**FISH & GAME NZ – WEST COAST REGION**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2014**

**AT WESTPORT AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Rob Roney, (Conservation Board Liaison), Dean Phibbs, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chair), Jean Willis.

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Rhys Adams (Officer), Leanne Johnson (Administration Officer), Nick Moody (DoC), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu)

**APOLOGIES:**  Dave Heine, Gary Webb

*Resolved: (D Phibbs/B Erickson), carried.*

***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council write to Gary Webb informing him of the process to resign if he wishes and that the apologies be received.***

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER:**

Mark Smith made the Council aware of two possible conflicts of interest. Mr Smith is involved in some contract work with the Gloriavale Christian Community and the Echo Mine, he believed this may conflict with the discussion on Heaphy Road stopping and the application for Resource Consent at Echo Mine.

At 7.05pm the council meeting moved into a publicly excluded session to protect the privacy of an individual.

At 7.17pm the full council meeting resumed.

**MINUTES**

Mr Harris stated that he did not believe the minutes regarding correspondence were detailed enough. Mr Kelly stated that it was always a judgement call on the required detail and that he would commit to providing more detail in future.

Resolved: (B Erickson/J Derks), carried

**That the Minutes of the October 2014 meeting, as circulated, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

No matters arising.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Mr Erickson enquired about the status of the Birchfield Minerals Resource Consent Application for the Grey Dredge. Mr Kelly provided an update, stating that the hearing had been postponed until February.

Mr Harris enquired about licence returns. Mrs Johnson stated that these were anglers returning licences that were issued in duplicate by licence agents incorrectly using the online system.

National Policies Response – NZC

Mr Harris presented the response to the West Coast regions request for a list of National Policies that have been through the consultation process. Noting that he would be covering the issue in his report from the Governance Forum.

Felt Soled Waders – NZC

Mr Kelly noted that he had received an email for the Otago Region as well stating that they would be discussing it at their December meeting.

*Resolved: (R Roney/B Erickson), carried*

 ***That the inwards correspondence be received.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Derks enquired about unbudgeted expenditure for Sportsfisheries Guides. Mr Kelly stated that he had not met the deadline to get the billing in for the last financial year as the expenditure was attributable to last years project.

*Resolved: (J Derks /J Willis), carried.*

 **That the Financial Report be received**

# MANAGERS REPORT

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bimonthly operational report. Expanding on;

* Late spawning in Sunny Bight Creek at Lake Kaniere.
* Mr Kelly provided an update on the Heaphy Road stopping issue. The GDC received 10 submissions in opposition with Mr Kelly presenting a verbal submission to the GDC as well. The GDC have resolved to send the proposal to the Environment Court with the Christian Community covering the legal costs. The Environment Court has since returned the referral to the GDC as it was substandard. Mr Kelly further outlined the process from this point and provided an estimate of costs to make a good case.

*Resolved: (J Willis/R Roney), carried*

**The West Coast Fish and Game Council proceed with an application to the National Legal Fund to cover the costs of an Environment Court case.**

* Mr Phibbs enquired about the access issue at the Ahaura/Haupiri confluence. Mr Adams stated that the issue of access on the stopbank has been resolved and the public are free to access as they please. Mr Roney enquired about the formed road through the Coates property. Mr Adams confirmed that the formed road is through private property and permission must be sought from the landowner.
* Mr Kelly thanked Rangers and Councillors for assisting with the junior fishing day. Mr Harris stated that a lot of the fish were foul hooked and this was not a good look. Mr Adams confirmed that is was inevitable considering the number of fish in such a small volume of water. Mr Roney commented that a number of children were warned about foul hooking.
* Mr Kelly informed the Council of a satisfactory uptake by licence agents of the online system. He is currently investigating options for Westport.
* Mr Smith enquired about recent fisheries enhancement and the release of fish into the Kawhaka Water Race, when it was not highlighted in the Enhancement Strategy. Mr Kelly stated that is was an emergency call considering the poor health of the fish. Mr Kelly stated that the fish had not travelled well and had subsequently been confirmed to have died shortly after release.
* Mr Erickson enquired about fin clipped fish. Mr Adams stated that he would have to initiate a media campaign for their return, so the anglers know about the process and identification.

 Resolved: (D Phibbs/R Roney), carried

**That the Managers Operational Report be received.**

**GOVERNANCE FORUM REPORT**

Mr Harris presented the Governance Forum Report.

