

**Minutes of the BRaid General Meeting held on Friday September 16, 2022, 2.04pm at DOC office, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn, Christchurch**

The Chairman, Nick Ledgard, welcomed those present: Edith Smith, Sue Mardon, Sarah Ensor, Sonny Whitelaw, Bev Alexander, Grant Davey, Ailsa Howard, Greg Stanley and Sarah Worthington.

**Apologies:** Val Clemens, Tony Doy, Peter Howden, Bob Gumbrell, Ted Howard, Frances Schmechel.  
Ailsa / Sue Carried

**Guest speaker:** Greg Stanley, Team Leader, ECan's Braided River Revival project. Greg described his team make-up and how it is intended to operate. The project's aim is Whakahaumanu i nga Awa Patiki or 'To restore the mauri of the river'.

**Minutes of the November 26th 2021** meeting had been circulated and were confirmed as a true and correct record.  
Nick/Sue Carried

**Matters Arising:** All Action Items from Nov 26, 2021 to be addressed at this meeting.

**Correspondence.** All dealt with electronically.

**Financial.** Sue presented the Income and Expenditure report for 1/07/22 to 15/09/2022

Expenditure over Income: -\$1,529.79

Closing Bank Balance: \$18,033.07

Resolved: 'That the financial accounts be received'.

Sue/Edith. Carried

'That the retrospective amount of \$27,405.24 be approved for payment'

Sue/Edith. Carried

An application for funds to pay Manager has been made to the Waitaha Action fund. Payment of the Manager will be taken from accumulated funds, until outcome of the Waitaha application is known.

It was moved that, if required, a sum from the term deposit account be transferred to current account. Sue/ Bev. Carried

Bank signatories - Heartland. Remain as Sue, Nick and Edith.

**Membership.** We currently have 278 persons on our email list. Subscriptions / donations (\$20) now due. Those who donate will become 'members'.

**Outreach / Manager's report.** A 1.5page separate report covers this. Sonny reported that she is about to start a new job, but should be able to carry on with her current BRaid duties (mainly website / awareness work) for the next year.

**2022, July Seminar.** This was a great success, despite fewer bookings than in 2021 (although more accessing remotely). All presentations are available on our website. Thanks to ECan and Manawa Energy for the major funding. Plans are already underway for a 2023 seminar.

**Biodiversity / climate change update.** Sonny has prepared a considerable amount of material for this separate website. A specialist committee oversees the project, and specific funding has been sought from the Waitaha Action fund.

**ECan / DOC Braided River projects.** Frances apologized for not being able to attend the meeting, and can supply updates to anyone who wants them.

**Monitoring**

- Standardising braided river data base and access. The need to review data gathering and storage protocols (including cross-river co-ordination and standardization) is needed, especially now that the main DOC operator has retired. It was noted that we do have expertise in this field within the Group.  
*Action: Nick to remind Ellery of the issue.*
- SBBG control in upper Waimakariri. The report and recommendations by Niall Mugan have been discussed further. It was noted that this specific site should be considered in ECan's region-wide SBBG control plans.  
*Action: Nick to follow up.*
- River reports
  - Waiau / Hurunui. The Sharks Tooth and NIWA island sites have been visited, and earthworks carried out at both to create islands. An application to the Waitaha Action fund has been made to support the wider ECan project being implemented by WMIL.  
*Action: Nick to keep a watching brief.*
  - Waipara. The local group is overseen by Rima Herber. Grant will liaise with her relative to a bird survey, plus issues around proposed gravel extraction.  
*Action: Grant to follow up.*
  - Waimakariri. No bird survey this year. Control of riverbed weeds is a priority action within the upper Waimakariri weeds strategy.  
*Action: Nick to follow up.*
  - Ashley-Rakahuri. Annual survey is on Nov 19. The breeding season has got off to a slow start, with the major challenge ahead being how to deal with rat predation. A UC student has started a 2-year study of birds breeding around the estuary, funded by the local Zone Committee.
  - Ashburton. Annual survey on Oct 29. Edith updated on current situation.
  - Orari. No-one present to update in detail.
  - Opihi / Opuha. On-going discussions (plus visits) relative to the formation of a local river care group have born little fruit to date. It was noted that the Fairlie Lions Club is constructing a track beside the river, and that riverside landowners may well be interested in local bird assistance.
- **General Business**  
None
- **Date for next meeting.** To be decided – probably March / April, 2023
- **Close of Meeting.** 3.58pm

#### Action items.

1. **Data gathering, storage and analysis.** *Nick to contact Ellery relative to revitalizing this matter.*
2. **SBBG control in upper Waimakariri.** *Nick to follow up.*
3. **Waiau / Hurunui.** *Nick to keep a watching brief on Sharks Tooth and NIWA island developments.*
4. **Waipara.** *Grant to liaise with Rima re bird survey and gravel extraction.*
5. **Upper Waimakariri riverbed weed control.** *Nick to follow up.*