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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2013**

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7PM**

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:** Jan Derks, Rob Roney, Dean Phibbs, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, Andy Harris (Chairman), Jean Willis, Dave Heine

*In attendance:* Dean Kelly (Manager), Rhys Adams (Officer), Leanne Johnson (Administration Officer), Tim Shaw (DOC), Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu)

**APOLOGIES:**

No apologies were received.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER:**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**MINUTES**

Mr Derks highlighted some typographical errors in the August minutes.

Resolved: (R Roney/D Heine), carried

**That the Minutes of the August 2013 meeting, with typographical errors noted, be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

No matters were raised.

# CORRESPONDENCE: (as per pre-circulated schedule)

Mr Harris acknowledged the letter of thanks to Fish and Game regarding the recent Junior Pheasant Hunt.

Mr Smith enquired about the letter from Alex Kidd regarding the use of non-toxic shot. Mr Harris presented the letter with the council acknowledging receipt.

Mr Harris informed the council that, as requested, he and the Manager had analysed staff emails. Anything of interest to council was highlighted and included in the Managers report and/or the presentation section of the council meeting.

*Resolved: (B Erickson/J Derks), carried*

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr Derks raised an issue with the format of the abbreviated Profit and Loss. The format provided does not distinguish between subtotals and totals in the expenditure section. Mr Kelly offered to review the document with Mrs Johnson with the goal of getting it to better align with the budget format.

Mr Kelly informed that council that the 2013 Financial Audit was complete. Departing comments from the audit team were that the new Administration officer was very well organised and allowed them to complete the Audit a day ahead of schedule.

One historical issue was found regarding internet licence sales being accrued to the wrong month. Mr Kelly offered to fix the issue in this financial year which would have the effect of increasing licence income for 2012/13.

*Resolved: (J Derks /D Phibbs), carried.*

**That the Financial Report be received**

# MANAGERS REPORT

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

* Mr Harris queried the bi-annual boat inspection and annual inspection. Mr Kelly informed the council that these were two separate in-house reviews required under Fish and Game’s Safe Ship Management Plan.
* Mr Heine enquired about the meeting with the Walking Access Commission regarding Berry’s Creek and Crooked River access. Mr Kelly stated that he would enquire with the commission regarding the outcome of the WAC involvement and if the outcome was unsatisfactory he would take it up as a Fish and Game issue. Mr Willis stated that in his opinion the WAC were ‘wimpish’ and therefore ineffective. Mr Roney informed the council about their 10 year review period and their function to perform.
* Mr Kelly asked for volunteers to help out with the junior fishing day at the Grey Gun Club in late November. Mr Roney asked that a reminder be sent out closer to the time.
* Mr Willis noted that Fish and Game West Coast had started a Facebook page and enquired about the amount of time it takes to maintain the page. Mr Kelly provided an overview of the process, stating that improvements in technology, particularly smart phones mean that photos and content can be placed onto the page from out in the field.
* Mr Kelly elaborated on the status of Birchfield Minerals Ltd application to mine a large section of the Grey River at Ngahere. Mr Heine enquired about timeframes for further information requests, with Mr Kelly unaware of any timeframes placed on the applicant by the West Coast Regional Council.

Resolved: (J Derks/R Roney), carried

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

**NZ COUNCIL**

Mr Willis provided a summary of the September NZC meeting. Stating that;

* Due to NZC advocacy Peter Dunne and the Maori Party had withdrawn their support for the proposed RMA changes in their current format.
* A favourable decision on the One Plan appeal to the High Court has all parties claiming a win, which is good for the sustainability of farming in the region.
* The bad news coming out of all these legal activities is that financial constraints on the legal fund mean that it may not be feasible to fight the legal actions we need to fight. We may have to prioritise what we want to protect. Mr Roney stated that we need to be doing a lot more towards public awareness.
* Brad Dannefard had provided an update to the NZC on search and surveillance legislation and its impact on Fish and Game activities.
* Due to time constraints his issues were not addressed at the NZ Council meeting.

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

**That the NZ Council Report be received.**

# GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Service Recognition (J Derks):

Mr Derks asked for comments regarding the pre-circulated policy. Mr Roney enquired about recognition for the chairman due to the extra time they provide. Some comments were received and Mr Derks amended some policy wording regarding rangers and appointment.

Mr Kelly stated that it may not be possible to get the medals prepared for this years AGM. Council agreed to focus on the 2014 AGM with Mr Kelly to investigate the timeframes for the medals.

Discussion ensued about the timing of the meeting and the involvement of the public.

It was agreed that volunteers would be eligible for retrospective medals in the bronze and silver classes despite them having obtained the Gold class. Volunteers could chose to decline if they don’t want all three medals.

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

**That the West Coast fish and Game Council adopt the Councillor Service Recognition Policy with changes noted from the meeting.**

**SUPPER**

The meeting adjourned for supper at 8.30pm. Meeting restarted at 8.50pm

# GENERAL BUSINESS (cont)

Sportsfish Enhancement Strategy (M Smith):

M Smith stated that he had had another meeting with Mr Kelly and that they have tweaked the matrix. Mr Smith hoped to have a more prescriptive strategy available for the December meeting.

Managers Performance Appraisal:

Mr Harris informed the council that the Managers Performance Appraisal was due. The committee needs to be re-appointed with the goal of completing the process within two council meetings.

*Resolved: (B Erickson/M Smith), carried*

***That A Harris, J Derks, R Roney and D Phibbs be re-appointed as the Managers Remuneration Committee.***

Department of Conservation:

Tim Shaw provided an introduction from DOC Hokitika, stating that John Lyall (previous department representative) had moved into a different role. Trevor Johnson will be attending the Greymouth meetings. Mr Shaw provided an overview on;

* Lake Ianthe - Rudd and Lagarosiphon, DoC will attempt to trim the numbers of Rudd this season before spawning. R Adams from Fish and Game is going to help out with this. Mr Heine enquired about the age for the Rudd caught with Mr Adams providing a response of, were between 6-7 years old. The original Rudd caught by Mr Penrose that was 30cm long was aged at between 6-7 years old
* Lagarosiphon - DoC is working closely with NIWA to eradicate this.
* Management Strategy Review – Mr Shaw is still enquiring about the status of this.
* Conservation Board is being reviewed under the DoC re-structure. Representation at Fish and Game meetings is through Kori Hutana.
* Gamebird Control Permits - Some airport permits had expired. Mr Shaw is working with Mr Howat from the Hokitika Airport and the Greymouth Airport.
* Mr Erickson asked when the 2nd Hokitika Gorge Bridge is to go ahead – Mr Shaw didn’t think the funding had been approved for this and did not know what plan B was, for this.

Ngai Tahu Representative:

Mr Climo stated that he does not know if he will be attending future meetings or if there is going to be a new appointee.

Meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Chairman……………………………………… Date…………………….