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**Minutes of the BRaid General Meeting held on Friday February 26th 2016 at 3pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Welcome:** Nick welcomed those present, Frances Schmechel, Colleen Phillip, Michael Hamblett, Sue Stubevoll, Edith and Peter Smith, Richard Maloney, Sara Ensor, and Sonny. Nick welcomed newcomers Andy Bray and David Hunter.

**Apologies:** Sarah Ensor, Val Clemens, Jan Walker, Jim Jolly, Jane Dementer, Steve Attwood, Eleanor Bissell and Helen Chambers

**Minutes of the December 4th 2015** meeting had been circulated and were confirmed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:**

* Action Item: Nick to do more work on smaller rivers with Sue S’s help.

Ashley River Care group: Kaki Recovery programme. Julia Nicholls has reported on recent progress on new sites for Kaki. May require changes to lower Ashley. Damage to aviaries at Twizel has reduced available birds for translocation. Childrens book to be written about the Kaki. Fundraising for new release of Kaki on Godley area. Art Auction April 16th.

* Lupins: ECan discussion document for Draft Regional Pest Management Plan. ECan currently spending on containment on private property. Link to submit to BRaid website.
* Ashburton Hakatere River Habitat Plan. Awaiting responses from contractors to requests for proposals.

**Correspondence:**

Mostly electronic conversations. A good case for printed copies for all to read.

**Out:**

Isaac Conservation Trust re information about ARCG and Kaki. The trust would like to be kept informed.

Nick contacted Wader Quest UK which has links with Braided River Partnerships worldwide.

**Financial:**

Community Conservation Partnership Fund – Braided River Partnerships project $33,000

Lotteries - $70,000

BRaid is financially comfortable for next 3 years which enables planning for projects.

Financial Accounts will be presented at the AGM to all members.

**Membership:** Charities require full names and addresses of members. Casual membership, no subscription but are emailed information about events and general minutes only.

**Management Committee**

The Management Committee over sees the purpose of and financial matters relating to BRaid and the braided river project and supervises the Managers work.

Details of meeting and decisions are recorded in the Management Committee minute book.

Members of the management committee are Nick Ledgard, Chairman, Jim Jolly, Jan Walker, Edith Smith, Frances Schmechel, Sara Ensor DOC and Jane Demeter.

**Manager’s Report**

* **Partnership Project.** Designed to involve commercial braided river users, businesses and operators with focus on black billed gulls and black fronted tern both of which are colonising birds.
* Information. Poster and information pack has been prepared.
* Data base of contacts being set up. Bird ID kits and monitoring, trapping and recording procedures development is underway.
* Nick and Sonny to meet Plains Irrigation to discuss stewardship.
* Develop a better network with the wider public.
* Promote business, tourism and economic benefits and as a result social ~~emotional~~ benefits too.
* Encouraging small communities to celebrate the biodiversity and birdlife in the rivers.
* Data collection is managed by Andy Grant who oversees the DOC archive of information and trends on birdlife in particular rivers. Colin O’Donnell has monitored trends over time recorded in Journal of Ecology.

**Other Management Matters**

Colleen noted the inclusion of 4WD in the network of observers and it was agreed that they be referred to as other users but BRaid continues to liaise with 4WD groups.

BRaid Website is a great source of information for research.

World Wildlife Fund has been updated and is happy with Braid’s report.

**Braided River Workshop May 31st 2016**

Advertising material distributed.

All presentations confirmed and poster presentations being arranged. High calibre of speakers contributing.

Registrations coming in and 50 places only remain.

**Waimakariri Survey**

Jim arranging: October 16th Sunday morning to Thursday 20th

Funding for jet boat, accommodation and some mileage to be sought from ECan.

**Other Matters**

* Seasonal management and monitoring of colonies. Basic outline to be developed with Partnership projects.
* ECan: Weed Management. Plan keep areas clear for breeding birds and progressively clear others sites.
* DOC: Rangitata. More than 30 Wrybills have been banded, a single adult from each nest
* Ashley: Adult survival appears to be limited. Life expectancy is 12-13 years but many disappear within 3-4 years.
* DOC/ECan Upper Clarence: Mike Bell. Trapping concentrated on large BFT colonies. Some bulldozing to create small predator free islands for tern. Predator control will continue.
* Lower Clarence. Claudia Mischler. Trapping near black billed gulls. Management of the impact of black backed gull on colonies.
* Lower Waimakariri: Courtney Thompson continuing focus on colonising braided river birds BFT and B bill gull.
* Lower Waitaki: ECan funded aerial survey a snap shot and rough estimate of the B bill gull population. Mike Bell reporting soon. DOC Controlling weeds on 1-2 hectare islands and small local weed free islands. Most effective habitat management is on larger rivers.
* Upper Ohau: Best BFT colony up to 450, 10% of world population, from 150 in 5 years with a comprehensive trapping programme and a controlled river flow most of the time.
* DOC: Postrgraduate student project by Courtney Hamblin using decoys to attract BFT to more suitable sites such as weed free islands.
* DOC Southland: Funding has been received to work with gravel abstractors to elicit how they can best help braided river bird habitats. Aparima River.

**Discussion:** There are gaps following surveys and a need to have ongoing monitoring of colonies during the season. DNA records will clarify relationships between colonies. Information on impact of Black backed gulls on various colonies is required to enable their management.

Challenges: Increase in rabbits on river beads is associated with subsequent rise in mustelids.

**Time for meetings:** Discussed need to avoid rush hour traffic and general meetings will be 4pm to 6pm.

Meeting Closed at 5pm

Next meeting Friday May 13th 4-6pm (Awaiting confirmation)

Signed:

Date: