 **Minutes of the BRaid General (53) Meeting held on Friday May 24, 2019 at 3.00pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Present:** Nick Ledgard, Sonny Whitelaw, Edith Smith, Grant Davey, Jim Jolly, Andy Bray, Bev Alexander, Zipporah Ploed (ECan), Sue Mardon (left early)

**Apologies:** Ailsa Howard, Frances Schmeckel, Eleanor Bissell, Donna Field, Peter Howden, Val Clemens. Richard Maloney, Peter Howden (Nick/Edith – carried)

**Minutes of the last meeting (Feb 15**) were confirmed as a true and correct record*.* (Sonny/Grant – carried)

.**Matters Arising:**

**1.** Case for management of smaller rivers. This item is to be addressed by David Owen, ECan’s recently appointed Principal Biodiversity Advisor Braided Rivers – over the next few years he is charged with writing management plans for all Canterbury’s braided rivers. However, it was pointed out that first of all the matter of the definition of braided rivers has to be resolved (see General Business below)

**Correspondence:**

**Out:** 1.Letter to Robyn Bristow, editor of NC News, re use of word ‘BRaid’ instead of ‘BRIDGE’ in a recent article. Sue commented that she had since seen a small correction on an inside page.

2. Letter to Rakaia Env. Enhancement Fund re funding food at upcoming BRaid seminar on June 26.

**Financial Report.** This was presented by Sue. Filed in BRaid folder.

Summary of Income and Expenditure over period 1/07/2018 to 21/05/2019

Excess funding/spending over period: $12,012.85

Closing Bank Balance: $49,176.03

Committed funds: -$33,804.42 Expected income: +$7,500.00

Unallocated funds: $15,371.61

Resolved: **‘That the report be received and accounts amounting to $7,888.98 be approved for payment’** Sue / Bev – carried.

**Membership:** Sue presented an update on this. Thanks to her ring-around, only 7 subscriptions unpaid.

**Manager’s Report:** Circulated to members, and filed in BRaid folder

***Action Item*** *resulting* (and not included below*): Nick to get remaining Wrybill ‘bird of year’ magnets to Sonny at next available opportunity.*

**Seminar at Lincoln, June 26.** Sonny reported that preparations on track, plus fully booked and wait-listed.

**ECan / DOC Braided River projects.** No-one available to update this.

**Monitoring and management.**

1. Wilberforce bird survey. This is still intended for the spring of 2019.

***Action****: Jim and Nick to do a pre-survey visit in near future, and then book dates in Nov with DoC.*

1. SBBG control. $2-3k set aside for SBBG control in upper Waimak.

***Action****: Nick to contact Mike Bell of WMIL re likely go-ahead, cost and what assistance needed.*

1. Harrier hawk predation, and inclusion in survey species. Grant reported that they are in some surveys.

***Action****: Grant to ask Andy Grant as to how extensive harrier inclusion is in surveys.*

1. Review of pre-gravel extraction bird surveys.
   1. Disappointing feedback to JJ’s submission to ECan report now in hands of contractors (WMIL).
   2. Study of bird reaction to shingle removal operation on Ashley. This showed low level of disturbance where gravel extractors aware of birds and operating appropriately. Report available from GD.
2. Maintaining weed control. Nick reported on-going trials proposed on Ashley-Rakahuri this winter.
3. Survey record keeping. Visit by Grant D to discuss DOC records with Andy Grant (May 23). Good records, now all scanned and available in digital form. Held in an xl file, which GD explained to have deficiencies relative to a modern database. Need for a list of all reports (tile, author(s) and date) to be publicly available.

***Action****: GD to approach AG of DOC re making a list available for BRaid website.*

1. River reports.
   * 1. Waiau and Hurunui. Zipporah reported that weed removal and island work planned for 16 sites before September. Plus WMIL to carry out SBBG control and nest monitoring.
     2. Waimakariri. 2018-19 report written and on website. Comment that possibly light on trapping.
     3. Ashley-Rakahuri. 2018-19 season of mixed success - report being written. Other reports available on BBG colony success plus a separate one on bird reaction to shingle extraction. Video/documentary on a season’s activities launched on March 21. Has received good reviews. Viewable on BRaid/ARRG websites, or via link <http://www.arrg.org.nz/videos>
     4. Ashburton. Edith gave good report. Special attention to river mouth and its protection. A 7km trail bike track in riverbed berm area working well, 4WD looking at a similar project.
     5. Orari. JJ reported that this rivercare group going from ‘strength to strength’. A ‘mixed’ 2018-19 season, with disruptive floods, but some BFT and BBG fledging success Greater effort underway with predator control.
     6. Opihi and Opuha. Opihi is best river for birds, but has zero management (trapping and monitoring). Similarly with Opuha. Need for local rivercare group(s). ***Actions****:* ***1****. Sonny/Jim to explore opportunity for organising a meeting to bring together a rivercare group for these rivers (particularly the Opihi) – perhaps with trapping focus, as done at Waikuku for formation of Ashley/Saltwater creek estuary group.* ***2****. Jim to enquire as to when last survey of Opuha undertaken*.

**General Business.**

* + - BRIDGE project. Sonny reported that progress stalled while awaiting High Court decision on ECan appeal as to definition of a ‘braided river’.
    - Jet boats and birds. Past reports now on BRaid website. JJ has also done a recent report on jet boating in the Mackenzie (commented that a jet boat ‘code of conduct’ has been produced).
    - Feral cat workshops. Follow up workshop held at Flock Hill on March 13.
    - Wrybill ‘bird of the year’. Nick spoke at Miranda launch on March 10. Further action to be led by the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust, supported by ourselves.
    - Climate change. Edith commented on potential major impact of braided rivers and their ecosystems. Sonny reported that she will be speaking on this issue in near future.

**Meeting concluded at 5.00pm**

**Next meeting:** Friday, August 2, 2019

**Signed: Date:**