**BRaid 27 - Minutes 26 April, 2013**

# Held at ECAN offices, Lincoln, at 3pm.

**Welcome:** Chairman Nick Ledgard welcomed 8 other member at Lincoln and Jim Jolly in the Timaru ECAN office.

**Present:** Nick Ledgard, Edith Smith, John Dowding, Rob Gerard, Helen Chambers, Jan Walker, Val Clemens, Jane Demeter, Mimouk Hannan, Peter Langlands, Eleanor Bissel, Jim Jolly.

**Apologies:** Chris Woolmore, Mark Sanders, Frances Schmechel. The apologies were accepted.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 11 February, were circulated. Moved Nick Ledgard, seconded Eleanor Bissell that the minutes were a true and correct record. Carried.

**Matters arising:**

**Power Point presentation**: Nick will be showing this to the OSNZ meeting on Monday night. It is available to members for showing to interested community groups.

**IBAs:** Instituted by WWF, which is partnered by Forest & Bird, Important Bird Areas are not currently used in NZ. Jan offered to find out when the report on suitable areas in NZ will be released, this is thought to include the braided rivers.

**ECAN phone numbers**: The ‘Pollution Hotline” is used for general concerns. If a duty ranger is on duty in the Waimak & Ashley areas, the call will be put through. DOC have a duty ranger for protected wildlife (0800 DOC HOT). Val & Mimouk will collate numbers and information for distribution in the event of an incident.

**LWR & CWMS**: Jane expressed concern that the CWMS targets related to braided rivers were being ‘lost in the mire’ as the strategy progressed and that major rivers were being overlooked. Discussion brought forward a number of ideas: John Dowding suggested that BRaid offer to present to each Zone Committee, to inform about species present, and compare targets in ZIPS. Peter Langlands suggested using the imminent change in the threat status of Black Billed Gulls as a media opportunity

**Moved Nick Ledgard/ Jan Walker:**

**“that letters be sent to all Zone Committees offering a presentation on braided rivers and their endemic bird species”. Carried.**

*Other comments: ‘there is little knowledge of the significance of threat categories.’*

*‘Despite information put forward re braided river ecology, the Orari/Opihi has been declared a water-short’ area.’*

*‘The proposed Land & Water Plan will be supplanted by sub-regional plans prepared by Zone Committees; it is essential that groups such as Braid are active in the development of such plans.’*

*‘ZIPS will be revised’.*

*‘There is no mention of climate change in LWR.’*

**Training Course:** This year’s course will be held on 24 – 26 Sept at Glentui. Funding of $5900+GST has been granted by ECAN’s Biodiversity Fund. The cost will be $120 per person.

Members are asked to contact prospective attendees: NGO’s, Regional & District Councils, volunteers and relevant community groups.

Mimouk will create a link from the ECAN website to the Braid webpage.

**Funding:** ECAN has 2 funding schemes: Immediate Steps, ($100,000 per zone per year) and Biodiversity Funding. Funds might be used for blocking vehicle access and/or signs to erected along rivers during the nesting season.

**Finance:** The treasurer presented the financial report.

**Moved Nick Ledgard / Jane Demeter**

**“that the financial report be accepted”. Carried.**

**Moved Nick Ledgard / Edith Smith**

**“that the Treasurer invoice ECAN for $5900+GST, being the funding for the 2013 Training Course.” Carried.**

**Membership:**

**Moved Nick Ledgard / Jane Demeter**

**“that a sub-committee consisting of Edith & Peter Smith and Val Clemens look at changes to the constitution relative to membership and removal of clauses related to the Common Seal.” Carried.**

**Promotion:** It was agreed that it would be timely to stage another seminar, similar to the joint ECAN/DOC TAG seminar held in 2010 and coordinated by Frances Schmechel. Mimouk offered to discuss this with Frances.

**General Business:**

**Upper Waimak Survey 2012:** Coordinator Jim Jolly gave a verbal report and said his written report would be available by the end of May.

**Coordinator position:** A subcommittee has written a contract and action schedule, looked at funding sources and received 4 expressions of interest in the position. The contract will be sent to a solicitor for perusal. A start date of 1 August is proposed.

Nick Ledgard / Jan Walker moved:

**“that Jane Demeter be offered the position of Braid coordinator.” Carried.**

**Lower Waimakariri**: Rob Gerard reported on the state of the Lower Waimak river bed where huge volumes of gravel are being stockpiled for the Christchurch rebuild and the river looks like an industrial site. He has lodged a complaint with ECAN who hold the consent for gravel extraction. Suggested that BRaid members take photos and write articles for newspapers.

**Next meeting: 2013 AGM on 26 July.**

**ACTIONS:**

1. JAN: find out when WWF report on IBAs will be available.
2. VAL, MIMOUK: list phone numbers & disseminate
3. MIMOUK: create a link from the ECAN website to the Braid webpage.
4. MIMOUK: discuss with Frances Schmechel, the potential for a seminar.
5. JIM: Complete & circulate U. Waimak survey report.
6. NICK: Write funding application for coordinator position.