

One hundred and thirty-second meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Maranui Surf Club Lounge, Wellington
Thursday 19 July 2018
Commencing 8.45 am

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

Lindsay Lyons (Chairperson), Noel Birchall, Paul Dixon-Didier (arrived 10.15 due to flight delays), Alan Flynn, Matthew Hall, Andy Harris, John Jillett, Andrew Morris, Chris Owen, Colin Sherrard, Ron Stuart and Kevin Williams.

In Attendance

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Don Rood Communications Manager, Carmel Veitch Finance, Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

Present:

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

The Chairperson in welcoming everyone extended a particular welcome to Ron Stuart from North Canterbury for whom this is a first NZ Council meeting. He also wanted the minutes to record the Council's appreciation and acknowledgement of John Cumberpatch and his contribution during his term on this council. Congratulations to Matthew Hall for his Order of Merit award in the recent Queen's Birthday honours.

2. Apologies

Paul Dixon-Didier delayed due to flight into Wellington.

3. Conflicts of Interest Register

Councillors now sign the register and identify whether there were any topics to be discussed at this meeting they perceive to be a potential conflict of interest (COI). A COI sheet was passed around at the meeting for people to note any conflicts with the listed July agenda items.

4. Confirmation of Minutes from 27 & 28 April 2018 Meeting

Nothing was identified in the minutes requiring further resolution.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Matthew Hall)

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 27 & 28 April 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

No further action was recorded.

A question was asked by the Hawke's Bay appointee whether licence holders could be canvass nationwide as to their satisfaction with the performance of Fish and Game as an organisation in all regions.

6. Environmental Scan

Due to anticipated time needed to discuss other items within this one-day meeting, it was agreed to defer the Environmental Scan until the following meeting.

7. Licence Fee Recommendations

A telephone conference call was held 20 June to consider feedback from Fish and Game regional councils on consultation with them on the proposed new season licence fees. The NZ Council also proposed three further resolutions on amended licence category fee ratios, additional non-resident fishing licences and fee for the Whole Season NR Adult Fishing Licence.

The resolutions from the telephone conference need to be reaffirmed in a public meeting of the Council. Therefore, it was:

Resolved Matthew Hall/Andy Harris)

That the notes from the telephone conference of 20 June 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record and the recommendation recorded below be adopted as Council's resolution.

The Telephone Conference recommendations to be recorded were:

That following consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils and support for the proposal, the New Zealand Council seeks approval from the Minister of Conservation for the 2018/19 sports fish licence to be based on an adult whole season fee of \$130 and the game licence to be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$96 plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat (GST inclusive).

Declined proposed changes in ratios to determine sub category licence fees. Conference confirmed changes are a matter for the Licence Working Party to consider and to be challenged to come up with appropriate changes.

Agreed to recommend to the Minister to establish the following non-resident fees at the following rates: Adult NR Day \$34, Junior NR Day \$20, Child NR Day \$20, Whole Season Junior NR \$34.

Agreed to recommend to the Minister to increase the Whole Season Adult NR fishing licence to \$169.

The subject of licence fee ratios was raised and it was agreed a formal instruction to the Licence Working Party should be recorded.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Matthew Hall)

That the Licence Working Party be requested to prepare a report for the November NZ Council meeting with options to increase the total LEQs by a minimum of 1,800 LEQs.

The use of telephone conferencing to discuss Council business was accepted as not an ideal method to conduct such business. A decision on licence fees in the future should be done by email. Where there are several issues to be discussed, it would be better to hold an extra day-meeting.

8. NZ Council Audit Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in undertaking future audit activity in accordance with the Conservation Act's Section 26C(1)(j) to audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils.

Further proposed amendments were recorded to those agreed earlier. These were:

- Item 15 concerning ad hoc audits should include “the general public” and “requests from Ministers”. Remove the word “whistle blowers”.
- Objective 3 a) is shown blank.
- Policy Statement 2 to begin “NZ Fish and Game Council (NZC)”
- The wording of the Act excludes the word “regional” – “to audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils”.
- 11 f & 24 e has typing mistakes (any act or) and (consideration in).

