

## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held via video link, on Thursday 3 February 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Present: S Bannister L Koevoet  
P Centofanti N Niles  
J DeWit D Rattray  
S Gerard C Stanger

In Attendance:

*F&G Staff:* J Graybill, B Dolan, Di Taylor (NZC CE), A Christensen, M Webb and H Stevens.

*ECan:* Peter Scott

### 22-001 APOLOGIES:

J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

Resolved (Koevoet/Stanger)

22-001

**THAT THE APOLOGY OF J HENRY BE ACCEPTED.**

### 22-002 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register or any conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between their current interests and the business of tonight's meeting? None were advised.

### 22-003 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Due to meeting being held via video link no Health and Safety briefing was required.

### 22-004 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 9 December 2021

S Gerard believed that on item 21-087 (MAR presentation) it should have included that CSI had asked MAR for a baseline environmental flow and that MAR were going to report back to Council on this.

S Gerard stated that on Item 088.2 he didn't say the words attributed to him that sockeye "had been added after the fact without consent of Council". CE pointed out it was in his report on the agenda. Chair added that it was possibly himself that put those words in the report in the agenda and agreed it be struck from the minutes.

P Centofanti stated there was meant to be an apology from J deWit [to CSI staff member] for statements he made at the 11 November 2021 Council meeting. He continued that the Chair had asked Mr deWit to apologise but noted there was no record of it in the minutes. Chair responded that it was never formally done and asked J DeWit to clarify. J DeWit responded that it was 4 months ago, he was grumpy, and he shouldn't have been so blunt and wished to move on from that.

Resolved (Bannister/Stanger)

22-002

**THAT SUBJECT TO AMENDMENTS THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 9 DECEMBER 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.**

**22-005 BUDGET AND FINANCE:**

Resolved (Centofanti/Koevoet)

22-003

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$291,736.12 AND \$78,934.58, RESPECTIVELY.**

**22-006 DI TAYLOR, NZ FISH AND GAME CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT:**

Di Taylor, NZC Chief Executive, updated Council on the role of NZ Council Office, which is to support regions and the NZ Council. She gave a briefing on projects that are currently underway including: governance training to NZC and regional chairs at NZC Council meeting in April 2022; reactivation of F&G Remuneration Sub-committee to review national remuneration and job descriptions; formation of National Working Group to review brand and national communication strategy; Ministerial Review Implementation Steering Group to report to NZC in April 2022 and then out for public consultation; and Structural Review Working Group to report to NZC February 2022 meeting and out to regions in April. (CE Note: See page 895 of these minutes where Di Taylor advised that NZ Council will be rolling out Governance training to all Councils after the April 2022 meeting of NZC.)

Chair thanked Di Taylor for her presentation, and it was:

Resolved (Bannister/Centofanti)

22-004

**THAT COUNCIL THANK DI TAYLOR FOR HER PRESENTATION INFORMING COUNCIL ON THE ROLE OF NZ FISH AND GAME AND ITS CURRENT WORKINGS.**

**22-007 ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY – Peter Scott:**

CE advised that Elizabeth McKenzie was unable to attend and asked that her apology be registered. Peter Scott updated Council on O Tu Wharekai advising that meetings have been held with farmers in the Lake Clearwater/Camp area with regards to nutrification issues. ECan are very aware that further conversations need to be had with LINZ and DoC and are attempting to get a final solution on this.

L Koevoet advised P Scott that he had been made aware that someone had leaked CSI's letter to ECan on Lake Opuha contamination and hoped that it wasn't a CSI Councillor who leaked it. He apologised on behalf of CSI. Chair added that he had also sent a note to Tim Davie of ECan after he had heard indirectly from the Timaru Herald and assured P Scott that CSI will progress in good faith. P Scott responded that it would be good for CSI and ECan to get a way through this. P Scott left the meeting at 8:03 pm.

**22-008 RECEIVE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:**

Resolved (Koevoet/Centofanti)

22-005

**THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS OF 3 FEBRUARY 2022 BE RECEIVED.**

L Koevoet noted it would be good to have staff present 30 minutes before the meeting to answer questions as happened in the past. CE advised that in past, councillor attendance at these sessions was generally poor, but he could give this further consideration. He added that operations and staff reports were provided to Councillors to keep them informed of progress on operational matters. If Councillors have questions, they are welcome to email them to him, and he will have them addressed. Several councillors spoke in support of Linn's request. S Gerard spoke in favour of the CE's position that Council should spend more time on governance matters.

## **22-009 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:**

### **009.1 Recommendations for 2022/23 Game Bird Hunting Season (11.1)**

M Webb provided recommendations on the 2022/23 gamebird hunting conditions. After discussion on each recommendation the following resolutions resulted.

