

**Minutes of the BRaid General Meeting held on Friday May 13th 2016 at 4pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Welcome:** Nick welcomed those present, Geoff Swailes, Edith and Peter Smith, Val Clemens, Andy Bray, David Hunter, Sue Stubenvoll (late) and Sonny Whitelaw.

**Apologies:** Sarah Ensor, Frances Schmechel, Colleen Phillips, Richard Maloney, Jim Jolly, Jane Demeter, Steve Attwood, Eleanor Bissell, Jackie van Hal, Stephanie Galla and Tammy Steeves

**Minutes of the 26 February 2016** meeting had been circulated and were confirmed as a correct record. Moved Nick and seconded Andy

**Matters Arising:**

1. Case for better management of smaller rivers. Nick and Sue S to look into this. To consider Zone committee data on interconnectedness of groundwater with smaller rivers.

**Action item**:**Nick**

1. Lupins: We are awaiting the release of the Draft Regional Pest Management Plan for public comment.
2. Nut Point Gallery auction was a successful event raising $6,500 for Kaki recovery programme.
3. Predator Free New Zealand is collecting data about trapping programmes NZ wide
4. Ashburton Hakatere River Habitat Plan. Mike Bell and colleagues from Wildlife Management Ltd have been awarded the contract and consultation will commence in June.
5. Plains Irrigation Ashburton met with Nick and Sonny and are interested in sustainable development, which recognisesenvironmental issues such as those involving braided river birds. Their most likely role would be to act as acommunication hub to inform their clients. BRaid to supply Bird magnets and brochures. . To be followed up.
6. Wader Quest UK. Nick and Sonny have both written articles.

**Correspondence:**

**In and Out:**

Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw. BRaid has had input and acknowledges the outcome which is positive for retaining good bird habitat.

Forest and Bird IBA. Obtained permission to extract relevant braided river bird habitat information.

Miranda Shorebird Trust. Regarding BRaid sharing the Flock Project with particular focus on the braided river birds.

**Financial:**

* Sonny has forwarded the invoice to DOC for $6,066.00 which is the second payment in the Community Conservation Partnership Fund – Braided River Partnerships project
* An application for funding for two thirds cost for the Braided Rivers Workshop has been sent to ECan.
* Available funds 13th May $21,516.86
* Accounts for payment amounting to $23,135.90 were approved for payment. Moved by Peter, seconded by Nick.

**Membership:**

The BRaid email list is a 100 people. 29 subs have been paid including Representative members. 3 Casual members

**Action item: 1.** Edith to send membership information to Sonny so that she can email all contacts about subscriptions and membership options.

**2.** Sue to contact Canoe Clubs and Vendors re Braid membership.

**Manager’s Report**

* **BR Partnership Project. Progress to date**
* DOC Partnership funding is limited to specific expenses: project management wages, traps and a limited amount for operational costs: printing accommodation and transport items.
* Early stages of a discussion with ChCh Airport regarding managing birdlife in the airport environment. Also discussing marketing potential for braided rivers even if tangential.
* Preparation of information poster and information pack with Bird ID kits continuing.
* There was a very significant spike in website visits in February, which is a clear indicator that the initial phase of the BRPP to contact a wide range of river users resulted in a good uptake. Actual response has been much smaller, but that was to be expected as we cast a very wide net.
* Lower Waitaki Management Society are interested in being a partner (may take magnets).

The attention of Waitaki Jet Boaters is currently focused on sped and safety rather than birdlife. Casual observation by individual boaters may be a better option.

* Waiau. Amuri Jet are interested in monitoring up and down river, but have yet to reply to emails.

Orari River Protection Society: given that sections lower in the river were drying up last season, they have expressed interest in trapping around any colonies they see higher up the river in the coming season.

**Other Management**

* Sonny sends informal reports to some funders, and formal as requested.
* **Braided River Bird Workshop 31st May at Lincoln Event Centre**

120 attendees with 20 presenters totalling 140. Costs will be approx. $5-6,000

Logistics regarding programme and catering $30 per head discussed. Braid helpers to arrive 7.45am. A donations box will be available and donations encouraged

Presenters’ power points to be supplied by Monday May 30th midday at the latest: Nick and Sonny to have a dry run that afternoon. Nick to supply the data show projector. Ashburton F&B will provide backup Projector, laptop and pointer.

* **BRaid Website**

A great source of information for research. The site is being used by university students as a reference with good links to other sites.

Other social media such as twitter has a very immediate market for news, but is limited in terms of hard information. None of the members present except Sonny use social media regularly.

* **The Flock Project:**

Sonny introduced the Flock idea. This is a creative way to alert the public to the arrival of our migratory braided river birds. Models made of plywood or corflute of black billed gulls, black fronted terns, wrybill and others are decorated in bright or realistic colours and displayed in public places to herald their arrival in the braided rivers. This may include some prowling cats and stoats. Involving schools and local media, the aim is to alert the public to the endangered braided river birdlife and how special they are. Details to be discussed further.

* **Upper Waimakariri Survey.**

Date: Sunday October 16th to Thurs 30th. Jim arranging jet boat and liaison with landowners.

Nick arranging accommodation. Should we be applying to ECan for more funding? Nick to follow this up with Jim

**General**

BRaid appreciates representation from ECan and DOC and it was noted that neither organisation was represented at this meeting.

Geraldine Museum are running a Photographic Competition and calling for entries. The topic is Rivers and Streams.

**Meeting Closed** at 6pm

**Next meeting Friday June 24thth 4-6pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**