

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 15TH June 2016

At the DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Peter Robinson, Trevor Isitt, Malcolm Gilbert, John Cumberpatch, Denis Kelliher, Ron Stuart, Ken Lee, Alan Strong, Charles Smith.

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Debbie Ambler, Emily Arthur-Moore, Dirk Barr, Ryton Barr, Scott Pearson, Richard Cosgrove

Public: Darryn Haffenden

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Craig Maylem, Jacques Botha, Bruce Kelly

Staff: Nil

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

Cr Isitt welcomed D Haffenden to the meeting.

5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 20th April 2016 be accepted".

Moved: Cr Cumberpatch

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

Matters Arising

Items to be deferred until the Council meeting in August:

1. 6a iv Donations Received In Memory of Graham McDonald
2. 6b I Policy on Reparation for Non-Compliance

4. Health and Safety Update

R Cullinane stated that Health and Safety Report would be now a regular agenda item and outlined the work completed to date on improving systems and field kits.

6. Public Session

Pheasant Breeding and Release

D Haffenden outlined the main objectives for establishing a facility to breed pheasants for release into the wild and to encourage more opportunities for gamebird shooters closer to Christchurch. He said it was encouraging that each year there were more sightings of pheasants that had been previously released in the area. Currently there is an aviary on the property of Arion Farms and D Haffenden was seeking approval from NC F&G (with no financial input) to

increase the size of the aviaries by adding additional fencing. He was also seeking volunteers to assist with this project. Access to and more keys given out for the gated area were points made in discussion.

“That this Council endorses the pheasant breeding and release programme .”

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Smith

CARRIED

R Cullinane to write letter to D Haffenden outlining this decision.

7. Meeting Business

7a i 2016/2017 Licence Fee Recommendation

“That the North Canterbury Council approve the NZC recommendation for the 2016/2017 adult whole season sports fish licence to be increased to \$125.00 and the adult whole season game licence to \$93.00 (inclusive of a \$3.00 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.”

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

R Cullinane to advise NZC of this decision.

7a ii Sea Run and Lowland Brown Trout – Research and Restoration Programme – A Proposal

D Barr spoke of the gradual demise of resident lowland brown trout and sea run brown trout populations and the reasons why these populations were declining and/or stressed in North Canterbury rivers. Some reasons were a result of environmental degradation of habitat, dewatering of lowland streams, and annual low rainfall. Areas identified as potential sites for restoration are Bully Creek and Cold Stream/Boat Creek on the Rakaia River. A tagging programme would be implemented with an anglers education programme being a key component to the success of the monitoring.

The positive aspects of the programme would be F&G and anglers working together, gathering information to be used for enhancement purposes; public awareness that F&G is actively attempting to restore a broken fishery as a result of years of environmental degradation; F&G publicly advocating for healthy stream environment not only for fresh water species and birdlife but for all Canterbury’s recreational river users as well.

Points raised in discussion were that this could be a pilot for other programmes; ECAN Commissioners need to get a copy of this report to show what was happening; that programmes like this be run on all rivers; write to the Rakaia River Fishing Promotions to assist with the project; link media with community groups who are active in the area.

“That the North Canterbury Council supports and approves the sea run/lowland brown trout fisheries enhancement programme as outlined”.

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

7a iii Non-resident Fishing Licence Revenue

The Non resident licence was introduced due to the pressures on premiere back country fisheries. Additional income obtained from this licence (\$37.00 per licence) is to be directed to the management of these back country areas.

Ideas for funds use have been angler satisfaction survey, contribution to toilet facilities, habitat restoration and protection, current and expanded back country releases, spawning/rearing research etc.

- "1. That Council resolves to establish a reserve to be known as "The Non Resident Fishing Licence Premium Reserve" and that funds accumulated to date, together with those which accrue in future be transferred to this reserve.**
- 2. That the funds in the Non Resident Fishing Licence Premium Reserve be used for such purposes as meet the fisheries management criteria established by the New Zealand Council."**

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

7a iv 2016 Lake Coleridge Chinook Salmon Spawning Survey Report

This year's result was seen as positive with salmon returning to Hennah Stream to spawn and were in good condition. This year's count may be an underestimation due to heavy weather throughout the survey with a repeat count not being undertaken. It is believed the Hennah Stream is still the main indicator of the Lake Coleridge spawning run. Salmon were observed at the Harper Weir for the first time and it was hoped this was the establishment of a spawning run as a result of releases in various spring fed tributaries.

"That NC F&G continue releases of salmon smolt into the Lake Coleridge tributaries and undertake continued monitoring to establish the success of this enhancement."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

7a v Regulation Change – Kaiapoi and Otukaikino Streams for the Winter Season

With the recent winter closure, and a boundary set as east of state highway one, this led to two anomalies which require to be tidied up.

- "1. Close the Otukaikino stream up to Dickeys Road, from 1st May to 30th September.**
- 2. Change the regulations for the Kaiapoi River so that reach above SH1 up to the Cust Main Drain is consistent with the river below SH1."**

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

"That waters designated as course fishing to remain open over winter".

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

T Hawker to advise R Sowman of these changes.

R Cosgrove to update Reel Life and website of these changes.

