

# NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting  
Held on Wednesday 17 April 2019  
At 595 Johns Road, Harewood  
Commencing at 6.34 pm**

**1. Present:**

**Councillors:** Dave Coll, Rex Gibson, Stu Henderson, Roy Knight, Ken Lee, Phillip Musson, Richard O'Keefe, Alan Strong (Chair), Bill Southward, Graeme Nahkies, Daniel Maxwell (Federated Farmers), Christopher Brankin (Ngai Tahu)

**Staff:** Debbie Ambler, Richard Cosgrove

**In Attendance:** Larry Burke, Michael Bate, Ron Stuart, Dennis Gooch, Neil McMillan, Mike Agar, Paul Watts, Brendon Topp, Colin Eaton, Greg Tarras, Jamie McFadden

**2. Apologies:**

**Councillors:** Trevor Isitt, D O'Neill

**"That the apologies be accepted."**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded:**

Cr Strong welcomed the public to the meeting and advised the order change in the Agenda. Cr Strong also explained the rules regarding the Public Session.

**3. Notification of General Business**

C Eaton – Ova Planting

R Stuart – Sales revenue related to salmon fishing supplies; Enhancement programme, Instillation of cameras on SH1 bridges

**4. Conflict of Interest:**

Cr Musson - Shareholder in Fonterra

Cr Strong – Trustee on the Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust

Cr Lee – Rakaia River Fishing Promotions

Cr Gibson – Committee member on 5 Christchurch fishing clubs

D Maxwell – Federated Farmers

**4. Public Session**

**4. a. Jamie McFadden – Rural Advocacy Network**

J McFadden raised concerns regarding NCF&G's handling of the winter fishing ban in the Hurunui District, the dirty dairying campaign, the lack of addressing water quality issues and anglers/hunters struggling to gain access to farmers land to hunt and fish.

In reply NCF&G undertook to develop better working relationships within the Hurunui and with the Rural Advocacy Network; to focus on unsustainable working practices and fix the associated problems but also recognise best practice through recognition from the NCF&G Environment Awards. In response to the need for restoration work to be carried out of rivers and streams on farmers land, R Cosgrove to organise staff to talk to J McFadden regarding

a visit to Lake Station to look at what work required to be carried out. Also to arrange a visit to Snake Creek and Powells Road Drain to see the restoration work completed so far.

**4. b. Paul Watts – Canterbury Freshwater Enhancement Society**

P Watts explained the Society was formed to support NCF&G in its fish releases on the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers. P Watts to supply a copy of the Society's release plan to R Cosgrove that would be discussed at the June 19 meeting.

**4. c. Michael Bate – Botulism/Toxic Poison on Waterfowl**

M Bate explained there was no filter on the outlets and water samples were not regularly being tested at the Kaiapoi/Rangiora sewerage system. That plants and wildlife were dying through the mis-treatment of solids before being discharged into the ocean.

R Cosgrove (NCF&G) and C Brankin (Ngai Tahu) to lay a joint complaint with ECan.

Discussion moved to the potential health implications of avian botulism.

**“That Cr Gibson has authority to act on NCF&G’s behalf on this issue on any representation with Dr A Humphreys – Canterbury Medical Officer of Health.”**

**Moved: Cr Coll**

**Seconded: Cr Musson**

**CARRIED**

That M Bate’s presentation be provided to R Cosgrove for circulation to Councillors.

**4. d. Colin Eaton - Ova Planting**

In reply to questions on this season’s ova planting; R Cosgrove to discuss NCF&G’s breeding strategy and the future of the hatchery with staff and answers provided to the NZSAA and Council by the 10 May 2019.

**“That the status quo for ova planting continue for this season subject to availability.”**

**Moved: Cr Musson**

**Seconded: Cr Lee**

**CARRIED**

**4. e. Ron Stuart**

- i. Sales Revenue Relating to Salmon Fishing Supplies – currently being reviewed under the Adaptive Management Strategy for Setting Regulation Changes;
- ii. Enhancement Strategy Review – ongoing;
- iii. Installation of Cameras on SH1 Bridges – R Cosgrove replied it was a matter of property privilege and that an app was being developed to access to 40 cameras on rivers throughout NZ. R Cosgrove to give name of person creating app to R Stuart.

**5. a. Policy on Meeting Process**

Approved.

**5. b. i Adaptive Management Strategy For Setting Regulations – Draft for Information Only**

Factors to consider; possibility of changing regulations yearly so when fish are in abundance the harvest is increased and when not, the harvest is reduced. Need to look at trends by identify the problems, look at all the issues and identify the limiting factors. Cr Strong advised that CSI had agreed in principal to hold a joint NC & CSI Council at the end of May to discuss this and align the fishing regulations for each region. That the NC regulations review be held on 15 May 2019.

**5. b. ii Breeding Strategy – Draft for Information Only**

Decisions required to be made on the future of the NC hatchery. That all costs need to be transparent on raising a fish. Currently the review on Hatchery Best Practice was at the Managers level with DOC agreeing to provide a top fish scientist to assist with this review.

**5. b. iii Fish Screen Review – Draft for Information Only**

Instruct staff who attend meetings on this subject to stress the urgency to get fish screens fixed, that all fish that are caught be returned to the river or if unable to do so, possible mitigation be the course of action. It was stressed the importance of staff giving the correct information/advice when talking about fish screens.

