 **Minutes of the BRaid General (51) Meeting held on Thursday November 22 2018 at 2.00pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Present:** Nick Ledgard, Sonny Whitelaw, Bev Alexander, Edith Smith, Grant Davey, Liana Kelly, Juliet Bruce, Richard Maloney (apologies for lateness)

**Apologies:** Sue Mardon, Jim Jolly, Frances Schmechel, Ailsa Howard, Donna Field, Peter Howden, Val Clemens. (Nick/Bev – carried)

**Minutes of the last meeting (Sept 26th**) were confirmed as a true and correct record*.* (Edith/Bev – carried)

.**Matters Arising:**

**1.** Case for management of smaller rivers. No action as yet – await outcomes of ECan’s BRIDGE Project.

**2.** Historic commercial consultants’ reports. Queried whether all such reports are in Andy Grant’s data base. **Action:** Grant Davey to visit AG to see how data stored and where gaps might be.

**Correspondence:**

**In:** Communication from Lotto stating that grant for $30,000 approved (for 3 year period). Accepted electronically.

**Financial Report.** This was presented by Sonny on Sue’s behalf. Filed in BRaid folder.

**17th November 2018**. Opening Balance $36,536.74

Cash movement during period -$10,373.67

Closing Bank Balances $26,163.07

Unexpended Grants $10,667.76 (to be used by December 31, 2018)

Unallocated funds $15,485.51

Resolved: **‘That the report be received and accounts amounting to $7,230.47 be approved for payment’** Nick/Edith – carried.

It was also noted that:

* Funds of approximately $2,500 have been set aside for seasonal monitoring by Grant Davey
* It will be requested that funds of approximately $2,200 are carried over to 2019 for SBBG control in the upper Waimakariri catchment
* $15,000 has be granted from ECan towards Manager’s wages and 2019 workshop expenses.

**Membership:** Sue M not present to update on this.

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

Matters arising were:

* Rangiora High School river studies. On-going at RHS with Manager’s assistance
* The Flock. After being launched by BRaid 2 years ago, now largely self-perpetuating through schools. Is proving to be a popular and on-going shorebird advocacy tool.
* BRIDGE project (main goal is to answer question - what is a braided river?). On-going, with Manager involvement.
* Review of pre-gravel-extraction bird survey situation. Comments submitted to WMIL report by Jim J and Nick L.
* LINZ. Material supplied by Manager for distribution to riverbed weed contractors, including request for bird sightings. Is presumed to have been disseminated to them, but no responses to date.
* Trapping workshops. BRaid closely involved initially, but now organised by DoC as part of PFNZ programme.

**Monitoring.**

1. Grant Davey undertaking small riverbed spot surveys - according to requests.
2. Wilberforce and Harper rivers to be visited by Nick and Jim to scope needs for a survey in 2019.
3. All survey reports to BRaid are sent to Andy Grant at DOC.
4. Weed island trials on Ashley-Rakahuri comparing various mechanical methods - completed and reported.
5. Surveys. BRaid members assisted with Waiau and Waimakariri surveys. Other proposes surveys suffering from high river levels (eg., Rangitata and Ashburton). Ashley survey postponed one week (now on Nov 24).

**ECan /DOC braided river projects**

Updated by Richard Maloney:

* Te Manahuna Aoraki project. A large Next Foundation / DoC project, just underway. Increases upper Waitaki managed area from 24,000 to 60,000ha. Major emphasis on predator trapping, and impact on bird numbers will take years to become apparent. DoC’s Project River Recovery trapping has brought about BFT population increase from 20-30 pairs to 300+ pairs, and kaki recruitment success (of aviary raised birds) from 29% to 49%.
* BFT genetic study. Not showing genetic diversity variation between rivers – due to juveniles dispersing elsewhere (while adults usually return to same breeding sites). Indicates the need for widespread predator control if new areas to be recolonised.
* Clarence river island and predator control project. Positive results with targeted predator control out to 50m radius.
* Waitaki islands. Largely successful. Keeps ground predators at bay, but not so for aerial predators. However, not hard to reduce SBBG numbers
* Upper Rangitata, Rakaia and Ashburton – on-going with largely positive results (combination of weed and predator control)
* Waiau and Hurunui. Of more recent origin, with current SBBG control and creation of 8 new islands on Hurunui. Operational implementation by WMIL.
* Basically, we now know BMPs for predator control, but still work to do to obtain most cost-effective weed control techniques.

**General Business.**

* Workshops:
* Colleen P’s lupin control week at Arthurs Pass – just completed.
* Helen Hamblin’s cat control (Oct 2) – successful (follow-up underway).
* Bird of the Year: Wrybill promotion for 2019. Pukorokoro-Miranda Shorebird Trust will lead this.

**Meeting concluded at 4.30pm**

**Next meeting:** Friday, February 8, 2019

**Signed: Date:**