

**Minutes of the BRaid General (48) Meeting held on Friday 16 February 2018 at 2.00 pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Present**: Nick Ledgard, Sonny Whitelaw, Sue Mardon, Bev Alexander, Geoff Swailes, Grant Davey, Frances Schmechel, Colleen Phillip, Sarah Ensor, Donna Field, Susan and Ross Bryant, Eleanor Bissell, Richard Ball, Ailsa and Ted Howard.

**Apologies:** Mark Sanders, Robert Gumbrell, Rachell Hufton, Sue Stubenvoll, Jan Walker, Joanna McVeigh. Accepted Nick/Geoff.

**Minutes of 8 Sept 2017** meeting as circulated: subject to financial report alteration of available funds being $35,180.16 not $15,180.16, the minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record. Moved by Sonny, seconded by Colleen.

.**Matters Arising:**

**1.** Better management of smaller rivers. The smaller foothills-fed rivers behave differently to the much larger alpine-fed rivers, and need special consideration.

**Action**: *Sonny to contact OTOP (Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora) Zone Committee for what information they possess on bird numbers in their local rivers, especially BBG and BFT. We want to know the trend over recent years and what most influences those trends. Cc to Sven.*

**2.** Habitat loss alongside braided rivers. Frances reported that ECan’s Braided River Action Group (BRAG) ongoing in determining land ownership and encroachment on braided rivers.

**Action**: *Sonny to follow up with Chris Massey,* *if GNS team has received funding for Hurunui/Kaikoura Natural Hazard Research.*

**3.** Historical commercial consultants’ reports. There are a number of such reports which contain useful material and should be publicly available.

**Action**. *Sonny to contact regional councils, power companies, DOC, ECAN for a list of reports of birds on braided rivers, plus abstracts if available (also contact Mike Bell, as he has been the author of many recent reports.)*

**Correspondence:**

**In:**

1. A donation of $1,000 from Bernie Calder. Will probably be used to control SBBG colonies in upper Waimak later this year.
2. A donation from Ilam School of $242.50**.** Will probably be used to purchase a trail camera.

**Out:**

1. Fish and Game re drying rivers.
2. NIWA re being aware of river birds when rescuing trout, eels, etc from drying rivers.

**Financial Report.** Sue presented Financial Report for discussion**.**

Opening Balance: $8,221.57

Income: $30,228.06

Available funds: $38,449.63

Payments: $13,629.52

Closing Bank Balances: $47,640.71

Available Funds 11,122.21

Moved Sue/Eleanor: **‘That the report be received and accounts amounting to $13,629.52 be approved for payment’** (carried)

**Membership:** Reminder notices sent to members.

**Action:** *Sue to provide unpaid membership list.*

**Outreach/Manager’s Report:** as circulated

1. Funding update : Karikaas partnership established; Project Makarora funding from Otago Council approved; Dart River trapping approved; Amuri Jets acknowledged for Waiau R bird monitoring; Amuri Irrigation negotiations; 3yr project with DOC and DIA ends Dec 2018.
2. Woodend Trapping Workshop Sept – 77 participants with new Ashley-Saltwater creek estuary trapping group formed. Ashburton Workshop planned 24 Feb.

**Action:** *Cancel Ashburton workshop if 10 not registered by Weds & advise Greg Byrne. Geoff to supply traps for sale, Sue to supply payment instructions.*

1. Submission to Canty Pest Mngmnt Plan for Russell Lupins to be re-classed as ‘pest organism.’ Have been reclassed as “pest agents” and must be distanced from rivers.
2. Rangiora High School river studies in Ashley-Rakahuri initiated & ongoing.
3. The Flock resources available for interested parties.
4. Website and Facebook successful.

**Action:** *Send Sonny any events to add to 2018 calendar.*

1. Signage – Sonny continues her good work here - Coleridge Habitat early 2018; template to DOC for Balmoral reserve; warning sign to DOC Rotorua; Ashley R signs with ECan.
2. Calicivirus release decision due Feb. We have submitted on potential impact in braided rivers – if rabbits knocked back close to or during the bird breeding season, prey switching could be significant.

**Lupin Control**: planned for Arthurs Pass Village in 2nd and 3rd W/E in Nov.

**Action:** *Colleen to send details to Sonny*

**Arthurs Pass Visitor Centre** upgrade-chance to add braided river info.

**Action**: *Sarah to follow u*p

**Braided River Regional Initiative ECan/DOC:** report from Frances: Canty BBG count ½ to 1/3 of NZ population, Ashley & lower Rangitata most popular; BFT attractant trials not fully successful; Clarence, lower Waitaki BFT island creation together with increased predator control successful; Upper Clarence fledgling results good; Upper Rangitata BFT better results with trapping and Rakaia with weed control. These initiatives, launched by ECan a few years ago, appear to be bearing fruit.

**Ashburton River Mouth** report from Donna: SBBG cull by professional with 4 x prebaits taken quickly and night poison drop killed 640 birds or half the colony. Conclusion that well-organised SBBG culls can be very successful.

**Monitoring -** reports are on website

* 1. Colony monitoring of BBG and BFT will be stepped up next season.
  2. BRaid to plan for bi-annual Wilberforce bird survey, starting this year.
  3. Makarora – low numbers
  4. Hurunui survey – report needed for website
  5. Ashburton survey – full report required
  6. SBBG Upper Waimak – Nick to f/u

**Action**: *Sonny – seek Hurunui and Ashburton survey reports for website. Nick – work with Jim Jolly to plan Wilberforce survey. Nick – plan for improved colony monitoring next season, and for upper Waimak SBBG control*

**General Business:**

1. **NIWA** braided river research contact is Jo Hoyle
2. Bird of the Year: Wrybill to be promoted

**Action:** *Sonny and Colleen*.

1. Richard Ball, outlined ECan Long Term Plan of allocating funds to biodiversity & water including braided rivers with the focus still to be decided.

**Action:** *Sonny - submissions are open from 26 February; support is requested.*

**Meeting concluded at 3.45 pm**

**Next meeting: Friday, 8 June 2 pm.**

After the meeting, Ailsa and Ted Howard shared their experiences of using protective cages for BD nests in South Bay, Kaikoura.Indications are that their use is worth exploring elsewhere.

**Signed: Date:**