#### **1. Mallard/Grey Duck**

**Resolved (D Rattray/P Centofanti)**

**22-006**

**THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF MALLARD AND GREY DUCK FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON.**

#### **2. Paradise Shelduck**

**Resolved (P Centofanti/S Bannister)**

**22-007**

**THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF PARADISE SHELDUCK FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON.**

#### **3. Black Swan**

**Resolved (S Bannister/P Centofanti)**

**22-008**

**THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF BLACK SWAN FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON.**

#### **4. Shoveler and Pukeko**

**Resolved (S Bannister/ D Rattray)**

**22-009**

**THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF SHOVELER AND PUKEKO FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON.**

#### **5. Quail, Pheasant, Chukar**

**Resolved (D Rattray/S Bannister)**

**22-010**

**THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF QUAIL, PHEASANT AND CHUKAR FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON.**

#### **6. Public Submission – Request to Remove Decoy Limit for Wainono**

Public submissions from hunters in the Waimate district requested removal of the 25-decoy limit at Wainono were discussed. It was:

**Resolved (S Bannister/P Centofanti) 22-011**

**THAT THERE BE NO DECOY LIMIT IN THE CSIFG REGION.**

7. Remaining Gazette Changes

The following standard calendar changes were considered, and it was

**Resolved (S Bannister/S Gerard) 22-012**

**THAT THE WATERFOWL SEASON BE 7 MAY TO 31 JULY 2022.**

**Resolved (L Koevoet/P Centofanti) 22-013**

**THAT THE UPLAND GAME SEASON BE 7 MAY TO 28 AUGUST 2022.**

**Resolved (N Niles/P Centofanti) 22-014**

**THAT THE MID-SUMMER SEASON BE 4/5 AND 11/12 FEBRUARY 2023.**

009.2 Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (11.2)

CE advised that the next step in the process is for Council to appoint a Hearing Panel to hear verbal submissions from those who requested to be heard. He recommended that the hearing panel be made up of two members of CSI Council (to be named); two CSI Staff members (CE and A Christensen, Resource Officer); and NZ Staff member, Brian Anderton with independent planning experience and knowledge of the legislative requirements. He advised that three CSI Council members have requested "to be heard" at the hearings and so would be in conflict to sit on the hearing panel.

L Koevoet sought clarification as to who the Council members were that submitted and therefore would be disqualified. CE advised that members who requested to be heard were S Gerard, S Bannister, and C Stanger.

S Gerard questioned if the Resource Officer who wrote the Plan is also conflicted. CE explained that the representation on the panel is proper as it includes members on the operational side of CSI and members as governors. It will remain for Council to approve the plan at the next meeting and not staff.

Further discussion ensued as to the number of Councillors appointed to the panel and it was:

**MOVED (Centofanti/Gerard)**

That Council appoints a hearing panel of seven members as representatives of Council, made up of four Councillors (to be named); Brian Anderton (an independent planning expert); and two CSI staff members (J Graybill, CE and A Christensen, Resource Officer), with the hearings to be held in February.



MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION (Koevoet/Ratray)

That Council appoints a hearing panel of five members as representatives of Council, made up of two Councillors (to be named); Brian Anderton (an independent planning expert); and two CSI staff members (Jay Graybill, CE and Angela Christensen, Resource Officer), with the hearings to be held in February.

The amendment was put and declared LOST. (3 for, 5 against).

The substantive motion was then put and declared CARRIED. (5 for, 3 against).

**Resolved (Centofanti/Gerard)**

**22-015**

**THAT COUNCIL APPOINTS A HEARING PANEL OF SEVEN MEMBERS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL, MADE UP OF FOUR COUNCILLORS (TO BE NAMED); BRIAN ANDERTON, AN INDEPENDENT PLANNING EXPERT; AND TWO CSI STAFF MEMBERS (J GRAYBILL, CE AND A CHRISTENSEN, RESOURCE OFFICER), WITH HEARINGS TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY.**

L Koevoet, N Niles and D Ratray asked that their votes against the motion be recorded.

Discussion ensued and it was **AGREED** that the Hearing would be held on Thursday 17 February 2022 (time to be determined) and the following four Councillors were named to the Hearing Panel: P Centofanti, S Gerard, C Stanger and N Niles.

009.3 Plan Change 7 (11.3)

CE spoke to his written report that notices of appeal to Plan Change 7 (ECan Land and Water Regional Plan) were received from several organisations. He sought legal advice on whether or not CSI had grounds to join these appeals and that advice was provided to Council members.