7b i. Development of McIntosh's

Cr Stuart presented a paper requesting support to upgrade the area around McIntosh's. Due to an increase in visitor numbers to the area he has asked that his proposal for introducing a lockable gate approx. 500 metres back from Ferry Road to be closed off with key access for out of hours users; fenced parking and upgrade of area including

landscaping; provide drive-up access to the wheel chair platform, installation of an appropriate toilet facility. Cr Stuart has asked that NCF&G Council support this proposal and representation be made to ECAN.

"That NC F&G Council support this recommendation with Cr Stuart to take to D Haffenden (ECAN) for advancement."

Moved: Cr Cumberpatch

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

7b ii. Decisions Taken Potentially Impinging on Other Councils

The need for a process or set of procedures to be followed that allows inter-council consultation and allow for shared views to influence the outcome. Points raised in discussion were the need to be mindful of other Council's notifications; the need for central access for regulation changes nation wide for comment; introduce a system to notify all Councils on changes. R Cullinane to talk to D Rood to look at ways for regions to better communicate with one another.

7b iii Recommendations from Working Party on Anglers Notice Final 28 March 2016

It was noted that NC F&G were not consulted on any changes included in the Notice. The subject of language interpretation be referred to the Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee. Staff to look at the Anglers Notice and advise any changes as necessary to R Sowman.

7b iv Hunting and Harvest Ethics

Paper to be referred to the Gamebird Advisory Committee.

7b v Working with Nature Awards

Current criteria includes improvement of freshwater habitat, protection/preservation of habitat relating to land use pressures; group or education based activities that promote the use of best practices and innovative techniques for maintaining or improving freshwater habitat; evidence of significant reductions achieved in nutrient discharges, pathogen run-off or significantly improved in-stream habitat quality.

Points raised in discussion were that these Awards work as an education for farmers and more awareness of what farmers are doing could be rolled out over time; ask ECAN to assist in finding appropriate farms for these awards; possibly consider unmodified farmland for these awards. It was notified the field trip to the Waikuku Users Group site would be on 28th September 2016.

7b iv Environmental Advisory Committee – Strategic Priorities

A discussion paper was presented outlining the threats facing NC F&G in relation to protecting freshwater habitats with priorities and solutions being offered and budgets identified;

- Canterbury Research Programme - an independently reviewed water quality omnibus report
- F&G Water body Monitoring Programme - to take more ownership in terms of habitat quality monitoring

- An independent regional Water Quality Compliance Board – to monitor and assess performance of ECAN in delivering its regional council functions with respect to freshwater resources;
- Media/social media communications strategy;
- Environmental protection/enhancement work – working with farmers and agencies to achieve practical environmental interventions or enhancements.

General discussion points – use this strategic plan in relation to sea run trout enhancement programme by putting the science to it and monitor over time; may need to apply for special funding to advance the plan; NZC should have a nationwide monitoring programme.

“That Council adopt the strategic priorities outlined by the Environment Advisory Committee, subject to final approval of the proposed project plans and budgets.”

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Robinson

CARRIED

8. Reports

8a. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman requested the meeting be in-committee at 9.17pm to discuss Glenthorne Station.

The meeting resumed at 9.25pm.

Cr Isitt stated that he along with T Hawker and R Cullinane had met with the Selwyn District Council to discuss issues relating to toilet facilities at Lake Coleridge. Discussion on running a public campaign highlighting this issue should be considered.

8b. Staff Report

i. Salmon Spawning Habitat

It is the responsibility of consent holders to maintain fish screens in a compliant manner and ECAN to monitor and police. Evidence was required to further discussion with ECAN.

ii. General Habitat

Te Waihora, ECAN and DoC along with NC F&G need to all work together in a co-ordinated way towards the restoration projects in the Ellesmere catchment.

8ci Financial Report

R Cullinane stated after investigation the FBT payment would remain at its current level. That hatchery expenditure v budget was over but would be off set at the end of year with hatchery income.

8d NZC Report

Cr Cumberpatch highlighted points raised at the last NZC meeting; legal counsel resource based in Wellington to be revisited; Lanyard not good support by other regions, if NC F&G want them then go ahead; that there was the ability to develop language interpretation with F&G resources; Hothouse currently completing an audit on F&G website.

8e Fresh Waters Programme

Cr Robinson reported the “Case for Support” document was now being presented to potential partners and sponsors. He spoke on the success of the World Fish Migration Day and stated the delivery of ova to schools was nearly complete.

8f. Building Update

R Cullinane stated two consents were being lodged soon for the building and waste water system and that the internal fencing had been completed. That a ‘primer’ email had been sent to stakeholders seeking in kind assistance and that a follow up email would be sent in a few weeks time.

R Cullinane then gave a brief update on prosecution outcomes.

9 General Business

a. Wheelchair and Blind Disability – Access Fishing at the Groyne

Cr Stuart requested that wheel chair bound and blind persons be added to the current regulations 3.4 pertaining to fishing at the Groyne Lakes. R Cullinane advised that currently dispensation is given on application on a case by case basis.

This matter be discussed at the next Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee.

b. Contractor Director and Officer Liability Insurance

R Cullinane outlined the need for this cover. R Cullinane to investigate if volunteers are covered by this insurance.

“That Council approves the inclusion of any staff members who are engaged as Contractors within the Council’s Management Liability insurance policy

Moved: Cr Isitt

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10.pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Next Meeting

Date: 24TH August 2016

Time: 6.30p.m.

Venue: DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn