

MINUTES OF THE WEST COAST FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER AT GREYMOUTH AT 7:00P.M.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm with a welcome to members.

PRESENT: Andy Harris (Chair), Rob Roney, Jan Derks, Mark Smith, Bruce Erickson, David Heine, Dean Phibbs

In attendance: Glen Newton (DoC), Dean Kelly (Manager), Lee Crosswell (Fish and Game Officer).

APOLOGIES:

Motion proposed: **That the apology from Owen Smith be accepted.**

Proposer: J Derks Second: R Roney Outcome: Carried

AGENDA

There were no changes requested from the pre-circulated Agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Glen Newton from the Department of Conservation informed the Council of access and use issues associated with Lake Kangaroo. Mr Kelly updated council on the issue from a Fish and Game perspective and how, soon to be installed, angler access signs have been tailored to suit the landowner situation. Crooked River access is still available at a prescribed Fish and Game angler access point through private property. An issue is still unresolved regarding access to Lake Kangaroo. Mr Roney mentioned that there are some families that have been duck hunting Lake Kangaroo for a long period. Mr Heine stated that anglers are finding it difficult to gain access and these interactions may be different to Fish and Game discussions with the landowner. Mr Kelly committed to meeting with the DoC to discuss the issues and investigate solutions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No Councillors or Staff noted conflicts of interest with Agenda items.

ACCUMULATIVE ACTIONS LIST

Mr Harris informed the council of the Manager's pending performance review and asked for feedback on the current process. Mr Kelly and the Council were satisfied with the current process.

Mr Kelly asked for Councillor input regarding the upcoming AGM.

MINUTES

Motion proposed: **That the Minutes of the August 2017 meeting be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

Proposer: R Roney Second: B Erickson Outcome: Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr Derks enquired if any response has been received from the NZ Council regarding the proposed code of sports fishing conduct. Mr Kelly stated there has been no response from the NZ Council.

Mr Harris (as NZ council appointee) was asked to follow up why there has been no response from NZ Council for several letters from the West Coast Region. Mr Kelly was to provide some instances of non-response to letters.

Waterfowl species included in the permit at the Westport Airport were questioned. Swans and Paradise Shelduck were confirmed as species relevant to F&G.

Mr Erickson asked for a copy of Norrie Ewing's letter discussed relating to Hokitika River mouth access. Mr Kelly provided an overview of the letter and committed to providing a copy to Mr Erickson.

Motion proposed: **That the inwards correspondence be received.**

Proposer: B Erickson Secunder: M Smith Outcome: Carried

BUDGET POLICY NZC

Mr Kelly provided an overview of the draft policy and the issues it proposed to address. A discussion ensued regarding reserves and dedicated funds.

Motion proposed: **That the West Coast Fish and Game council support the proposed changes as prescribed to the National Budget Policy.**

Proposer: J Derks Secunder: D Phibbs Outcome: Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Mr Kelly received questions on the Financial Report.

Mr Harris questioned how depreciation is recorded in the financial report. Mr Kelly explained the accounting system to the Council. Mr Phibbs explained how depreciation should reflect actual asset values with Mr Kelly stating that adjustments made this year to the length of depreciation for assets will address the issue.

Motion proposed: **That the Financial Report be received.**

Proposer: R Roney Secunder: D Phibbs Outcome: Carried

OPERATIONAL REPORT

Mr Kelly received question on the pre-circulated operational report.

Mr Roney enquired about the commercial use of the staff quarters at Okuru. A discussion ensued regarding the use of the hut, risk to Fish and Game and Fish and Game's statutory framework.

Motion proposed: **That the Okuru Hut not be available for commercial (paid) use and be held for the purpose of staff, councillor and volunteer accommodation with all users to receive an appropriate induction and the associated risks managed. All existing booking to be honoured with no extra paid bookings to be taken as of 10 October 2017.**

Proposer: J Derks Secunder: R Roney Outcome: Carried

Mr Roney thanked Kim McPherson for producing an excellent resource for the Wetlands Project.

Messrs Kelly and Crosswell provided a Council update on a compliance issue.

Mr Phibbs enquired about George Brownlee’s pond at Virgin Flat. Mr Phibbs expressed his desire to have a Junior fish out pond in the Westport area. Mr Crosswell committed to further develop this opportunity.

Mr Phibbs enquired about the access item at Haupiri. A discussion ensued about access and the move to provide more, site-specific, information on Angler Access signage.

Motion proposed: **That the Operational Report be received.**

Proposer: B Erickson Seconder: R Roney Outcome: Carried

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Motion proposed: **That the Health and Safety report be received.**

Proposer: J Derks Seconder: R Roney Outcome: Carried

NZ COUNCIL REPORT

Mr Harris provided a verbal report on the recent meeting in Wellington. Mr Harris noted there is an increased ideology that introduced species are a pest.

Mr Harris also provided details of the salmon symposium being held this November. Discussion ensued regarding the scope of invitation and format of the event. Mr Kelly offered to follow up and provide details to likely attendees.

BACKCOUNTRY FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Mr Kelly provided an issues and options paper to manage a perceived decline in the fishing experience in the Karamea and Mokihinui Rivers. A discussion ensued covering issues such as commercial dominance, non-resident usage, fishing quality, fish behaviour and management options.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A pre-circulated Risk Management plan was reviewed.

Motion proposed: **That the West Coast Fish and Game Council adopt the Risk Management Plan as a working document (with suggested amendments from this meeting), as a framework for identifying and appropriately managing risk.**

Proposer: J Derks Seconder: R Roney Outcome: Carried

AGENDA ITEM

Mr Roney informed the Council of a possible Rudd capture at the mouth of the Wanganui River by a Whitebaiter. Both Fish and Game and DoC staff were interested in acquiring more details about the event.

Meeting closed at 9:22pm.

Chair..... Date.....