

**Minutes of the BRaid General (47) Meeting held on Friday September 8th 2017 at 3.45pm at DOC Maahanui Area Office, Sockburn.**

**Welcome:** Nick welcomed those present: Bev Alexander, Frances Schmechel, Edith and Peter Smith, Sue Mardon, Colleen Phillip, Valerie Campbell, Lesley Shand, Richard Maloney Peter Howden, Andy Bray, Sarah Ensor and Sonny Whitelaw.

**Apologies:** Jane Demeter, Val Clemens, Jane Myhill, Jack van Hal, Mark Sanders, Peter Caldwell, Geoff Swailes, Jen Miller, Annette Hamblett, Eleanor Bissell, Bob Gumbrell.

**Minutes of the July 14th 2017** meeting had been circulated beforehand, and were confirmed as a true and correct record. Moved by Nick, seconded by Bev.

.**Matters Arising:**

**1.** Better management of smaller rivers 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.** Habitat loss alongside braided rivers. ECan’s Braided River Action Group (BRAG) determining land ownership alongside the Rakaia river - but this also applies to smaller braided rivers.

**Action**: *Frances to prepare an article about* *riparian encroachment.*

**Action:** *Manager to contact ECan asking that BRaid receives updates from BRAG..*

**3**. Release of RCD K strain. Implications of predator/prey relationship must be considered in relation to rabbit management. Release is due in Autumn 2018.

**4.** Trans Alpine train journey has been given braided river information for tourists.

**5.** Historic commercial consultants reports.

**Action**. *Jim will make a list and create a reference library.*

**Correspondence:**

**In:**

**1.** Request from DOC about the survey of Waiau and Hurunui Rivers. BRaid is unable to do this. Richard said that regular surveying of the Waiau/ Hurunui will be done by a contractor. The Waiau/Hurunui Zone Committee are considering Annual River Surveys, Black backed gull control and island creation.

**2.** Request for support for Dart River Trapping Programme.

**Action**: *Manager communicating on this.*

**3.** Project Makarora near Wilkins confluence requested support for application to Otago Regional Council for trapping, banding and monitoring.

**Action**: *Manager communicating on this.*

**Out:** Nil

**Treasurer**: Sue Mardon had been appointed at the AGM. Her contract had been circulated.

Resolved Nick/ Valerie **‘That Sue’s appointment and contract of employment be approved’** (carried)

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

Opening Balance $22,521.77

Income 14,097.38

Available funds $15,180.16

Payments 26,958.59

Closing Bank Balances $50,363.08

Available Funds 13,639.08

Resolved: **‘That the report be received and accounts amounting to $26,958.59 be approved for payment’** (carried)

Resolved: ‘**That the address for the Heartland bank account be changed to 2 Golding Ave Rangiora.’** (carried)

**Management Committee:** Appointed at the AGM and consists of elected officers, General member Bev Alexander and representatives from ECan, (Frances), and DOC, (Richard), or their substitute.

Although at meetings held on the 1/11/13 and the 26/2/16, the Management Committee was defined as’ overseeing the purpose of & financial matters relating to BRaid and the Braided River Partnership project and supervise the Managers work’ and to ‘share decision-making with elected officers’, Rule 8.3 restricted the Management Committee from approving any financial transactions. Therefore it was resolved : **‘For clarification purposes the Management Committee’s role is to make recommendations only on policy and direction to the General Meetings’.** (carried)

Where payment is required before the next General meeting and the payment is within the approved budgets or has prior approval, the invoice will be payable in the interim providing it is signed by the Chairperson.

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

**Action:** *Sonny*

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

**Braided River Partnership Project.**

1. Potential Partners. Karikaas Cheese and Yoghurt manufacturers, Project Makarora and Dart River trapping
2. **The Flock project.** The goal is for others to create and manage their own Flocks. Flock projects feature in Ashburton, St Andrews, Twizel, ChCh Botanical Gardens. BRaid Flock signs and bird templates available. Wild Eyes https://www.wildeyes.co.nz
3. **Education/outreach /support.** BRaid to present to the Canterbury Pest Management Strategy on Russell Lupins Sept 19th.
4. Rangiora High School with DOC Rangiora and BRaid is running 2 day River studies 9-10 October. Includes invertebrate sampling and river health monitoring, and a long-term BRaid involvement is projected.
5. Trapping Workshops planned for Oct 28th featuring the Ashley Rakahuri coastal area. Waikuku Community Hall
6. On-going work on braided river bird signage for Coleridge Habitat Enhancement and other braided rivers. Penalty signs made for use at L. Rotorua black-billed gull colony.

**Braided River Regional Initiative:**  ECan in conjunction with DOC. On-going activity outlined by Frances.

**General Business:**

**1.** Wilberforce bird survey. Planned for spring 2018.

**2.** SBBG control in Upper Waimakariri (November). Requires Approved Handler to mix chemicals. Recommend contacting WIML and other professionals to estimate costs. BRaid members may help with removal of carcasses.

**Action**: *Nick to follow up.*

**3.** Waiau/Hurunui planning: Enthusiasm strong in Zone Committee. Biodiversity subcommittee are considering supporting monitoring and trapping. Support from BRaid.

**4.** Ashburton Hakatere River. Black Billed gulls are settling at SH1 bridge area. Planning island creation 1km up from river mouth and near SH1 colony site. Facilitated by Donna Field from ECan .

**5**. Ashley Rakahuri. Major floods this year cleared large areas of weeds. Bulldozer used to complete clearance and create islands. Long-term plan to manage weeds in core bird breeding areas.

**6**. Bird of the Year: Colleen suggested BRaid promote the Wrybill as bird of the year.

**Action:** *Sonny will work with Colleen*.

**7.** Celebrate Rivers Event on Sept 24th

**Meeting concluded at 5.10pm**

**Next meeting: Friday, November 24th, 3pm.**

**Signed: Date:**