

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 19 April 2017

At the DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.35 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Trevor Isitt (Chair), Denis Kelliher, Craig Maylam, Ron Stuart, Phillip Musson, John Cumberpatch

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

Public: Paul Hodgson

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Malcolm Gilbert, Charles Smith, Peter Robinson

Staff: Emily Arthur-Moore

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Maylam

CARRIED

3. Notification of General Business

Request for Joint Purchase of a NICO Real-Time Nitrogen Logger

4. Health and Safety Update

A brief report was presented.

5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 15th February and 15th March 2017 be accepted".

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

Points raised in discussion:

7a iv Rakaia River Enhancement – Bully Creek – D Barr reported that the Rakaia River Fishing Promotions had agreed to this proposal in principle. In conjunction with the subject of 'Meeting the Public' Council meeting, it was suggested a meeting be held at the South Rakaia Huts. D Barr to contact John Richards to further this and Bill Southward, North Rakaia Huts to see if such a meeting would be feasible.

8g Gamebird Advisory Committee Minutes – Junior Shooters Activities and Involvement at Handloaders – Discussion on the need for the Advisory Committee to come up with a programme. Cr Maylam reported that he and Cr Kelliher are in the process of designing a handbook which would ultimately form the basis of the Junior Shooters Programme.

5b. Matters Arising

Items discussed from 19th October 2016 Meeting:

- a. **Discount Licence Fee for Wheelchair and Blind Anglers** – R Cullinane reported there was no national policy and was up to the discretion of each region to grant any form of discount or dispensation.
- b. **Nga Tahu Representative to NC F&G Council** – R Cullinane reported the position was currently being advertised.
- c. **'Meeting the Public'** – first meeting to be held at the South Rakaia Huts.
- d. **Salmon Quest Game** – look for future funding opportunities.

Items to be taken off the Action Sheet

19th October 2016 –

- Discount licence fee for wheelchair and blind anglers
- NC F&G Council meetings to be held in different locations

6. Public Session

Fish Screens – P Hodgson was advised this would be discussed later in the meeting under Staff Report.

7. Meeting Business

7a i Proposed Areas for Spending Back Country Budget

D Ambler to add to Staff meeting agenda then agenda for June 2017 Council meeting.

7a ii 2017/18 Fishing Regulations Review Meeting Date

Date confirmed for Monday 22 May 2017 at DoC Office Rangiora commencing at 7.00pm. D Ambler to prepare notices for The Press and Northern Outlook.

7a iii Postage/Email Council Papers

The decision was taken to email copies of papers to Councillors, with hard copies being made available at meetings.

7a iv Development of McIntosh's – Amendment

After discussion the following proposal was endorsed by North Canterbury Fish and Game Council (NC F&G) to be presented to Ecan Council for consideration:

"That NC F&G support the following to assist in the improvement and enhancement of the McIntosh's location for Anglers and other users' access and enjoyment;

1. **Improved Ferry Road gate opening/closing access for wheelchair anglers so they may drive vehicles adjacent to the wheelchair platform;**
2. **Upgrade toilet facilities for all users with disabled access;**

3. The establishment of seating or shelter constructions along the McIntosh's riverside for angler use, their families or supporters and other visitors to this location. The area could benefit from some landscaping;
4. Upgrade the Ferry Road parking area to overcome mud holes and surface flooding. It is also suggested the current fence and access be upgraded and moved closer to the stopbank.
5. Another area worthy for consideration is the development of the riverside land immediately over the stopbank at McIntosh's to create a memorial area where deceased ashes could be planted under a native tree or a memorial tree planted. This area could be named 'Anglers Rest' and would provide a more satisfactory option than dropping ashes into the river."

Moved: Cr Stuart Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch Carried

7b i Printed Policy on the Protection of Rivers/Streams Including Fencing Placement and Riparian Planting and Exclusion Zones for Stocking and Fertilising

It was advised that Ecan and DoC have similar Policies on the Protection of Rivers/Streams and that their references be put on NCF&G web page. R Cosgrove to investigate.

7b ii Awareness of Manuka and Kanuka

After discussion that Manuka and Kanuka should not be used in building mai mais, that R Cosgrove convey this to our stakeholders through Both Barrels.