* Presentations -by Anthony Van Dorp [Eastern Region] and Zane Moss [Southland] Who would like to see - consistency in operations; development of appropriate SOPs for all Tasks and an audit system encouraging adherence.
* Leadership from NZC; Development of National Policies and possible audit of adherence.
* Reduced parochialism and better use of resources across regions- eg. Compliance, Drift Diving.
* Formal system and procedures for staff training. Particularly important for new staff in small regions, where no mentoring is available.
* Administrative, operational and financial efficiencies; eg. Common template for financial reporting, common internal data system, common communications provider, bulk purchasing.
* Training for new managers and governors.
* NZC's co-ordination role and audit function. Elana Gedes.
* NZC's purpose "to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters" "to provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game" ie. Regional Fish and Game Councils are responsible for day-to-day operations, and NZC for co-ordination.
* A central aspect of NZC's co-ordination role is its function to develop National Policies, in conjunction with regions. Also consistent with the idea of co-ordination is the requirement that Regions will implement national policies once they have been adopted.
* NZC's Audit Role - can carry out regular or ad hoc performance audits as required. Not financial audits which are the responsibility of the Auditor General.
* Identification of output classes that are logical candidates for coordination.

*Output class 1 -species management*

* SOP's
* Research
* High level regulations
* Consistency re. Fisheries enhancement.

*Output class 2 - habitat management*

* Bottom lines for water including 'best management practices' RMA strategy- incl. use of internal expertise.

*Output class 3- participation*

* Marketing strategy
* Sponsorship
* Co-ordinate with Walking Access Commission

*Output class 4v- public awareness*

* Communications on national issues Website
* Compliance, Health and Safety in Employment, and Licensing were also considered to be areas for national co-ordination, as were the opportunities for administrative and financial efficiencies identified in staff presentation.

*Fish and Game 20 years on*

* What do we want? - Acceptance of angling and hunting. [still part of our culture]

- Meeting stakeholder expectations.

- F&G a national organization

- NZ angling and hunting to be recognised internationally.

- Enduring public access to angling and hunting resources.

* Challenges; - Dominance of economic values over environmental.

- Population growth, demographic and ethnic changes.

- Pressure from increased nos. of anglers/hunters and other resource users.

* What do we need to get there? - commitment and unity

- adaptability

- well trained and resourced staff

- good public awareness

- ongoing species research.

* Where to now? Up to NZ Council to accept the outcomes of the forum, especially staff recommendations, and act accordingly.

# GENERAL BUSINESS

2014 Game Season Notice – Recommendation to Minister:

Mr Kelly informed the council of the requirement to make a recommendation to the Minister regarding the 2014/15 Gamebird season. Mr Adams presented his Gamebird Management Review report. He identified the following issues.

- Low hunting effort with least amount of hunting in 2014.

- Lowest Greylard harvest recorded since survey inception

- The liberal daily bag limit. 15 birds to a daily bag limit.

- Moult counts low in 2013 – below management levels.

- Pukeko Harvest lowest recorded in 2014.

Mr Adams recommended a reduction in bag limits for Greylard and Pukeko. Changes in season length and cessation of the Special Paradise Shelduck Season.

A general discussion ensued regarding factors for the noted decline in success. Mr Kelly proposed that to minimise the impact on hunters, the limits should be incrementally reduced.

A public attendee Mr Owen Smith commented about some local changes he has noticed over many decades of hunting in the Westport area; The Greylard environment has changed and increased pesticides use associated with dairy farming were singled out.

Mr Roney questioned the effect that out of region hunters may be having. Mr Adams stated that those figures were not available, although previous analysis indicates they can have a significant impact on harvest. Mr Kelly also clarified that lawful occupier harvest is not included in the figures.

*Resolved: (J Derks/M Smith), carried*

***That the staff recommendations from Mr Adams’s report be incorporated into the 2015/16 Gamebird Regulation recommendation to the Minister.***

Adoption of Annual Report

Mr Harris presented the 2014 Annual Report. Mr Derks questioned the period the Sports Fishery Enhancement project covered. Mr Kelly clarified that the figures were for the October 2013 liberations.

Mr Phibbs commented that it was interesting that licence sales had increased for game and decreased for fish.

*Resolved: (A Harris/D Phibbs), carried*

 ***That the Annual Report be received.***

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….