

# NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 19 February 2020 At 595 Johns Road, Harewood Commencing at 6.33 pm

### 1. PRESENT:

**Councillors:** Dave Coll, Stu Henderson, Roy Knight, Richard O'Keefe, Alan Strong (Chair), Graeme Nahkies (Governance Specialist), Trevor Isitt, Christopher Brankin (Ngai Tahu), Rex Gibson, Phillip Musson

**Staff:** Rasmus Gabrielsson (CE), Debbie Ambler

**In Attendance:** Richard Cosgrove, Larry Burke, Greg Tarras, Michael Bate, Bruce Kelly

### 2. APOLOGIES:

**Councillors:** Daniel Maxwell, Ken Lee

### 3. NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

### 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:

Cr Strong – Trustee of WWHT / Westland Dairy

Cr Coll – Trustee of WWHT

Cr Musson – Shareholder Fonterra

Cr Gibson – Shareholder Fonterra

Cr Isitt – Member of WWHT

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND ACTION SHEET

a. "That the Minutes from 11 December 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record."

Moved: Cr Coll

Seconded: Cr Knight

CARRIED

#### b. Action Sheet

##### Items removed due to completion;

- Investigation of cryptosporidium involving E Arthur-Moore;
- Letter to NZC regarding seasonal bag limits;
- Letter to NZC on clarification on fish growing permits;
- Letter to Southland reducing licence fee increases;
- Update of website.

##### Items to be discussed at the workshop to be held on 22 February 2020;

- Convert recommendations from Governance workplan into a workable workplan;
- Add further explanation to the Performance evaluation in the Council Charter;
- NZC Communications Strategy;
- Plan Change 7 strategy;
- NZ Communications strategy
- MOU between WWHT and NCFG

##### Actions discussed;

- Botulism/toxic poison on waterfowl – Cr Gibson advised a meeting with for Mr Waddleton from Canterbury University would be forthcoming;
- Fishing competitions – R Gabrielsson advised there would be collaboration with host fishing clubs and MPI to enable biological data to be captured;

- Update at next Council meeting on efforts to curtail the release of 'surplus' salmon stock from commercial hatcheries / salmon farms into the open environment.
- Development of an educational and promotional strategy for promoting gamebird hunting – R Gabrielsson advised a trial would be implemented this season, and for a pilot programme to be introduced next gamebird season.

## 6. MEETING BUSINESS

### 6a FOR DISCUSSION

#### 6a i. Change of Council Meeting Time

Consideration was given to an earlier start time for Council meetings due to the lateness they currently run to. Public sessions at Council meetings may be required to be managed more effectively. A suggestion was made by Cr Isitt that the public be encouraged to raise matters and concerns with Council / Councillors in writing instead of only by attending Council meetings.

After a discussion on times to commence meetings, the following was resolved;

**“That on a trial basis of approximately three meetings, Council meetings to commence at 4.30pm and to go no later than 9pm.”**

**Moved: Cr Knight**

**Seconded: Cr Musson**

**CARRIED**

**Cr's O'Keefe and Isitt Against**

#### 6a ii. Ratification of Staff Recommendations to the 2020/21 Game Bird Regulations

Staff had considered submissions and recommendations at a meeting on the 27th Jan 2020, and combining their knowledge and experience formed the following responses, to retain the status quo, or to change.

##### 1. Pheasant. Retain the Status Quo.

Staff collected survey data from hunters during the 2019 season. Sightings of how many hens and cocks seen, how many cock birds shot, and other questions relating to hunter satisfaction are asked. Most hunters of the 31 hunters represented in the 2019 survey were happy with the status quo and only wanted increased harvest if it could be justified by increased trend counts in populations. Staff are of the opinion that continued annual survey work is needed to ascertain population trends, before making any change to the current regulation format.

##### 2. Pukeko. Change to a limit bag of 5 birds and a Change to the current season duration, closing end of September.

Staff have received a noticeable increase in the number of complaints regarding Pukeko numbers over the past two years. The general public in semi rural areas, and landowners/farmers on larger farms are experiencing increased crop predation, and fouling of water troughs. Permits to control the birds have increased from 5 in 2015, to 15 permits in 2019. Staff are of the opinion that the current limit bag of 2 birds is far too low and support an increase to the limit bag from 2 to 5 birds. Staff recommendations also support extending the season duration for Pukeko, in line with the Black Swan season which closes the last weekend of September. A ten bird limit as suggested by the Game Bird Advisory Committee was thought to be too much of an increase at once, despite most other neighbouring regions allowing ten birds to be shot.

##### 3. California Quail. Change season duration, to last weekend of August, and an increased limit bag.

Staff support that this change would bring the end of the Quail season in line with all other South Island regions, and support this minor change of 1 week longer duration. Staff do not

support increasing the limit bag from the current daily limit bag of 10 birds as suggested in one public submission.

**4. Shooting Hours. Change to 6.30am.**

Staff are of the opinion that during fine weather conditions birds are easily identified at 6.30am, and hunting opportunity is being lost by waiting until 6.45am. Neighbouring regions to the North and West start at 6.30am however to the South CSI region starts at 6.45am. It is not the practice to adapt, or change, the legal shooting hours throughout the winter season despite changes in daylight hours as the season progresses. It is up to the hunter to identify the target species beyond all doubt. Staff support a change in shooting hours to 6.30am.

