

 **Minutes of the BRaid General Meeting held on Friday September 2nd 2016 at 3.40pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Welcome:** Nick welcomed those present, Edith Smith, Peter Smith, Bev Alexander, Colleen Phillip, Eleanor Bissell, Andy Bray, Jane Demeter, Frances Schmechel, Ad Sintenie, David Hunter, Richard Maloney (late) and Sonny Whitelaw.

**Apologies:** Jim Jolly, Sarah Ensor, Peter Howden, Donna Field, Jackie van Hal, Jan Walker, and Val Clemens,

**Minutes of the June 24th 2016** meeting had been circulated and were confirmed as a correct record. Moved Edith, seconded Andy.

**Matters Arising:**

1. Case for better management of smaller rivers. Consideration be given to Nick Smith’s State of the Environment Report meeting when writing a case for better management of smaller rivers. Copy of the better management plan to be sent to Zone Committees and ECan Commissioners.

**Action item: Nick and Jim.**

1. Russel lupins: Awaiting the release of the Draft Regional Pest Management Plan for public comment in early November. There is wider recognition (MPI and Merino NZ) of problems associated with lupins in the higher country and river beds.

**Action item:** Nick to send a copy of BRaid’s letter to RPMP regarding Russel lupins to ECan and copy to members.

**Correspondence:**

**In:** Waimakariri Science Stakeholders Advisory Group regarding studies on the Ashley River which focus on river flow, pollution and mapping acquifers for nutrient budgets.

**Out:** Recommendations forWaimakariri Science Stakeholders Advisory Group concerning ecology and braided river bird habitat. Report to be sent to ECan Regional Committee

**Financial:**

* Peter, on Edith’s behalf presented the Financial report and moved that it be received,
* Available funds August 25th $17,634.43
* Accounts for payment amounting to $6,515.24 were approved for payment. Moved by Edith seconded by Nick.

**Membership:** General members 45, Casual 6, Representative 7.

Subscriptions remain at $20. New financial year commences following AGM.

**Action Item:** Sonny to email members to remind them to pay their subscription for the new financial year and where necessary request address details which are required by the Charities Commission. Those whose subs remain unpaid will become casual members.

**Manager’s Report:**

**Funding Update:** Partnership funding available for 2 years.

**Website, social media, newsletters.** News, photos and updates to Sonny please.

**Braided River Partnership Project.** Funding in place for next two years. River bird information sheets have been developed and available for river workers and schools. Extra BRPP brochures have been printed.

**Visit to Wilberforce River.** Discussion about abstraction from the Wilberforce and Harper rivers to maintain Lake Coleridge water levels. Nick and Sonny met with Trustpower rep and Toni Barlow of Lake Coleridge Habitat Enhancement Trust. Plan that BRaid will propose monitoring and maybe a trapping programme in the Wilberforce and Harper Rivers for consideration by Trustpower. BRaid Partnership Fund will contribute by providing 16 DOC 200 and Timms traps and assisting with development of suitable signage to inform visitors.

**Christchurch International Airport.**  BRaid producing a pamphlet for their use. BRaid to support their strategy to manage Black Backed Gulls. Potential in future for more coverage of braided rivers and ecology within airport.

**Lower Waitaki.** Discussions continue on loss of eggs during breeding season, and with lower Waitaki River Jet Boating and Lower Waitaki Management Society. Offer petrol vouchers for monitoring birds. Traps may be included in the future.

 **Action** **Item:** Sonny to write to DOC re issue of last season’s loss of large numbers of braided river bird eggs and other activity impacting on the birds. Appropriate signage, education and media coverage to be decided.

**Other Management:**

**Bird of the Year (Wrybill.)** Sonny and Nick and NC F&B Colleen planning promotion. 1000 fridge magnets purchased.

**Conservation Week and The Flock Project**. Lead by Sonny and Nick

**General Business:**

**Upper Waimakariri Survey.** Date: Sunday October 16th to Thurs 20th. ECan funding is available. Update from Jim.

**Action Item:** Sony email members that surveyors are needed. Nick to collate list of participants.

**Orari River Protection Group.** To work with Zone Committee to create a river bird habitat near Burtons Road. BRaid may be able to supply traps.

**ECan Braided River Regional Initiative** Update from Frances

* DOC continues to deliver the Braided River Programme along with ECan Regional funding. $250,000 is available for braided river habitat enhancement.
* Clarence River: Black Fronted Tern, Black Billed Gull monitoring and weed and predator management.
* Lower Waimakariri: Regional Parks Programme continuing.
* Ashburton Hakatere River: Braided river bird habitat plan being developed by Wildlife Management International Limited. Reporting back process underway. Upper Rakaia and Rangitata: Predator control, weed management and monitoring species continuing.
* Zone Committees: Visits to project sites to be undertaken.

ECan Regional Committee: Braided River management projects workshop. BRaid suggests that the full Regional Committee attend.

**Action Item:** Jane to follow up with ECan.

* Lower Waitaki River: Predator control with DOC. Mudfish monitoring with Lower Waitaki Management Society.
* Robust Grasshopper: Monitoring and ongoing research by DOC and ECan.
* Black Billed Gull Survey: This year a national aerial survey will take place with funding from ECan and other sources.

**Other Business and Discussion:**

**Monitoring Protocol** for seasonal management/monitoring of bird colonies. This could also include predator and weed management plans. BRaid supplies traps to WIML and potentially other groups.

**Other Monitoring opportunities**:

Wilberforce River. DOC may have previous research data from this site. **Action Item**: Richard

Waiau River: Shark Point colony site and other sites. Jane reported that the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee has funding to support monitoring and management programmes when colonies are identified. Amuri Jet Boats are keen to assist. **Action Item:** Nick and Sonny. BRaid to liaise with Amuri Jet about the Waiau River colonies management programmes. Sonny to contact Jane and Colleen, Zone committee and Forest and Bird about setting up opportunities for management of colonies. **Action Item:** Sonny

Hurunui: SH 7 Bridge supports a Black fronted Tern colony and Lower Hurunui also supports a large Tern colony.

**Bird of The Year:** Braidand F&B to advocate for the Wrybill in 2016 Bird of the Year. Voting period 17th to 30th October.

**Action Item:** Sonny and Colleen

**Conservation Week:** See Flock Action: Ashburton F&B celebrates the return of the Wrybill in the Upper Ashburton Sunday 18th Sept. Contact Peter Howden 3036072

**Ashley-Rakauri Rivercare Group**. Nick reported on effective work funded by ECan and implemented by Taggarts to create 7 or 8 weed free islands on the river where braided river birds nest. Courtney Hamblin Masters student, is studying social attractants using BF tern bird calls and decoys on islands. ARRG are providing up to $3000 for this project.

**Health and Safety Policy:** Discussion. Contractors such as Jet Boats will have current H&S plans. DOC has H&S guidelines for partnership groups. Forest and Bird NZ Policy; **Action Item:** Sonny to research suitable generic policies.

**Meeting Closed** at 5.45pm

**Next General meeting: Friday 3pm -5pm. 4th November**

**Signed:**

**Date:**