

CENTRAL OTAGO ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY INC.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING June 7, 2014 10.30 am 1936 Omakau-Chatto Creek Road.

Present: Richard Kohler (Chair), Louise Joyce, Graye & Wendy Shattky, Brian Turner, David Hastings, Matt Sole, Roger Browne, Jan Scherp.

Apologies. Jillian Sullivan, Wendy Browne, Peter & Sandra Jenkins, Gilly Darby, Lon Johnson, Mike Floate, John Douglas, Jan McLauchlan, Helen Hastings & Bob Berry.

Minutes : The minutes from the AGM 2013 were taken as read.

Moved: Graye/Richard that the minutes be adopted.

Carried

Correspondence :

Matters Arising

Community Plant Nursery: Roger reported that although community involvement had decreased, the seedlings of a number of eco-sourced native species have been potted and are in one of Doc's tunnel houses at Clyde. They will be grown on for two-three years before being planted out. Matt offered more seedlings for the project.

Reports

President's report:

Richard detailed COES activities for the year and raised some issue dealt with later in the meeting.

Moved Graye/Matt that the President's report be received.

Carried

Finance :(Graye)

A slight profit was recorded this year. The Society is very appreciative of the royalties had been received from "Timeless Land", donated by the authors, Brian Turner, Grahame Sydney and Owen Marshall. A donation was received from Brian Spackman.

The value of the Environmental Legal Systems Fund was emphasised and the treasurer's comments on this fund will be recorded on our web site.

Moved Graye/Matt that the financial report be received.

Carried

Web Site: A new web site has been installed following the loss of the previous site due to lack of notification about payment of the annual fee. David was able to reinstate much of the content and will continue to add the remainder. The new site is easier to use and readers are able to post comments although they will be approved before appearing on the site. Using Face Book as a means of self-promotion was discussed.

Moved David/Richard that David establish a trial Face Book page to promote the Society and the web site. **Carried**

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group: (Graye) COES is a member of an environment alliance with Fish and Game and the Forest and Bird Society. It is hoped that concerns the group has expressed will be taken into account by the consultants preparing a feasibility study for the project.

This project, if it goes ahead will lead to more intensive use of land and it was noted with concern that there is currently no land management plan in place for Central Otago. The implementation of such a plan is seen as urgent because changes are already being made (ie rows of trees being felled to make way for pivot irrigation in the Manuherikia). COES role would be to encourage the CO District Council to take some responsibility in land management and also to raise the sense of urgency in a coordinated programme including articles and comments in regional newspapers. It was also noted that heritage and cultural elements were being overlooked. (These are not part of the Manuherikia Catchment feasibility study).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President : Richard Kohler (nominated Matt/Brian)

Secretary: Louise Joyce (nominated Richard/Graye)

Treasurer: Jillian Sullivan (nominated Matt/Roger)

Committee: Matthew Sole, Brian Turner, Graye Shattky, David Hastings and Jan Scherp.

Carried

Central Otago Wilding Pine Group: (Matt/Louise). The group appears to have stalled since the District Council reduced its involvement. There is still no constitution in place and a strategy plan has yet to be approved. Matt is working on a number of ideas and in the meantime COES will not take any action.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Otago Regional Council: The council is asking for comment on its regional policy statement. Graye will respond on behalf of COES. Brian will make a personal submission.

Membership: A check needs to be done on membership residence addresses (secretary to action).

A vote of thanks was given to Matt and Jo for the use of their home for the meeting and for Jo's great morning tea!

The meeting closed at 1pm.