

**Minutes of the BRaid General Meeting (46) held on Friday July 14th 2017 at 3pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Welcome:** Nick welcomed those present: Bev Alexander, Frances Schmechel, Edith and Peter Smith, Sue Mardon and Sonny Whitelaw.

**Apologies:** Jim Jolly, Andy Bray, Richard Maloney, Alison and Ted Howard and Jane Demeter. Moved by Nick and seconded by Bev that they be accepted.

***Quorum:*** *As there were insufficient members present to form a quorum (7 members), any decisions needing adoption will need to be re-addressed and approved at the next BRaid meeting in September.*

**Minutes from March 24th 2017**. This had been circulated beforehand, and were confirmed as a true and correct record (after correcting Frances’s surname Schmechel). Moved Bev, seconded Nick.

**Matters Arising:**

1. **Better management of smaller rivers.** This is an increasingly important topic.

**Action**:  *To be addressed by Jim and Nick with advice from Richard Maloney. Philip Grove (Habitat loss) and Chris Keeling (Riparian) may be asked for advice.*

**2**. **Lupins.** Letter sent to ECan CEO and Minister for Primary Industry, Nathan Guy. The latter responded that Lupin spread would best be addressed in Regional Pest Management Plan - in particular relative to the ‘good neighbour’ rules.

**3.** **Encroachment of farmland** **into braided rivers**. ECan Braided River Action Group (BRAG) is considering this.

**Action**: *Manager to contact ECan asking that BRaid receives updates from BRAG*, and that *BRAG extends coverage to foothills-fed smaller braided rivers.*

**4**. **Health and Safety.** Risk analysis and procedures to be adopted at the next General Meeting. These to be used as a checklist for up-coming events, for which a specific H&S plan will be written. After the event, the Plan will be reviewed as to its suitability.

**5**. **Trapping workshops**. Opportunity for BRaid to play a role in Predator Free NZ (PFNZ) activities. Discussion about mini seminars on trapping technology and upskilling.

**Action 1**: **Manager.** T*o contact PFNZ expressing BRaid interest in running trapping workshops which would focus on the braided river environment.*

**Action 2. Manager***. To put together a draft programme for running two workshops per year - with braided river predator theme.*

**Action 3. Nick.** *To inquire how best to go about controlling Black Backed Gulls on the upper Waimak river.*

**6.** **Awareness signage**. Potential for BRaid to facilitate signage at a number of sites. **Action:** *On-going attention by Manager.*

**7**. **RCD K strain release.** ECan about to release new RCD K strain.to control rabbits. **Action:** *Manager to write to ECan regarding impact on other species.*

**Correspondence:**

\*Trans Alpine train journey has been given braided river bird information for use in commentary to passengers.

\*Lupins. Addressed above (Lupin letter).

\*Predator Free NZ communication.

**Financial:**

Peter presented Financial Report for discussion**.** Available funds $15,449.22

**Treasurer:** New treasurer Sue Mardon to be approved at next meeting. Handover discussion between Sue and Peter to proceed. A draft contract regarding remuneration to be tabled at the next meeting. **Action: Nick and Sue**

**Membership:** Annual subscription to remain at $20. Reminder notices to be sent to members: **Action: Sonny**

**Acknowledgement**: Nick moved a vote of thanks to Peter for assisting Edith with finances and auditing of BRaid’s annual accounts. As part of this role he has also ensured that the Group’s financial matters are handled in a professional manner. Unanimous agreement.

**Manager’s Report:** Circulated to members

**Braided River Partnership Project.**  Winter gives opportunity to consolidate achievements to date*.* Funding review planned for the next financial year.

**Braided River Workshop (June 28).** Another successful event with 150 attendees. Needs a sub-group to review content and organisation relative to recommendations for future workshops. **Action: Nick, Frances and Richard**

**The Flock project**

* Other groups are now adopting the idea. Manager recommends developing a more cohesive approach in 2017/18, with the production of ‘permanent’ members of the Flock made from plywood and painted in realistic colours, with stronger & more resilient ‘legs’**.**
* Arts in Oxford have a current art Exhibition "From the River to the Shore”  and "Flyways Print Exchange”. In addition, they are organising Flock painting events with local children.
* Flock painting planned for Ashburton.

**Braided River Regional Initiative:**

Frances reported on the range of projects being undertaken within this ECan-driven Initiative. These include weed and predator control in Upper Rakaia and Rangitata and Lower Waitaki; grasshopper research and management; island creation in the Rangitata, Waitaki and Clarence Rivers.

**Monitoring:**

**Wilberforce.** Discussions about a possible BRaid-organised survey of the Wilberforce. Unlikely this year, but options for the spring of 2018to be explored. Liaison with Trustpower and DOC. **Action**: *Nick to follow up.*

**Waiau / Hurunui**. Further liaison with Hurunui/Waiau Zone Committee and their biodiversity subcommittee relative to support for Black fronted tern colonies and new island creation. **Action:** *Nick and Manager to follow up on these initiatives.*

**Ashburton Hakatere River**. Their Shore Bird Management Plan is being implemented with community involvement in trapping programmes. Facilitated by Donna Field from ECan. .

**General Business:**

**Quorum:** Moved by Peter and Seconded by Nick that “The rule 5.3 which states a quorum of seven members is required, be reduced to five”. Seven is too many for a group which currently only has 24 paid up members. This rule change will be placed on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting. **Action: Nick**

**Use of historic information**. Jim stated that there are numerous reports on braided rivers (often as part of consenting processes) which contain a lot of useful information, but have never seen the light of day. There is need for these to be made more available. **Action:** *This matter will be raised at the next meeting*.

**New funding opportunity**. Frances reported a new MfE environmental partnerships fund. Potential for funding of projects on lower reaches of braided rivers - will be available next season. **Action: Sonny**

**Meeting concluded at 5.30pm**

**Next meeting and AGM: Friday, September 8th, 3pm.** *(must be notified at least 14 days prior)*

**Signed: Date:**