

One-hundred-and-eighteenth meeting of the  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**  
Ambassador Hotel, Hamilton  
Friday 20 & Sunday 22 November 2015  
*Commencing 8.30 am*

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## **PRESENT**

### **NZ Councillors** (in geographical North to South appointee order)

Chris Lynch, Colin Sherrard, Lindsay Lyons (Chairman), Graeme Jobey, Alan Flynn, Andrew Morris, Paul Dixon-Didier (arrived 10.30 am Friday), Jean Willis, Matthew Hall, John Jillett and Paul Stenning.

## **In Attendance**

Bryce Johnson Chief Executive, Alison Lyall Finance & Administration Manager, Don Rood Communications Manager (arrived 10.30 am Friday), Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

## **Participation**

Noel Birchall, NZ Council appointee for 2016 from Northland Fish and Game Council (present from 8.30 am Friday and the field trip Saturday)

Rudi Hoetjes, Manager Northland Fish and Game Council (present from 8.30 am Friday and the field trip Saturday).

Warwick Lampp, Electionz.com (2.45 – 3.40 pm Friday)

Andy Tannock, NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board (arrived 12.40 pm Friday and stayed for the field trip Saturday)

Grant Annan, Deputy Chairman Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council (8.30 am – 4.40 pm Friday)

Ben Wilson, Chief Executive Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council (Friday and field trip Saturday).

Two past NZ Council Chairmen – Sandy Lawrie and Rob Roney - joined the meeting late on Friday as observers prior to participating with other past chairmen (David Lawrie, Peter Robinson, Matthew Hall) and NZ Councillors at a dinner that evening to celebrate 25 years of NZ Fish and Game Council meetings.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman extended a welcome to all. He recorded his thanks and best wishes to those who have ended or are ending their term on the NZ Council at this meeting – Chris Lynch, Graeme Jobey, Jean Willis and Dave Witherow. The Chairman acknowledged and greeted John Jillett the Otago appointee on his first meeting at this meeting and the attendance of Noel Birchall, the 2016 NZ Council appointee for Northland. Grant Annan Deputy Chairman and Ben Wilson the Chief Executive of Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council were thanked for their attendance and the preparation for the Council's field trip on Saturday.

He advised the Council that early afternoon Friday Warwick Lampp, from Electionz.com will attend to discuss his Returning Officer's report on the 2015 Elections. Andy Tannock is also to attend to discuss the NZ Habitat Stamp Programme with the Council.

Friday is to be a NZ Council meeting day, Saturday the field trip and Sunday morning will involve a workshop to complete three subjects introduced in September followed by a final session of the public meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from John Cumberpatch, the new appointee from North Canterbury Fish and Game Council.

John Atkinson, a past Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council appointee to the New Zealand Council intended to attend the Friday session but has been unable to do so and sends his apologies and greetings.

Resolved: (Colin Sherrard/Graeme Jobey)

**That the apology from John Cumberpatch for the November 2015 meeting be accepted.**

## **3. Identification of Other Urgent Business and Agreement on Agenda Order**

No changes were identified as necessary to the agenda order and no other urgent business proposed.

## **4. Annual Agenda**

November annual items include a strategic planning session. This will comprise conclusions from the workshops on resource management and finance review. The Chairman's Report and NZ Council Financial Statement for the year will be received, along with an update on the review of the Chief Executive's performance. No Game Notice issues have been received by the NZ Council for its consideration at this time.

## **5. Conflicts of Interest Register**

The conflict of interest register was made available with councillors asked to identify those topics to be discussed at this meeting where they perceive a potential conflict may arise and record these during the meeting.

## **6. Environmental Scan**

This item is intended to last 30 minutes and allows councillors to raise or comment on recent media issues or matters occurring in the regions. Subjects discussed at this November meeting included:

- A Fulbright scholar's study on feral cats raises the issue of toxoplasmosis disease they spread to livestock.
- South Canterbury is heading towards another period of drought with low ground water a matter of growing concern and Fish and Game will need to be vigilant regarding the protection of environmental flows.
- Concerns over the environmental impacts of intensive agriculture are being recorded in world literature.
- Property along the Tukituki River that is subject to sale are being told they need to provide for river access.

## **7. Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Nothing was identified in the minutes of the September meeting requiring further discussion.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Chris Lynch)

**That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 25 & 26 September 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

## **8. Matters Arising from Minutes**

No matters arising in the minutes of the previous meeting that are not elsewhere on the agenda were raised.

## **9. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings**

Points were clarified with discussion resulting on some but no recommended action recorded.

Discussion occurred on a declaration of interest register and the need to establish a template that can be introduced to satisfy a point raised by the Council's Auditors. It was agreed to survey regional managers as to what is being used and standardise as a document for the NZ Council and others who wish to use it. It was noted that the Oath of Office adopted by the NZ Council will be provided for members to complete at the first meeting of the new council.

## **10. National Licence Sales & Licence Systems Update**

There was discussion on the new licence categories and sales for the year to date. Although sale volumes appear to be down compared with this time last year, the reasons remain unclear. It is likely to be a combination of factors including the poor start to the season weather wise, the staging of the Rugby World Cup causing people to be committed to their TV and perhaps a downturn in transactions generally nationwide coinciding with falling milk prices.

What can be seen from sales is 64% of non-residents are buying licences online, suggesting they are doing so before leaving home. There is an expectation that loyal senior purchases could have peaked already with a third of those eligible preferring to buy a family licence and a number still paying the full licence as an extra contribution to Fish and Game. There appear to be a number of new licence holders attracted to the local area licence who had not held a licence the previous year.

An additional paper from Phil Teal, Manager Wellington Fish and Game Council outlining his worries about licence trends in his region and asking the question, when is it time to react, was circulated. Concerns raised on the need to have a countrywide approach to additional marketing effort were recognised.

The Council agreed to wait until Don Rood arrived at the meeting at 10.30 am to talk through proposed publicity campaigns, what has been done and options available. On his arrival, Don spoke of the advertisements that have appeared in the Auckland Sunday paper and other media. Labour weekend was also targeted and for the Christmas period there will be a radio ad promoting both fishing and the new licences generally.

There is no budget allocated for marketing/promotion of the licence programme. The problem for getting media releases is the news worthiness of the topic. There is a limit as to how many ways "buying a licence" can be packaged as news. It was noted that selling the "sizzle" is perhaps a better way forward than just promoting the actual categories themselves.

Posters and licence category material have been distributed to licence agents. Three distinct early-bird e-mails targeting different licence segments were sent, including to lapsed licence holders. There is only so much that can be done at a national level, with regions being the primary sellers who are closest to the prospective licence buyers. The opportunity rests with regions to target clubs and particular groups within the community.

Reliance on selling more licences lies with "the churn" or lapsed and new licence holders. This is the opportunity to increase sales and publicity and some advertising targeting this group is critical. There is only one chance before Christmas and the NZ Council needs to write to regional managers giving them support to tweak their budgets, where this promotion is not already provided for, to do whatever is possible to give this priority. Local advertising to complement what is happening nationally would make a difference by using local points of interest e.g. first salmon to be caught, etc. Site specific signage at popular access points promoting freshwater fishing and not just the regulations, was also noted as a technique we currently don't do well.

The message from NZ Council is that it is encouraging regions to prioritise selling more licences and be pro-active in the period leading up to Christmas.

Discussion occurred on the potential to introduce KPIs on regions to sell more licences. The point was made that for some regions numbers would make this a difficult target to achieve. More importantly than KPIs for regions is to have licence promotional projects identified in Operational Work Plans.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Paul Stenning)

**That the licence sales tables and licence system update for November 2015 be received for information.**

## **11. RM/Legal Update Report**

In the RM/Legal update report it was recognised there should be an additional section on cases already taken/completed and the implementation of outcomes. There are concerns that local authorities may not be implementing these outcomes. It was accepted that there is large variability in local authority performance with the RMA. Big corporates are very aware of their public/social image and attempt to spin their willingness and achievement regarding the required outcomes of cases. Unfortunately, it remains for Fish & Game and others to keep the performance of these organisations focused on their respective statutory and 'good corporate citizen' roles.