8. Reports

- 8a Chairman's Report** - Cr Isitt stated he had been heavily involved in the Fresh Waters Programme and due to Cr Robinson's absence updated the meeting on developments and events held within the Programme. Sponsorship by John Jones Steel, Dux Dine, the Little Big Tree Company and GVI Logistics were acknowledged and thanked. Cr Isitt stated more sponsorship was still being sought but thought in general this was gaining momentum due to named Trustees and sponsors coming on board with the Programme.

8b Staff Report

- 1141 Hatcheries** – D Barr advised the slow returns to both Montrose and Silverstream hatcheries so far and reported the possibility of a double crash due to salmon being trapped in irrigation canals on the Waimakariri River. Discussion on the number of salmon being reported on social media followed.

S Terry tabled the initial response result of the North Canterbury Trout Survey. The question asked "Do you think the trout fisheries below SH1 have declined over the last five years".

Total contacted = 388; total fished for trout = 233; 113 strongly agree with the statement with 4 strongly disagreeing.

Fish Screens – T Hawker gave an overview of his presentation to the ECAN/NCF&G Councillor meeting recently and advised he would be giving a presentation on his recent trip to the USA on this subject at the next Salmon & Trout Advisory Committee meeting. T Hawker suggested that a joint venture with ECAN to fix the problem be recommended. He also suggested the encouragement of farmers to use best practices for irrigation consents.

Points raised in discussion were;

- To have a good monitoring practice in place to encourage farmers to get fish screens;
- To measure/test effectiveness of fish screens every six months until they are working properly;
- That fish screens be incorporated into the Farm Environment Plan. R Cullinane to discuss with ECAN to see if this is viable;
- .The need to determine how many smolt are lost in the irrigation canals, and how this can be measured which currently is a problem.
- That a value needs to be put onto the lost fish.

After discussion, D Barr to research the cost of a computerised microscope to determine the age of returning fish and present to next Council meeting with costings.

“That this Council approves the purchase from the Asset Replacement Fund of a computerised microscope.”

Moved: Cr Maylam Seconded: Cr Stuart Carried

Request for Joint Purchase of a NICO Real-Time Nitrogen Logger

The nitrogen logger would be jointly funded by ECAN and used on the Hurunui River. This river over the time has been the subject of much debate over water quality and the nitrogen levels as it was felt the current monitoring of two sites along the River was not reliable. Improved river monitoring will allow the off-farm estimates to be cross-checked and improve the ability for ECAN to implement more adaptive management as necessary.

“Based on the justification and associated conditions provided, this Council approves the joint purchase of one Nico Real Time Nitrogen Logger to a maximum of \$7,200.00 which would be a one off cost to NCF&G ”

Moved: Cr Isitt Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch Carried

8c The Council would like to record its appreciation and compliment E Arthur-Moore for her work on the Wairarapa Stream project.

8d NZC Report

Cr Isitt reported that NZC were conducting a review of North Canterbury hatchery operations and explained the case. He stated there needed to be a nationwide review not by region.

Cr Cumberpatch reported back on some financial models / policies that were being reviewed, on a proposed Governors Forum in 2017 and on a Salmon Symposium possibly being held this year.

8f Building Report

R Cullinane reported the internal fit out was near completion and that funding for pathways, kerbing etc had been approved by Managers. There however was no set date for moving in.

Discussion on the building opening followed. Cr Cumberpatch to contact the Prime Minister's office to see what his availability would be mid to late July for opening ceremony and ribbon cutting. R Cullinane to discuss with D Rood attendance of Minister for Conservation / Director General DoC.

8g Advisory Committee's

Salmon / Trout - Meeting to be held 26 April 2017

Gamebird - Advised there would be one amendment to next year's Gamebird Regulations.

9. General Business

a. **Staff Conference** - Dunedin 5 – 7 July 2017

b. **ECAN Long Term Plan** – NCF&G need to submit. D Ambler to agenda for next staff meeting with recommendations being tabled at the June Council meeting.

c. **Coleridge Toilets / Camping** - Access to fishing areas still a concern. New Selwyn District Mayor keen to see progress and will have meetings with local landowners.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40.pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____