shore of Lake Ellesmere to ballot out - Cr Clements suggested to see what interest would come from this proposal from gamebird clubs;

Cr Isitt - certainly Boggy Creek not an ideal site for shooting or bird rearing and the sale money be put into wetlands/habitat creation;

Cr Farrow - what would the potential return be, see who would buy the land;

Cr Free - should cap what is spent on a new building and keep the sale monies from Boggy Creek separate. He also stated that the track into Boggy Creek required to be cleaned up.

"That Sicon Ferguson be approached to grade and tidy up the track and car park area leading into Boggy Creek at a cost of \$125.00 plus gst.

Moved: Cr Free

Seconded: Cr Isitt

Carried

Discussion then focused on renting out the current house at 595 Johns Road and a purpose built building on built on the land at the back of the house. To progress this, costings were required on tidying up the existing house and the cost of a new build.

"1. That Council consider the options identified and reach a decision at the October 2014 meeting so that the most appropriate development option can proceed without further delay.

2. The building sub committee be further authorised (including any sale instructions) to act on the decision of the Council.

3. That Council proceed with the sale of Boggy Creek."

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Farrow

Carried

8. Reports

8a. Chairman's Report

Cr Clements reported he continued to have meetings with R Cullinane and that he had not attended any external meetings.

8b. Staff Report

1141 Fish and Game Hatcheries

D Barr reported that unexplained stock loss had now been replaced.

1813 Annual Reporting

R Cullinane advised the Annual Report should be sent to Councillors in plenty of time prior to the AGM for comment.

8c. Financial Report

R Cullinane reported the annual accounts were looking like being within budget and providing a good year end result.

8d. New Zealand Council Report

Cr Goom was not present to report. R Cullinane to check with B Johnson (NZC) if a substitute could be sent to the National Chairmans/Managers meeting due to unavailability of Cr Clements. Cr Brooks volunteered to take is place.

8e. Youth Programmeme Report

Cr Robinson stated he appreciated Councils support for the programme and was finding it hard to make commitments when programme was not assured. He stated that approaches from the public were coming in thick and fast and that 18 schools would be fishing at the Groynes over the next month.

8g. Portfilio Reports

Compliance - D Barr reported there had been one ranger resignation but there was a replacement already under action.

Media

Cr Free passed around mock-ups of the "Best Practice" Certificates and stated the picture would change to that of the award winners' property. Cr O'Connell and Cr Gilbert were nominated to be on the judging panel for this Award.

9. General Business

9a. Remote Observation Camera

Cr Farrow reported all information was passed onto Cr Free and that if the system was used it would mean someone would have to retrieve the data on a regular basis.

9b. Potential to Raise Atlantic Salmon

After discussion it was decided Atlantic Salmon were too difficult to grow for commercial purposes.

9c. Current State of Splake in Lake Letitia

Cr Free asked that trout release be put on hold until further investigations had been made regarding splake in the lake, as trout could kill them.

9d. Brown Trout Release - Cust River - Followup

T Hawker advised there was no monitoring programme on the river.

9e. Brood Stock for Raising Brown Trout

Cr Free suggested F&G should be using river dwelling stock. It was decided that more research needed to be done and that a case and full costings be put forward for the next Operational Work Plan meeting in April 2015. That the matter be referred back to the Salmon Trout Committee.

9f. Follow Up on ECAN/Councillors Meeting and Field Visit to Silverstream

Cr Free to talk with R Cullinane

9g. Wetland Filters as Part of Municipal Storm Water Treatment

Info received by Councillors.

9h. Update of Policies and Policy Register

Reported this was underway.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.00 p.m.

Chairman: _____ Dated: _____

Next Meeting: AGM and Council Meeting Date: 17th December 2014, Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Horticultural Centre, Riccarton Avenue, Riccarton.