R Cosgrove to seek an alternative opinion on the Fish Screen Policy.

R Cosgrove to supply D Maxwell with all reports on Fish Screens that are available.

**6. a. i Governance Benchmarking**

Council needed to find a better way to conduct Council business due to all the issues coming forward. Next meeting in June to develop a workplan for the rest of year. G Nahkies to supply Sport NZ priorities to assist in setting NCF&G's goals.

**6. a. ii Response to NSRSC on Put and Take Fisheries**

R Cosgrove to send memo as tabled to NSRSC. Better reporting processes relating to the hatchery release programme and the required budget for growing and selling fish was required.

**6. a. iii Waimakariri Sea Run Trout Fishery**

R Cosgrove to refer the possibility of a trout recovery project similar to the salmon recovery programme to staff for comment, including financial implications and the identification on the four priorities and bring back to the June 19 meeting.

**6. a. iv Application to Hold a Fishing Competition**

**“That this Council accept the application for the Rakaia River Fishing Promotions to hold a fishing competition from 27 February to 1 March 2020.”**

**Moved: Cr Hodgson      Seconded: Cr Gibson      CARRIED  
Cr Lee abstained from voting**

**6. a. v Regulations Review Meeting**

To be held at 595 Johns Road, Harewood, 15 May 2019 commencing at 6.30pm.

**“Cr Lee to Chair Regulations meeting with assistance from Cr’s Hodgson, Southward and Musson. R Cosgrove to determine if staff would attend.”**

**Moved: Cr Musson      Seconded: Cr Southward      CARRIED**

**“Executive Committee to look at the structure of advisory committees and bring back to June 19 meeting”.**

**Moved: Cr Gibson      Seconded: Cr Musson      CARRIED**

**7. Confirmation of Minutes**

**a. Council Meeting Held 19 February 2019**

- i. Under Conflict of Interest – Amend – D Coll – NZTA Resource Consent
- ii. Under Letter From Cr Isitt – General agreement that Cr Isitt be commended for leaving issues from the previous Council in the past and moving forward.

**b. Council Meeting Held 20 March 2019**

**“That the Minutes from 19 February 2019 and 20 March 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.”.**

**Moved: Cr Musson**

**Seconded: Cr Lee**

**CARRIED**

**c. Action Sheet**

Points noted from Action Sheet;

- Wheelchair Platform – ok to advertise in Access Brochure
- Funding for Tree Planting by Rivers – R Cosgrove to follow up with E Arthur-Moore;
- Forming an Environmental Advisory Committee – on hold until out come of Executive Committee decision to continue with such committees;
- Constitution on Public Voting at Regulations Meeting – only elected members can vote e.g. Councillors;
- Letter between Hurunui/Waiiau Zone Committee and NCF&G – need to get back into the collaborative process. R Cosgrove to get S Pearson report to see what the issues were/are and send to Councillors. R Knight to represent NCF&G at a proposed meeting of Federated Farmers at the end of May to be organised by D Maxwell. P Musson to organise a meeting with Fonterra.

**“That NCF&G re-access and reconsider attending the Hurunui/Waiiau Zone Committee meetings to enable them to get back involved in the collaborative process.”.**

**Moved: Cr Musson**

**Seconded: Cr Hodgson**

**CARRIED**

**8. Licence Fee Increase**

Hold over until June 19 meeting.

**9. Delegation of Spending Approval**

Interim Manager delegation for spending approval ceiling sought.

**“That the concept of delegating spending authority to a certain limit by the Interim Manager be approved in principal with the amount being set by the Executive Committee.”**

**Moved: Cr Gibson**

**Seconded: Cr Knight**

**CARRIED**

**10. Appointment of Chairman**

**“That Cr Strong continue as Chairman NCF&G Council for the remainder of this term.”**

**Moved: Cr Hodgson**

**Seconded: Cr Southward**

**CARRIED**

**11. Health and Safety Report**

- new model of In Reach phones on market soon, wait to replace current sat phones;
- E-Road hardware being installed into vehicles 28-30 April 2019;
- R Cosgrove to get a quote for a Health and Safety Audit.

**12. Chairman’s Report**

Cr Strong pointed out that after six months of the new Council, all 10 points raised in the NZC Audit Summary letter had been completed. Has had meetings with Employment Lawyers, Chairman of Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust, has now a quarterly meeting with South Island Manager of DOC; had a meeting with B Bayfield (ECan). Cr Strong stated he was being very mindful of not making decisions on behalf of Council but is using these meetings as a gathering tool for discussion at Council.

**13. Staff Reports**

R Cosgrove to send Crown Pastoral Land Act to Councillors prior to June 19 meeting.

Concern raised on mapping farmland but not seen as a Fish and Game priority.

Staff report to be reformatted to have the Four Priorities as headings and should include what has been achieved rather than what has been done.

Cr Musson spoke on an opportunity to redivert the east branch to provide more spawning opportunities.

**14. Finance Report**

**“That the finance report be accepted for the 7 months ended 31 March 2019.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr O’Keefe**

**CARRIED**

**15. NZC Report**

R Knight reported on investigations to improve vehicle usage and to standardise uniforms.

On licence fee setting, pamphlets, R3 Marketing and E Road.

**16. National Sea Run Salmon Committee Report**

Council request further investigation on time and impact to the fishery surrounding updating the sport fish management plans.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.30pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

6.30pm

595 Johns Road, Harewood