Legal counsel recommended that CSI had grounds to join three of the appeals. These being Rayonier/Port Blakely, Rangitata South Irrigation and Te Runanga. As time didn't permit holding a Council meeting, Councillors were canvassed via email for approval to join these three appeals at a cost of up to \$2,000 (from reserves). Approval was received from the majority of Councillors to take this action. Notices of CSI's intention to join the appeals were filed by legal counsel on 19 January 2022. This will allow time for Council to consider its position related to these appeals and determine what further representation (if any) CSI would want moving to the next phase.

**Resolved (Bannister/Gerard)**

**22-016**

**THAT COUNCIL CONFIRMS THE DECISION TO JOIN THE APPEALS NOTIFIED TO THE HIGH COURT BY RAYONIER/PORT BLAKELY, RANGITATA SOUTH IRRIGATION, AND TE RUNANGA AND AUTHORISES EXPENDITURE FROM RESERVES FOR LEGAL COSTS OF UP TO \$2,000 EXCLUDING GST AND DISPURSEMENTS.**

009.4 Planning for 2022/23 OWP (11.4)

CE spoke to his written report and requested that Councillors review the 21/22 OWP and submit to him changes or new projects to be considered for the 2022/23 OWP by 24 February 2022. From that he and the staff would develop a draft 2022/23 OWP for Councils consideration at the 17 March meeting of Council.

General discussion ensued as to how Councillors wished to approach putting forward their input into the 2022/23 OWP. Di Taylor, NZC CE, suggested that Council needs to agree to their priorities and report this to the CE. This allows the CE to seek clarity on what the Council is wanting. The CE then reports back what can be delivered. Di Taylor suggested Council have a workshop and come up with their top 5 priorities.

**Resolved (Bannister/Gerard)**

**22-017**

**THAT COUNCIL HOLD A WORKSHOP TO PROVIDE CE WITH A CLEAR LIST OF PRIORITIES AND PLANS TO BE PUT INTO THE OWP AS DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL. LIST TO BE PROVIDED BY 24 FEBRUARY 2022.**

Councillors **AGREED** to hold the workshop online via video link on Saturday 5 February 2022.

009.5 Mt Cook Alpine Salmon Application to Revive Sockeye Farming (11.5)

CE reported that MPI have given Mt Cook Salmon an exemption for 5 years to acquire the necessary fish numbers in the next two years to establish a brood stock population and provide a buffer in the event that additional fish (milt/eggs) need to be obtained. It was noted that any acquisition must have CSI approval. It was recognised that the canals are world famous due to the salmon farms and sockeye are now well established in Lake Benmore.

**Resolved (Koevoet/Niles)**

**22-018**

- 1. THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE MARCH 2022 HARVEST OF SOCKEYE AS YEAR ONE OF THE FIVE-YEAR EXEMPTION PERIOD AND**
- 2. THAT COUNCIL ACCEPT MT COOK ALPINE SALMON MITIGATION.**

At 10:30 pm Council

**Resolved (Centofanti/Koevoet)**

**22-019**

**THAT THE MEETING CONTINUE TO 11 PM.**

**22-010 CHAIR'S REPORT:**

010.1 Policy Review (10.1)

Chair felt it was prudent that Council's reviews its Governance Policy on a rolling review process over 3 years. He suggested this be done by a sub-committee. This sub-committee would be set as a standing committee. It would seek advice where it saw fit and formulate recommendations to come to Council. He suggested the sub-committee consist of 3 councillors. Di Taylor advised that under Standing Orders Council should form a working group to work with management to revise policy based on legislative change, etc. Revised policy would come to working group with management support and be reported to Council for adoption.

**THAT A POLICY REVIEW WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF P CENTOFANTI, S BANNISTER, D RATRAY, S GERARD AND C STANGER.**

010.2 Lake Opuha Letter to ECan (10.2)

Chair advised that ECan have acknowledged receipt of his letter. He was disappointed that a copy had been leaked to the Timaru Herald. He believed that this appearing in the press, usurped proper process. Chair has written a letter of apology to ECan for the leak. He awaits a response from ECan.

Chair advised that he had received letter from Doug Rankin expressing concern about water quality issues at Opuha. Mr Rankin would like to address Council on options for “continued advocacy”.

010.3 Linkage Between OWP and Strategic Goals (10.4)

Chair advised that it was Council’s intention to improve governance performance by improving linkage between OWP, Strategic Goals and Performance. He requested that each Councillor review and rank their preference from 1 to 6 to each of the Strategic Goals to be supplied to the CE prior to preparation of the draft 2022/23 OWP.

010.4 Human Resources Advice (10.5)

Chair sought Council support to seek independent advice on the relationship between Council and the CE to establish a functional working relationship with CE. He felt this would provide guidance in establishing an OWP that reflects Council priorities and looks at how Council and the CE work together for healthy, functional relationship.