Resolved: (Chris Lynch/Paul Stenning)

**That the November 2015 RM Legal Update Report be received.**

*Morning tea break.*

The meeting reconvened with a discussion on the need for a report on post legal case implementation issues. It was recognised that once a project is finished there is no ongoing financial reporting. This was seen as an important factor to consider and whether this belongs in the RM/Legal report or elsewhere is the question. It is not the primary purpose of the RM/Legal report to comment on completed projects. This requires separate treatment with a separate report.

It is a compliance type function to monitor how local authorities are implementing Environment Court outcomes. In addition to follow-up by Fish & Game challenging performance, it may be possible to ask the Courts to include in its judgements an implementation report requirement on its findings to state how the applicant has responded.

It was agreed the RM/Legal Update report is really intended to comment on expenditure and its justification. Therefore, a separate report should deal with implementation issues and what has happened.

The CE noted that legal and other advice he has been receiving on RMA related matters is being charged to Project 1270. It was also noted that this could become more expensive than the current budget allocation, depending on the upcoming RMA Amendment Bill and the NPS/NOF review.

## **12. Research Projects Update**

The Research Update report was received. It was recognised that a template similar to the RM/Legal Update report could be introduced to help Councillors understand each project's status and to allow each of the project managers to report on a standard format.

There is a research strategy but it seems to be light on the review of research projects. The strategy has been identified as needing to be reviewed itself, and such a review should look at improvements to reporting on implementation requirements on what is happening.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/John Jillett)

**The NZ Council review the research strategy in consultation with managers and include a similar reporting template to the RM/Legal Update.**

**That the November 2015 Research Projects Update report be received.**

### **13. Executive Committee**

The Chairman explained that there were three items currently with the Executive Committee that it was unable to report on to this meeting as planned. These were:

#### **1. National Office Review**

A report to NZ Council on the outcome of the review will be available at the next meeting.

#### **2. Chief Executive's appraisal**

The Chief Executive's appraisal will also be completed by the current Council and be reported to the new Council in March 2016.

#### **3. Councillor appraisal**

The appraisal returns by current councillors was disappointing with a low number submitted. This will need to be reassessed by the new council.

The current members of the Executive Committee would remain until the March 2016 meeting when new appointments (Chairman and committee membership) would need to be confirmed. The question was also raised about the merit of an induction session on governance and statutory responsibility at the March meeting. It was agreed this should be provided by Council staff.

### **14. Operational Report**

The bi-monthly Operational Report was considered with questions raised mainly for information.

#### **Project 1140: Commercial Users of the Resource**

A meeting with the Minister of Conservation is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> December at which it is intended to talk about the guide licence and other matters. Other matters to be discussed were invited with suggestions these could include an opportunity to ask whether the Minister is happy with the monitoring of Canada geese numbers, the status of the infringement fine system and trout farming.

#### **Project 1210: Habitat Advocacy General**

The Government's review of the RMA remains unclear with little public information available on the timing or content of such a review. There is an expectation that an announcement might be made before Christmas.

#### **Project 1220: Water Conservation Orders**

A separate Government review is being undertaken of WCOs. Departmental officials are not always knowledgeable about the key issues or purpose of WCOs. It appears iwi may be given greater involvement in the inquiry process in the future. There remain tensions over dealings with water within Maori with their corporate/commercial aim and traditional cultural values.

#### **Project 1420: Public Awareness and Support**

It was agreed Fish & Game's decision to remove itself from the Land and Water Forum was appropriate and will not mean it ignores this space but allow it to generate advocacy and related activity in this area by other means.

*Friday at 12.55 pm.*

*The agenda order was interrupted at this point for a discussion on the NZ Habitat Stamp Programme.*

## 15 New Zealand Habitat Stamp Programme

Mark Airey sent his apologies as being unable to attend due to health issues in the family. Andy Tannock representing the Trust Board spoke of his background and provided background on the programme. He outlined the Board's strategy and a focus on major projects in recent times and its general approach in allocating Habitat Stamp grant monies. The frustration is insufficient funds to grant to all applicants. The income available has been going down in recent years. Funds come from \$2 on every game licence and money for art prints and stamps. The amount, less administration costs is transferred from the NZ Fish and Game Council to the Trust Board. However, the fundraising ability from these two sources is limited. The idea being promoted by the Trust Board is to consider other income stream options. This includes providing other merchandise product utilising the annual habitat stamp image and associated logos. There would be an opportunity to add a description of Fish & Game and the Habitat Trust with these products. The marketing of this could be tendered for and the best offer could be engaged – possible organisations who might do this include: Evolve Outdoors, Stoney Creek and Hunting & Fishing.

It was recognised that Ducks Unlimited has set itself up as an agency that taps into other trusts and organisations. In the USA, DU offers a great range of products with the commercial sector competing for association with DU labelling. This would be a model to look at – the onus would be on a supplier to take the risks and ensure there are no surplus products, etc.

The Trust Board could provide more detail on a concept for the NZ Council to consider. Administration would be minimal. Who is given the responsibility (the supplier or manufacturer) would be responsible for the “royalty” coming to Fish & Game New Zealand.

Resolved (Chris Lynch/Paul Stenning)

**That the NZ Council invites the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board to develop a concept based on the commercial merchandising of the Habitat Stamp Programme that can be consulted with regions and partners.**

*The meeting returned to the agenda order at 1.25 pm and continued to discuss the Operational Report.*

### Operational Report contd...

#### Project 1240: Regional Legal Fund

The meeting of RM core staff within Fish & Game resulted in a number of initiatives that are to be developed. A report of this meeting is being drafted and will be copied to Fish & Game Councils. The top six points arising from this meeting were:

- i. Improved selection panel for RM cases
- ii. Template for submissions, cornerstone documents covering key areas of evidence
- iii. Regional managers to be responsible for regular reporting on case implementation
- iv. A case is to be made for in-house legal support
- iv. 39 pending RM cases
- v. The NOF is the critical central issue and needs to be a primary advocacy matter
- vi. Need to review and refresh our key messaging in light of public awareness gains to date.

#### Project 1420: Public Awareness and Support

The Communications Manager spoke of campaigns to inform what Fish & Game is doing. The work is to populate the website and other medium by creating support for what is being said – associate the science behind the effort. The use of billboards will be a key part of this campaign.

### **Project 1715: Governors' Forum**

This should be retained as late in the second year or early in the third year of every triennium. In between time the focus should be on reporting back on what has been achieved with the resolutions of the forum. It was noted that staff capacity to follow through on the Forum outcomes, along with the ability to meet all NZ Council roles, had been identified in the National Office Review.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Paul Dixon-Didier)

**That the Operational Report for November 2015 be received.**

### **16. NZ Council Bi-Monthly Financial Report No 6**

It was noted corrections were required on the column showing years in the financial position. The column on the right should be 2014 with the total revised.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/Andrew Morris)

**That the Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 be accepted.**

### **17. Fish & Game NZ Finance Report**

No discussion raised.

Resolved: (Chris Lynch/Andrew Morris)

**That the National Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 be received.**

### **18. Applications for Legal Funding**

Applications submitted for legal funding are circulated in advance by the authors to regional CE/managers for comment and support. No dissenting comments were recorded for the applications below:

#### **a) Southland Mountain Cycleway**

The NZ Council raised questions over the content of applications and that support in the case of the Southland application needs to be subject to invoices being received and a clear indication of funds approved, amounts spent to date and amount still expected to be incurred.

Resolved: (Chris Lynch/Andrew Morris)

**That the application by Southland Fish and Game Council for additional funding from the National Legal Fund of legal costs of \$60,000 be approved subject to confirmation that approved expenditure has already been incurred.**

#### **b) Lake Waikare & Whangamarino Wetland Flood Scheme**

The Council complemented the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council manager on a very good fund application.

Resolved Andrew Morris/Graeme Jobey)

**That the application by Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council for funding from the National Legal Fund of legal costs of \$60,000 be approved.**

### **19. Exceptional Funding Application**

Applications submitted for exceptional funding are circulated in advance by the authors to regional CE/managers for comment and support. No dissenting comments were recorded for the applications below:

**a. North Canterbury Fish and Game Council**

Discussion occurred around the implications of Councils using reserves and the pending impact on licence fees in following years. It is not a precedent that the NZ Council would support. The question was raised as to whether this is to come from cash reserves or not and this should be answered by North Canterbury. It was decided to ask for further clarification from North Canterbury before determining a decision.

Discussion resumed on this application on Sunday morning after receiving further information from the North Canterbury Fish and Game Manager. In addition to the concerns raised during Friday's discussion, several councillors expressed concern about the proposed reference to intellectual property, given that the NZ Council had previously part-funded this programme.

After a full debate of the subject and associated issues, the NZ Council agreed to approve the amount up to \$60,000 for this business year less the amount raised through sponsorship. The signal to the North Canterbury Council being that it could not expect continued support for funding this project by use of reserves.

Resolved (Paul Stenning/Allan Flynn)

**The NZ Council approved North Canterbury Fish and Game Council allocate up to \$60,000 of their unencumbered reserves for this business year less the amount raised through sponsorship.**

*Abstained:* Coin Sherrard, Andrew Morris, Jean Willis and Matthew Hall.

**b. Otago Fish and Game Council**

The question of where the funding would come from within the system was raised, recognising it is a national project to be funded nationally.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Graeme Jobey)

**That NZ Council approve the additional expenditure of \$2,910 in the 2015/16 financial year for the development of fisheries monitoring SOPs.**

## **20. Report on the Financial Review**

Conversations and emails from Carmel Veitch and Kate Thompson from Eastern have provided a valued input in the development of financial reporting. In carrying on this work, Matthew Hall proposed (and had accepted) that the following conversations be had with managers:

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Paul Dixon-Didier)

**That**

- i. At the next Manager's Meeting the matter of 'financial support staff training' required - in the area of reconciling licence income with Eyede reports (and annual accrual of income) - is discussed, to ascertain how this training may be best achieved. The New Zealand Council to be advised.**
- ii. In accordance with a recommendation from the Financial Review Committee, at the next Manager's Meeting time allocation and reporting is placed on the agenda for discussion with the objective of determining a consistent approach across Fish and Game to time recording and an assessment of the integrity of the information in the budget variance reports. The NZF&GC would, if thought appropriate by manager's, consider contracting out the work of a review, to Carmel Veitch or a suitably qualified reviewer. The New Zealand Council to be advised.**

*The meeting paused at 2.50 pm to consider the 2015 Regional Fish and Game Council Elections (Agenda item 3.11).*

## **21. 2015 Regional Fish and Game Council Elections**

Warwick Lampp presented his Returning Officer's report.

Internet voting was used for the third time in Fish and Game Elections, with the elections carried out in accordance with the Regional Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990. Elections were required in seven regions. The final voting return rate was 25.44% of those on the electoral roll, which is an increase of just under 5% from the 2012 voting return. This year, 34.78% of those who voted did so online, up from 29% in 2012.

Several issues arose regarding the Hawke's Bay election. This included questions over content of candidate profiles and the legality of the decision to reduce the number of candidates from 12 to 8.

Overall the elections went smoothly with a small number of constituents raising matters of confusion and frustration.

The Returning Officer's report includes a number of suggestions for improvement. It was accepted that some aspects of legislation do need to be changed but this would require support from the Minister and department (DOC).

It was agreed there needs to be a consistent approach on what is provided in candidate profiles. A template or policy would provide a useful guideline.

Council thanked Warwick for his report and for his time to attend and discuss the report.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Jean Willis)

**That the Returning Officer's report be received and be referred to regions for consultation and feedback before the NZ Council considers the points raised.**

*The meeting paused for afternoon tea at 3.25pm*

### **Report on the Financial Review contd...**

Management of Fish & Game's legal expenses is defined by NZ Council policy but not by a national policy. Matthew Hall proposed to take some concepts back to the Review Committee for it to consider. The distinction between what is a regional and a national interest project is often not fully understood. Further work could be considered on this distinction. It was also noted that the RM specialist group had also considered the matter of regional RMA case approval and this would be considered in the development of the proposed RM strategy.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Paul Dixon-Didier)

**That**

- i. A National Policy be developed regarding the approval of regional RMA legal expenditure.**
- ii. In developing national policy the following be considered:**
  - a. As part of the policy where ever possible legal expenditure is included in a budgetary process where it can be recommended by the regional managers.**

- b. A National RM Co-ordinator is named to co-ordinate and review all applications for legal expenditure of national significance.
- c. Wherever possible the New Zealand Council approve legal expenditure of national significance and where this is not possible the NZF&GC Chief Executive, Chairman and the National RM Co-ordinator approve expenditure.
- d. As part of the National policy 2.7.1. (National Bulk Fund) a legal fund be established that equates to the greater of the annual average legal expenditure for the last three years completed financial years or the projected expenditure in the budget round. If in the previous year the fund was in deficit and reserves were drawn on and these reserves fall below an agreed threshold then as a priority, in the budget round, these reserves are replenished.
- e. That the committee consider draw-down of unencumbered regional reserves, particularly those in excess of 50% of a region's budget.

## **22. Review of Reserves and Funding Policies**

The original proposal for Paul Dixon-Didier in preparing this paper was to submit this to the Financial Review Committee. However, it was recognised by the Committee Coordinator that the paper needed to be considered and debated in the first instance by the NZ Council, as the paper questions the existing reserves and budget system and seeks discussion on it.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Paul Stenning)

1. **The Review of Reserves and Funding Policies by Paul Dixon-Didier dated 16/05/2015 be received by NZ Council.**
2. **The Review be referred to the Financial Review Committee for consideration and a report thereon be prepared for NZ Council.**
3. **The Review be included as an agenda item for NZ Council at its first meeting in 2016 for discussion.**

John Jillett asked for his name to be recorded opposing the resolution.

## **23. MOU between NZ Council and the NZ Professional Fishing Guides' Association**

A suggestion was made that a person should not be able to be a guide if the licence holder holds a conviction under the Conservation and Wildlife Acts. This did not have unanimous support. A further point made was that guides should ensure all clients are appropriately licensed.

After further debate it was finally accepted that the first point was not really a matter for Fish & Game and that the second could be covered under point 1 of the proposed MOU.

With that agreement the changes to the MOU as recorded by the Profession Guides' Association was acceptable subject to an additional point that any MOU needs to include a set period over which it covers with the ability that it can be reviewed.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Jean Willis)

**That the NZ Council accept the MOU as amended by the Professional Fishing Guides' Association with the addition that the MOU be reviewed three yearly or at the request of either party.**

## **24. 2014/15 National Angling Survey – Progress Report**

The National Angling Survey progress report was considered and it was recognised that its author Martin Unwin has produced quality academic standard work on the NAS over many years and it was raised that this should be recorded with proper acknowledgement. A suggestion made was to invite

Martin to the March meeting in Otago for him to present his final report and for the Council to show its appreciation.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/Andrew Morris)

**That the National Angling Survey progress report be received**

## **25. Non Resident Fishing Licence Extra Revenue**

It was proposed that consideration be given to assist West Coast Fish and Game Region in the management of its backcountry fisheries. A suggestion of 8% of extra revenue be given to West Coast from each region. Following discussion it was agreed this to be a matter for managers to consider.

## **26. Correspondence**

Correspondence received during the period was considered with recommended replies provided for the Chairman to include in his responses.

Decisions on specific letters

1. Hawke's Bay Election. That the letter be received. The Council recognised the need to support the new Council as is appropriate.
2. Land and Water Forum. That the letter be received.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Chris Lynch)

**That the Council endorses the actions of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive withdrawing from the Land and Water Forum.**

3. New Annual Reporting Standards. That the letter be received.
4. RM Advocacy. That the letter be received. The Council accepts the expertise of Jay Graybill and welcomes that input in the development of the intended F&G RM strategy to be drafted by the managers.
5. Walking Access Commission. That the letter be received.
6. Retirement of Southland Manager. That the letter be received and wish Maurice all the best.

Resolved (Andrew Morris/Paul Stenning)

**That the correspondence be accepted.**

## **27. General Business**

There was no general business raised at the meeting.

*The meeting adjourned on Friday at 5.35 pm and was reconvened on Sunday morning at 11.10 am*

The Sunday morning session was attended by NZ Councillors and staff. It commenced with workshops and closed with recommendations being brought back into the public meeting and consideration of two items carried over from the Friday meeting.

## **28. Resource Management Workshop**

The following resolutions were brought back into the public meeting.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Paul Dixon-Didier)

1. **That by the September 2016 Council meeting a National Strategy will be in place that will manage RMA outcomes.**

2. **That as a matter of urgency the New Zealand Council through the Chief Executive seeks the services (paid or voluntary) of one or more persons, with the appropriate skills, who will use a process of consultation to put together a draft RMA Strategy. This draft to be received by the council for consideration at its May 2016 meeting.**
3. **That the strategy will focus on main streams of work – public awareness, limit setting and local authority accountability.**
4. **That the strategy will recognise the resources held within the Fish and Game Regions and at the National Office and endeavour to harness these resources in a way that will achieve planned outcomes.**
5. **That the strategy will recognise both Regional and National Fish and Game RMA demands.**
6. **That while funding is one of the final aspects for consideration, in setting the initial strategy the focus will be on desired outcomes and the tasks required in achieving these outcomes and how they would have to be resourced, rather than any financial limitation.**
7. **That throughout the process in setting a strategy the assistance and advice of regional managers and, with their permission, staff will be sought.**
8. **That a draft strategy is circulated to Regions in early July 2016 with feed-back requested by the September New Zealand Council Meeting.**
9. **That at the September 2016 Council meeting the New Zealand Council will resolve to finalise the RMA strategy.**

Discussion was also included on the merit of an MOU with strategic allies to achieve a united voice on the key aspects contained in the strategy. It was felt this is something that would be good to do but should not become a component of the strategy itself.

## **29. Financial Review**

The following resolutions were brought back into the public meeting.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Andrew Morris)

**That NZ Council seek a current legal opinion on the ability of Fish and Game to achieve complementary outputs to operational budgets generated by licence fee income, these being funded by donations and bequests which Fish and Game or others may solicit.**

Resolved (Paul Dixon-Didier/Graeme Jobey)

**That the above legal opinion on generating additional funding also seeks advice on utilising commercial opportunity as part of achieving complementary outputs.**

Resolved (Matthew Hall/Colin Sherrard)

**That the Financial Review Committee meet early in the New Year, at a cost to New Zealand Fish and Game of no more than \$2500, for the purpose of continuing its review work, including holding a session on the income earning opportunities open to Fish and Game. There would be**

**the ability to add to the committee to ensure informed recommendations can be made to the New Zealand Council.**

### **30. Review of Governance Policies**

The review of the NZ Council governance policy was continued from the previous meeting. This was completed and it was agreed that a 'clean copy' of the policies would be provided to the Council for it to consider and adopt as new Council policy.

### **31. Strategic Planning**

No additional items were considered by the Council as part of its strategic planning session. It was accepted that the recommendations resulting from the earlier workshops contained important strategic work for the Council to progress.

### **32 Annual Report – Year End Financial Statements**

Copies of the Year End Financial Statements had not been made available at the time the agenda was circulated. Subsequent electronic copies were forwarded to councillors with hard copies provided at the meeting on Friday. It was accepted that Councillors needed time to consider the statement before authorising the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Council.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Chris Lynch)

**That subject to the audited annual accounts being circulated to Council members for approval, and any queries satisfactorily explained, the Chairman be authorised to sign the 2014/15 Financial Statement on behalf of the Council.**

### **Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked Council and staff for their support and acknowledged the councillors leaving at this meeting. He spoke of particular contributions from those leaving and to look forward to future discussions with new faces and a new Council. He wished all present and their families the best for the festive season.

Colin Sherrard spoke briefly about the opportunity given to show the interests and issues present in the Auckland/Waikato region. It was agreed a letter of thanks be sent to the regional Chief Executive.

Recognition was made of the job being done by Lindsay Lyons as Chairman of the NZ Council and the appreciation of fellow councillors for his valued leadership.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.00 pm Sunday 22 November 2015.

Confirmed: .....

Date: ...../...../2016