

**Waitaki Riparian Enhancement Society Inc.**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at**  
**25 Ruane Street, Glenavy at 7.30pm.**

**Present.** Nikki Delaway, Mike Hutchings, Ross Skinner, Stu McNamara, Linn Koevoet, Trevor Hill.

**Apologies.** Nil

Minutes of the last meeting Tabled. Moved by Linn that they reflect a true and correct record of that meeting. S/ Baydon. Carried.

**Correspondence Inward.**

- (1) Txt message received from Russel Franks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 10.07am advising that he was resigning from the committee. No reason(s) given.
- (2) Kiwibank statement dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 26.
- (3) Receipts for refund from S Koevoet x6. Totalling 211.15. Made up as follows;
  - 3.1 Petrol \$38.11- chainsaws
  - 3.2 Petrol \$51.08- Splitter
  - 3.3 2 x Dairies (for BP & WS) \$9.00
  - 3.4 Petrol \$37.56- chainsaws
  - 3.5 Petrol \$50.41 – Splitter
  - 3.6 Oil 2 stroke \$24.99 Chainsaw.
- (4) Invoice received from Thinkwater \$163.70- Service of vacuum pump.
- (5) Invoice received from TK Hire- \$440 hire of cherry picker and trash pump.
- (6) Details of drivers licence for hirer of caravan. Insurance requirement.
- (7) Receive from MGI the Bells Pond Rock barrier Concept and plan.
- (8) Delivery note McKenzie freight.
- (9) Email from Fish and Game CEO- requesting changes to our Web site information.
- (10) Policy schedule of Public liability insurance.
- (11) Email from Gallagher Insurance re renewal of public liability insurance.
- (12) Email from community grants – Ecan information regarding sponsorship.
- (13) Email from Community grants – contestable funding- Ecan. Applications close 15-2-26. Note part of the criteria is that the funding must relate to native species.
- (14) Email from Gallagher Insurance – new policy schedule.
- (15) Invoice Rural Meats Waimate \$839.60
- (16) Invoice from Gallagher Insurance- public Liability- \$ 638.25
- (17) Email – BioMar- Price list Q1 2026.
- (18) Email rocketspark – Contact form- Volunteer enquiry – Richard Frey.
- (19) Invoice from BioMar \$2000.54- fish food.
- (20) Email from Rocket spark- contact form- volunteer enquiry- Steph Williams.
- (21) Email from Waitaki Irrigators collective- rer sponsorship- request additional information.

**Correspondence Outward.**

- (1) Email to BioMar- re fish food order placed.
- (2) Newsletter to members No 50.
- (3) Minutes of meeting 25-11-25 to committee members.

- (4) Email reply to [rtfreyjen@gmail.com](mailto:rtfreyjen@gmail.com). – possible new volunteer.
- (5) Email reply to Williamssteph333@gmail.com- Confirmed new volunteer.
- (6) Email to clemon@portblakely.com- sponsorship application.
- (7) Email reply to Waitaki Irrigators Collective- re sponsorship -synopsis of recent activities for the information of board members.

**Items 7; 9;12; and 21 of Inward correspondence- to be addressed in General business.**

Linn moves that the inward correspondence be receive and the outward correspondence authorised. S/ Ross. Carried.

**Financial report.**

Ballance as at the date of the last meeting , 25-11-25- was, Now account \$11,060.45; Investment account \$51,312.18; Total cash on hand \$62.373.63.

Income since last meeting \$7229.89 made up as follows; Donations \$80; Grants \$4000; Sale of wood \$1660; Other( Sausages) \$1256; Splitter \$90; Interest \$143.89.

Expenditure since last meeting \$4382.56. Made up from;

- (a) Payment to S Koevoet \$290.47 refund of receipts produced.
- (b) Payment to TK hire \$440.
- (c) Payment to Thinkwater \$163.70
- (d) Payment to Rural Meats Waimate \$839.60
- (e) Payment to Gallagher Insurance \$638.25
- (f) Payment to BioMar \$2000.54
- (g) Bank fee- \$10.00

Cash in hand yet to be banked \$140.00

Outstanding accounts-

Receipts for refund as produced- S Koevoet \$211.15.

Linn moves that outstanding accounts be paid of production of receipts or invoices. S/ Stu. Carried.

Ballance as of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 as per Kiwibank statement is; Now account \$13,870.89; Investment \$51,456.07. Total balance \$65,326.96.

There being no questions linn moves that his financial report be adopted. S/Mike. Carried.

General business.

Matters arising from Inward correspondence.