Chair sought support to engage governance and human resources advice to affect better governance for licence holders. D Ratray expressed disappointment with in-house politics and believed it was time to move forward for the licence holders. L Koevoet noted there was no motion. He questioned the need to get this advice and expressed concern that procedures weren’t being followed. Chair responded that he was trying to gauge Council’s appetite for getting independent governance and human resources advice so proper procedure is followed.

J deWit stated that Council needs independent human resources advice. What you do not understand is when I saw an employment agreement the other day from 2005 that is “bloody bizarre”. He added that Ms Thomas has had to deal with this same subject at Invercargill City Council.

Moved (deWit/?)

**THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL INSTRUCT MARY-JANE THOMAS OF PR LAW AT INVERCARGILL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYMENT THINGS.**

**THAT THE MEETING BE EXTENDED TO FINISH AT 11:15 PM.**

Di Taylor advised that NZ Council will be rolling out Governance training to all Councils after the April 2022 meeting of NZC.

Resolved (deWit/Gerard)

22-022

**THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL INSTRUCT MARY-JANE THOMAS OF PR LAW AT INVERCARGILL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYMENT THINGS.**

**22-011 NOTICES OF MOTION (Steve Gerard):**

11.1 Salmon Management Plan (12.1)

S Gerard requested via notice of motion that the OWP is amended to expedite an immediate review of the 2012 Salmon Management Plan. He cited concern that the restoration of the salmon fishery had not been achieved and felt it would be irresponsible of council to carry on with the same approach. He wished to see the plan reviewed, updated and new strategies developed that deliver for anglers. He suggested not doing the sockeye salmon counts to make way for this. There was agreement on updating the Plan but no agreement removing sockeye counts to substitute one species for another.

CE suggested that being six months into this financial year and taking into account the previous discussion on the OWP it would be wise to make these recommendations to come forward in the 2022/23 OWP. He believed Council consideration should follow the proposed councillor workshop. He cited the actions already implemented from the Salmon Symposium including recommendations from Robin Holmes.

L Koevoet stated CSI has committed a lot of work to salmon over the last 12 years and no one has come up with a magic bullet to help salmon. Anglers are very critical of the past but have nothing to put in its place. He added there are many reasons for the decline citing all that has been done with the Waitaki River over the last 20 years and none of that has worked. He felt it was not Fish and Game that has failed. P Centofanti supported L Koevoet's comments in relation to the experience at McKinnons hatchery.

Resolved (Centofanti/Gerard)

22-023

**THAT THE MEETING BE EXTENDED TO FINISH AT 11:30 PM.**

Resolved (Gerard/Stanger)

22-024

**THAT THE OWP BE AMENDED TO EXPEDITE AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF THE 2012 SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

11.2 Survey of Licence Holders (12.2)

S Gerard requested via notice of motion that staff survey all CSI licence holders at least annually as to satisfaction with policy, operations, and fisheries to inform council and staff of stakeholder expectations, not perceptions.

CE responded that these are three very complex issues and felt it would be worthwhile for Council to prioritise which topic would be surveyed, as each topic would be a survey on their own. He felt that it was worthy for strategic planning of this to guide the next OWP.



L Koevoet reminded members that they are elected representatives of licence holders and should already be conferring with licence holders. He didn't see this fitting into the current OWP.

Resolved (Gerard/Stanger)

22-025

1. THAT STAFF SURVEY ALL CSI LICENCE HOLDERS AT LEAST ANNUALLY AS TO SATISFACTION WITH POLICY, OPERATIONS, AND FISHERIES.
2. THAT THE SURVEY QUESTIONS BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL WITH STAFF PROVIDING INPUT.

S Gerard asked Di Taylor to comment on council's attention to operational versus governance matters.

D Taylor responded that council papers should be taken as read so that councillors come to the meeting prepared to discuss them. Presenter can give a summary of the paper then ask for questions from the floor. If councillors don't want to be operational then they need to look at the questions they are asking. She suggested there could be other approaches outside council meetings, such as sending matters through the Chair who should meet regularly with the CE. From that some matters could be resolved without coming to full Council.

S Gerard expressed his frustration that the game regulations have totally to do with management. As Staff are experts, should this be delegated to CE? D Taylor responded that it would need to be agreed and resolved at council level to delegate that.

## 22-012 Non-Notified General Business

### 12.1 Recording Meetings (L Koevoet)

L Koevoet stated that council meetings should be recorded in the future to stop the time-wasting discussions on what was said as recorded in council minutes.

Resolved (Koevoet/Centofanti)

22-026

**THAT MEETINGS BE RECORDED IN FUTURE.**

Next Council meeting – 17 March 2022 – 7 pm.

Meeting Closed at 11:55 pm.

Signed 

Date 22/4/22.