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/John Jillett)

Subject to agreed changes, agree to confirm adoption of the NZ Council Audit policy as contained in the July 2018 agenda papers

9. NZ Council 2017/18 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 4

The purpose of this paper is to update the NZ Council financial position to the month ended 30 June 2018. The projection of a less favourable outcome than initial proposed has become evident.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Andrew Morris)

That the NZ Council Financial Report as at 30 June 2018 be accepted.

The improved quality of financial reporting is noted, and thanks is expressed to Carmel for her efforts in this area.

The meeting began by moving into a

10. Public Excluded session of the meeting

10.20 am Resolved: (Andy Harris/Chris Owen)

To move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

- a. Minutes from the last meeting taken in public excluded.**
- b. NZ Council Audit of North Canterbury Fish and Game Council**
- c. CSI Fish and Game Council Preliminary Inquiry**
- d. Organisational Remuneration Report.**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

Time: 11.40 am

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Colin Sherrard)

To move out of Public Excluded and back into a Public meeting.

11. National Financial Report to 30 June 2018

This provides an update on the YTD expenditure by Council against the 13 budgets 83% through the financial year. Overall the combined regions and NZ Council are sitting at 80% of total budget spent. The position of North Canterbury appears contrary to what its regional manager had forecast, currently showing as being within budget, rather than the estimated \$100,000 over.

North Canterbury, along with Auckland/Waikato, CSI and Southland operates on a cash basis rather than accrual.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Andy Harris)

That all Councils be asked to adopt an accrual financial reporting system and for this to be raised with managers at its next meeting (August 2018).

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/John Jillett)

That the National Financial Report as at 30 June 2018 be accepted.

12. Mallard Research Application

The next step defined by the Mallard Research Group is to identify what habitats promote duckling and brood survival. Results from this work are proposed as providing important management recommendations which could ultimately aid in improving growth rates of mallards in New Zealand. Each year a sum of \$34,000, representing \$1.00 on game bird licence sales, is tagged for mallard research. This proposed research is intended to be funded in this way.

Resolved: (Colin Sherrard/Kevin Williams)

That \$21,000 be approved from the \$34,000 annual sum allocated to mallard research for the study of brood-habitat selection and use.

13. Hawke's Bay Speaker Fund Application

A request has been received to fund the key note speaker for the New Zealand Wetland Restoration Symposium on 26 – 27 September 2018 in Hawke's Bay. Coincidentally, the 2018 Staff Development Fund of \$10,000 has been under allocated with approvals of \$2,800 given to Lawson Davey to meet with California Waterfowl Association. It is therefore proposed the Fund be used to pay for the Symposium key note speaker.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Andrew Morris)

That the travel and accommodation cost up to \$4,000 for the key note speaker at the Wetland Symposium 2018 be paid from the Staff Development Fund.

14. Bank Authorities

Current authorities do not allow the transfer of funds from one bank to another or to open a new account. This paper seeks approval for bank signing authorities and for the CEO to be able to open new accounts.

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Andy Harris)

- a. **Agree Martin Taylor, Robert Sowman and Carmel Veitch be given signing authority with the BNZ with two signatures required for any transaction.**
- b. **Martin Taylor in his capacity of CEO has the authority to open new bank accounts in the name of New Zealand Fish and Game Council with Robert Sowman and Carmel Veitch as the other two signatories.**

15. CE Advocacy Report

The CEO for the NZ Council reported on activity he has participated in over two months since last reporting to Council. Discussion followed on several points of interest, notably on the F&G NPS Fresh Water submission and how Horizon's believe they cannot enforce their environmental bottom lines. It was recognised that ineffective enforcement is an issue across many regional councils.

Discussion paused for lunch 12.37 – 1.05 pm.

The subject of candidates needing to declare a conflict of interest at the time of elections was raised by the Minister of Conservation, who was surprised this was not already in place. A range of other subjects, including office premises and Fish & Game Magazine were also canvassed or responded to.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

Note the contents of this July 2018 CEO Advocacy Report.

16. NZ Council Staff Activities Report

Council staff presented their report of activities over two months since last reporting to Council. Questions were asked on several points including the Anglers Notice, Elections, plastic in the environment.

Resolved (Andrew Morris/Kevin Williams)

That a Candidate Interest Statement be included in the 2018 Election candidate material and published in candidate profiles.

17. R3 Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

A Reference Group of Ian Hadland (Manager Otago), Rhys Barrier (Manager Nelson/Marlborough) Phil Teal (Manager Wellington) and Andy Garrick (Manager Eastern) came together with Martin Taylor and Robert Sowman from NZ Council and the project manager consultant Steve Doughty. The meeting was held to determine the project's goals and priorities and set out steps for future action.

The request was made for the circulation to NZ Councillors of feedback on the R3 paper following its distribution to regional Fish and Game Councils.

It was pointed out that the lack of opportunity to catch a fish will ultimately determine the number of fishing licences sold. Salmon catches are becoming rare and unless this changes there will inevitably be a decline in participation by these anglers.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Chris Owen)

That the R3 Reference Group meeting outcomes of 3 July 2018 be received.

18. National Sea Run Salmon Committee

An outcome of the Salmon Symposium has been the appointment of a National Salmon Committee. Its membership is based on an appointee from Nelson/Marlborough, West Coast, North Canterbury, Central South Island and Otago Fish and Game Councils, the NZ Salmon Angler Association, South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association and the NZ Council Chief Executive.

The Committee has met for the second time on 19 June 2018 in Wellington. Strategic outcomes have been set in an effort to stop the decline; improve the habitat; restore to acceptable levels self-sustaining wild fish spawning numbers; and establish an acceptable level of hatchery fish harvest.

Minutes of the previous meeting have been requested for circulation to NZ Councillors.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Andy Harris)

Note the contents of this July 2018 Salmon Committee update report.

19. RM/Legal Update Report

This item provides an update for those legal projects already approved and where there has been some action since reported in April 2018. The update is still being worked through to validate figures. This is provided as a spreadsheet.

An update on the Rangitata water consents by RDR was reported. These consents have been the subject of an Ecan hearing by commissioners. The commissioners' decision favoured the RDR request. Environmental submissions were generally defeated, including arguments against siltation as submitted by CSI. RDR proposal included a state-of-the-art fish screen with 30 months to have it up and running. This may ultimately become a "win" for anglers.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Ron Stuart)

That the July 2018 RM Legal Update report be received.

20. Research Programme Update Report

This item provides an update for those research projects already approved and where there has been some action since reported in April 2018. Like the RM/Legal update, it consists of a spreadsheet but with a word document providing supportive information.

To be corrected in the update report: Ref 57 spelling of Adam Canning. Date of next NAS should read 2021/22.

It was accepted that when existing commitments will fall needs to be tracked on a yearly basis. Discussion followed based on how to show this commitment both for research and the RM/Legal fund.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Colin Sherrard)

That the July 2018 research Programme update report be received.

21. National licence sales update

An update on licence sales was provided with a comparison of YTD figures to 9 July 2018 for the 2017/18 seasons. The report also contained sales information on daily cumulative data, a comparison between 2013/14 and 2016/17. The accompanying tables/figures were explained and discussed.

Resolved (John Jillett/Chris Owen)

That the July 2018 licence sales update be received for information.

22. Health & Safety Bi-Monthly Report

A NZ Council health and safety policy was approved in July 2016. This policy is now supported by bi-monthly reporting to Council on health & safety action as recorded by Council staff.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

That the July 2018 Health & Safety report be received.

23. Specific letters to be considered

Letters had been received and required consideration by the NZ Council. These included the following:

- a. Letter from Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Associate Minister for the Environment dated 6 May 2018.
- b. Letter from Katie Milne, National President Federated Farmers dated 4 May 2018.
- c. Letter from Denise Birdling, Customer Compliance Specialist, Inland Revenue dated 11 July 2018.


Resolved: (Colin Sherrard/John Jillett)


That the specific letters be received.

24. Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their participation.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 3.32 pm Thursday 19 July 2018.

Confirmed: 

Date: /2018