**Item 7. MGI Bells Pond Rock Barrier concept.** Linn advises that he met, on site with the CEO of MGI who advised that they were in the process of applying for resource consent for the project. They advised that the project was going to take place in the winter, when irrigation was not required.

**MGI acknowledged that we would be significantly affected by the project.**

MGI will take all necessary mitigation to ensure the survival of our fish.

MGI indicated that the river inflow will be dried up. Effectively we would not have a water supply to our raceway for about two months. MGI is consulting with other organisations and land owners, to ensure our fish will be safe.

Possibilities under consideration is housing our fish in a spare raceway at the Sanford site for two months or using the Irrigation pump (on the former Bell farm), which supplies all the k-lines and centre pivots to pump water 1.5km to our hatchery. We have the ability to supplement oxygen into the raceway by use of our diesel pump with a larger fuel tank installed so that 'run' time can be increased from several hours to 2+ days.

Consideration of shifting our brood stock to Welcome stream was assessed but the Total Biomass of the brood stock is too much for the water volume contained in Welcome stream. The stress on the brood stock would be significant.

MGI will communicate with our organisation as information comes to hand.

Note. This project is unlikely to go ahead in the next two years.

A general discussion on the project and implications was had.

#### **Item 9. Email from CEO, CSI fish and game- requesting changes to our web site information.**

This email generated considerable passionate discussion within the committee, some of which digressed from the subject. The committee questioned why DOC was enquiring into our operation when we are overseen by Fish and game, and why now, when legislation is about to be changed.

It was also pointed out that Key fact to reflect- Central south Island fish and game holds the resource consents for the Waitaki Hatchery. **This statement is in error.** (The Waitaki Riparian Enhancement Society Incorporated holds the land use consent to operate a salmon rearing facility within the bed of welcome stream. (RM15.089.01). And The discharge permit to discharge contaminants into welcome stream. (RM15.089.02) ORC ref A818115. )

It was also referenced that the Fishermen of the Waitaki river realised that the wild salmon run was in dire trouble and an "Idea" was born about establishing a volunteer salmon hatchery on the Waitaki similar to the apparently successful McKinnon's creek Hatchery on the Rangitata River. This was put to fish and game via a public forum presentation at a CSI council meeting where the presenter was roasted by the then council and the presentation failed to gain any support from Fish and Game.

It was agreed that modifications along the lines discussed would be implemented to reflect a partnership with fish and game.

**Item 12. Ecan Community grant available** for contestable funding application. Unfortunately our organisation does not fit the application criteria. This is only for community groups enhancing native plants and species.

**Item 21. Waitaki irrigators collective, request for further information** to support the funding application for the information of the board members. A synopsis was prepared for the years 23 to present day. This was read to the members.

#### **Bells Pond.**

Linn advises that the brood stock are doing well in the raceway. With the high flows from mid December to now, visibility is very poor and as a consequence the fish have been feed at a much reduced rate to avoid wasting food as the fish cannot see the feed.

The raceway in the uninhabited section as accumulate vast amounts of silt and mud in 20 days and it took several hours to remove.

The predator traps caught 1 hedgehog and two rats in the last 10 days.

We are awaiting delivery of the smolt from Welcome stream, which will be placed in the top section of the main raceway. Hopefully when the river clears up a lot more.

While working at the raceway several visitors came in for a look. They where most impressed once they sighted the larger brood stock and the eels.

### **Welcome stream.**

There is possibly 3,000 smolt in the raceway. A weigh up of some fish resulted in a weight of about 25gm. These fish are ready for transport to Bells Pond provided the shags are kept out.

The pump has been turned off and the two water tanks have been drained. A working bee organised by Ross will be attended to changing the water intake flow from the first tank to the second tank, and the installation of a filtration system to supplement the original system, in an effort to reduce the silt and vegetable matter going trough the incubators.

Getting some new lawnmowers (sheep) would be appreciated.

**Firewood.** The two blue gum trunks have been ringed and cubed into manageable sizes. The splitter has a job. Hopefully the job will be finished by the end of the weekend.

No reply has been received from Portblakely- sponsorship arrangement for logs for fundraiser.

**Annual General Meeting.** Decided that it will be held on **Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026** at 7.30pm at the Glenavy public hall.

**Resolved-** the secretary to book hall and place advertisements in the Waimate Trader as well as including the details in the Web site as well as purchasing the savouries.

-Each committee member to supply a small plate to supplement the savouries.

**Fundraising.** There are still some packets of sausages for sale.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> March, same place, same time.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm.