

# Meeting Minutes

1 Meeting Information			
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>South Canterbury Gravel Extractors Group (MOU Group) Meeting</b>		
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Thursday 29 November 2018 – 1:30pm	<b>Location:</b>	Environment Canterbury - Timaru Office
<b>Attended By:</b>	Bob Willis (Fulton Hogan), Quinn McNabb (Fulton Hogan), John Fletcher (John Fletcher Contracting), Mike Elms (Whitestone), Steve Oliver (Oliver Bros), Peter Bird (Paul Smith), Greg Campbell (Paul Smith), Ian Leathwick (Ian Leathwick Contracting), Jason Blair (Blackhead Quarries Ltd), George Kelcher (Road Metals), Richard Hardwick (Road Metals), Gary Rooney (Rooney Group), Lisa Smith (Rooney Group), Simon Waldron (Simon Waldron Earthmoving), Peter Hobbs (Hobbs & Banks), Nikki McArthur (Wildlife Management International Ltd) Environment Canterbury - Verity Kirstein, Nic Froude, Leigh Griffiths, Hilary Fraser, Hannah Duncum, Rosalie Calder		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Simon Hedley (Sol Shingle), Geoff Wallace <a href="#">Get details from Hilary</a>	<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Verity Kirstein

2 Minutes of the previous meeting, Matters arising
<p>Previous meeting was held 24 October 2017.</p> <p>A motion was introduced by Verity Kirstein that the members confirm these to be a true and correct record and adopts the minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2017. This was accepted – George Kelcher 1<sup>st</sup>, Nic Froude 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>

3 Meeting Notes, Issues, Decisions			
<b>1. Welcome/introduction</b>			
Brief introductions were given, and apologies accepted.			
<b>2. Action items from previous meeting minutes</b>			
Item	Description	Action & Responsibility	Due Date
1:	Involve member of BRAID or Forest and Bird at next Gravel Liaison Cttee Meeting	S McCracken	Dec 2017
2:	Align 'standard' consent conditions with Gravel Extraction COP	K Huggins	Feb 2018
3:	Follow up on conversation with LINZ and report back to group & regional liaison cttee	S McCracken	Dec 2017
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The progress relating to bird surveys has moved onto the contracting of Wildlife Management International Ltd to undertake a review. More details of this piece of work were covered later in the meeting. Neither BRAID or F&amp;B were invited to the Liaison Committee meeting.</li> <li>Katherine Huggins was not present at this meeting. Verity to follow up.</li> <li>LINZ permissions were discussed at the Liaison Committee meeting, a copy of the LINZ factsheet is attached to these minutes.</li> </ol>			
<b>3. Survey Programme &amp; Finances - presented by Verity</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verity outlined the reported gravel extraction figures. The trend in what is consented is trending up however the MOU agreement appears to be mitigating the trend elsewhere in the Region.</li> </ul>			

- Bob Willis highlighted that in some cases the extracted volumes were under the consented volumes because areas of the riverbed in the consented areas were not accessible due to channel changes, floods etc.
- Verity reminded the group that the gravel fee was lowered in July 2018 to \$0.11 per cubic metre to address the fact that more revenue was being collected than needed to undertake the fluvial monitoring programme.
- The gravel fees collected for the year are likely to exceed the forecast, primarily due to extraction for the Kaikoura recovery.
- LiDAR is now much cheaper, and this is likely to be the primary way of monitoring gravel quantities going forward.
- Verity ran through the works that had been undertaken by the Survey Team over the last year and what was programmed for the remainder of the financial year. This included analysis of LiDAR data for several rivers in South Canterbury, providing gravel availability data on the ECan website and updating the Regional gravel management report.

#### **4. Update from Resource Consents Team – Rosalie Calder**

- Nothing new or of interest

#### **5. Update from Compliance Team – Nic Froude**

- Monitoring of consents is changing. Only high priority consents will be closely monitored, and trust placed on gravel contractors to do the right thing and to continue to notify of works commencing.
- Use gravel@ecan.govt.nz to notify instead of ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz
- George Kelcher stated that as long as the contractor has emailed ECan, then they have complied with that condition of their consent.
- If contractors keep their admin up to date they are unlikely to hear from ECan Compliance officers
- Introducing Hannah Duncum as a relatively new RMO.
- 44 – gravel authorisations/consents issued, 24 – no notification of commencement of works, 9 – no bird survey undertaken, 3 – not supplying gravel returns.
- Had several questions raised about need to survey this late in the year after flood events. The birds will try to re-nest. Each case will be looked at individually on a case by case basis to assess if a bird survey is required.
- Overall, work in the past 12 months has been done to a very good standard

#### **6. Nikki McArthur Wildlife Management International Ltd– Bird Survey Investigation**

- Presented several very informative slides about his review of the effectiveness of pre-works bird surveys.
- Of note, \$193,200 has been spent on pre-works surveys since 2004, resulting in an average of 4.3 nests, 0.14 nesting colonies being protected per year across the Canterbury Region.
- Minor impacts are brought on by gravel extraction, but the RMA means the industry cannot be let off the hook.
- The greatest threat to breeding/nesting birds are mammalian pests. Between 30-90% of nests do not hatch due to pests.
- Preferred alternative to surveys is to provide an offset rather than avoid the impacts. The offset should be used for mammalian pest control.
- Still promote advocacy – this could involve an annual event/workshop on the river to hear from experts run by ECan/Braid.
- Bob Willis questioned where the fee would be spent. Wouldn't want to see money collected from South Canterbury by spent in the north of the region. Birds are mixing and dispersing across the region.
- George Kelcher stated that the industry has a can-do attitude, is responsible, has a licence to operate and is there to assist in river management. As such the group should support option 1 (Offset).

# Meeting Minutes

- Gary Rooney stated that he wanted confidence that option 1 would work. That the industry cannot get away from consent conditions, they will still be monitored. If a nest is within the extraction area, it must be protected.
- Gary Rooney suggested a rate of \$0.05/m<sup>3</sup> of extracted gravel over 12 months to fund pest control. That the funds should be spent on the ground and not lost in the ECan coffers.
- Peter Bird put forward the following motion  
**MOTION – the group support option 1 and are prepared to fund programmes going forward dependent on money being targeted to shorebirds and the funding levels required.**  
Gary Rooney/ Steve Oliver?  
Unanimously voted for.
- Leigh Griffiths reminded the group that the gravel management fee is collected based on consented volumes not volumes extracted.
- The group now expect ECan to move the proposal forward and could it be in place for the next bird nesting season.
- Verity reminded the group that this was the initial stage and it could be a lengthy journey to move through ECan, particularly since offsetting is consistent with the Regional Policy Statement.

## 7. General Business

- George Kelcher raised concerns about the LINZ licences for gravel extraction. That access to LINZ land is at a cost to the consent holder, however access to ECan land is granted without costs.
- Bob Willis wondered if the Code of Practice might include streamlining granting consents in response to natural hazard events. It took up to 9 months to get a consent in place for extraction in the Kaikoura area to assist in earthquake recovery.

## Wrap Up

- Resounding support for the work Nikki has done on the validity of pre-works bird survey
- The group supports option 1 to introduce an offset
- The offset proposal now sits with ECan to move through its various departments
- Next meeting proposed for May 2019

**Attachments:**  
**LINZ factsheet**

## 4 Action Items and Responsibilities

Item	Description	Action & Responsibility	Due Date
1:	Nesting bird offset	To develop the implementation of this - Verity	Asap

## 5 Next Meeting

Date:	May 2019	Time:		Venue:	Environment Canterbury Timaru Office
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Date &amp; Time to be confirmed.</li> </ul>				