**5. Summer Mallard Season. Retain Status Quo.**

Staff do not support a Summer mallard duck hunting season and are of the opinion that available mallards should be saved for hunters and harvested only during the traditional season.

**6. Grey Teal season?**

A common request by hunters. However not relevant to this purpose of regulation setting.

**7. Paradise Shelduck Summer Season.**

A mistake was printed in the 2019/20 regulations booklet stating that the limit bag was 5 birds in Area A. Change to reflect the gazetted notice of 15 birds.

**Due to time constraints - Council members voted via email with the result being;**

**For: 8**

**Against: 0**

**Abstain: Cr Gibson and Cr Musson**

**Cr Coll originally did not vote (out of cell range) but voted at this Council meeting.**

Cr Musson raised the point for the need to have more time to carry out aerial trend counts and for discussion on any proposed recommendations when setting Gamebird regulations. R Gabrielsson explained that due to an Act of Parliament, these timelines could not be changed and would always be tight for making decisions.

**6a iii. Winnemem Wintu - Approval to support request for assistance with collection of genetic salmon tissue samples.**

R Gabrielsson explained the Project would focus on the collection of spring run salmon DNA. The Project would have its own budget, be on a cost recovery basis and form part of normal Fish and Game work activities. He stated the Project aligned itself well with Councils' work programme.

**“That approval be given for the CE to support the request from the Winnemem Wintu Tribe (USA) to collect salmon DNA samples on a cost recovery basis.”**

**Moved: Cr Musson**

**Seconded: Cr Knight**

**CARRIED**

**6a iv Approval To Use Non Resident Reserve**

1. Up to \$12,000.00 was sought from this Reserve to put towards a toilet at Lake Sumner with DoC and the landowner also contributing towards the cost. A site meeting was yet to be had to discuss where the toilet would be placed.

R Gabrielsson to come back to Council in March with a draft proposal for discussion.

2. That \$2,000.00 was sought from this Reserve for costs relating to back-country trout fishery and angler surveys.

**“That the Council gives the CE access to \$2,000.00 of the Non Resident Reserve to undertake back-country fishery and angler surveys.”**

**Moved: R Knight**

**Seconded: Cr Isitt**

**CARRIED**

**6a v. Asset Replacement Fund**

**“That the Council gives the CE approval to access the asset replacement fund to progress vehicle replacement and fixed assets for IT replacements”**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Coll  
Cr O’Keefe against**

**CARRIED**

**6b. REPORTS**

**6b i. Chairmans Report**

This Report outlined the salmon and trout season to date, the review of the Salmon Management Strategy (SMS) in conjunction with CSI Council. R Gabrielsson gave an update on the process for setting the SMS, stating that a paper would be ready for the April Council meeting outlining this process.

Cr Strong gave a brief update on the meeting of South Island Chair’s regarding an organisational review. He reminded Councillors of the workshop on 22 February 2020.

**6b ii. Finance Report**

R Gabrielsson briefly spoke on licence income and the tracking of, the aging vehicle fleet and outstanding prosecution fines. R Gabrielsson to clarify with C Veitch what her description “Reforecast Budget” referred to and asked for an explanation to be given to Council.

**6b iii. Health and Safety**

A national Health and Safety policy is in place, but regions also need to undertake continuing evaluation of their regional practices. Cr Gibson suggested that R Gabrielsson explore if (and how) DoC, NZC or an external service provider can assist NCFG Council with a peer review of Health and Safety practices to determine how they have been operationalised.

**6b iv. Chief Executive Employment Committee**

Currently looking at timings for meeting.

**6b v. NZC Report**

Cr Knight advised the whole Fish and Game website required a complete rebuild and Councils would be informed of plans shortly by S Doughty. That item 7 in his paper should read; Hunting and Fishing NZ have brought the exclusive distribution rights to the current F&G magazine”.

**6b vi. National Sea Run Salmon Report (NSRSC)**

Cr Musson sought guidance on the NSRSC proposal to hold a stakeholder meeting similar to the Salmon Symposium and asked if NC and CSI regions should run it. R Gabrielsson

suggested that regions should have a strong influence in running the meeting and felt it was a great opportunity to inform stakeholders where F&G is at.

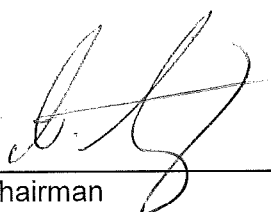
## 7. PUBLIC SESSION

- a. M Bate advised that five out of the six Kaiapoi Lakes have toxic algie in and asked if NCFG could have a look at this; presented two letters to Council on the health of the Halswell River and the salmon environment. R Gabrielson to respond to both letters.
- b. Cr Isitt formally asked attendees if they or anyone they know would be interested in becoming a Trustee of the Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust. L Burke said he would raise the subject at the next NZSAA meeting.
- c. B Kelly requested more communication between stakeholders and Council.

At this point the meeting moved into public excluded at 8.42pm

The meeting moved out of public excluded then closed at 9.57pm

Signed:

  
Chairman

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Date

### Next Meeting:

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**4.30pm**  
**595 Johns Road, Harewood**