

One hundred and twenty eighth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
CQ Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington
Friday 29 September 2017
Commencing 9.1. am

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

Lindsay Lyons (Chairperson), Noel Birchall, John Cumberpatch, Paul Dixon-Didier, Alan Flynn, Matthew Hall, Andy Harris, John Jillett, Andrew Morris, Colin Sherrard, and Kevin Williams.

In Attendance

Bryce Johnson Chief Executive, Alison Lyall Finance & Administration Manager, Don Rood Communications Manager.

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

The Chairperson extended a welcome to all, noting that this was a significant meeting given it was the last meeting of the Chief Executive prior to his retirement.

2. Apologies

Paul Stenning and Robert Sowman (Policy & Planning Manager)

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Andy Harris)

That the apology from Paul Stenning and Robert Sowman for absence from the September 2017 NZ Council meeting be accepted.

3. Confirmation of Minutes from 22 - 23 July 2017 Meeting

Nothing was identified in the minutes requiring further discussion.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Andrew Morris)

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 22-23 July 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

Points were clarified with discussion resulting on some items but no recommended action recorded. The Chief Executive explained that in relation to the engagement of an audit specialist, to assist with the design of a regional audit tool to assist the NZ Council discharge its 'regional activities' audit function, this had been advanced and that at the new Chief Executive's request the engagement be deferred pending his taking up the position in the near future.

5. Annual Agenda

September annual item requiring NZ Council consideration is the Councillors' self-appraisal review. It was **agreed** that this Annual Agenda item be permanently moved to the March meeting, and that the chairman would circulate the relevant appraisal form in the near future to allow adequate time for responses to be received and analysed for the March meeting.

6. Identification of Other Urgent Business and Agreement on Agenda Order

No change to the order of agenda items was requested.

7. Conflicts of Interest Register

Councillors now sign the register and identify whether or not there were any topics to be discussed at this meeting where they perceive a potential conflict may arise.

8. Environmental Scan

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

- The ongoing risk of Didymo establishing in the North Island, and promising recent NMIT research on possible control
- Clay target club resource consents issues involving lead shot
- Mallard duck population increase in the Auckland-Waikato region
- The success of the Fish in Schools programme, recognising the place and role of trout in river conservation
- The unsatisfactory nature of the ECan 'collaborative process' in Mid-Canterbury
- Mis-information on Otago water issues being given at public meetings
- Issues with environmental mitigation by Contact Energy involving river flows and spawning waters
- The possibility of the Otago Fish and Game Council's Wanaka Hatchery site being developed into an education centre, with a formal covenant being placed on the spring water source.

9. Fish & Game NZ Financial Review Committee update

Councillor Matthew Hall as convenor of the Financial Review Committee explained that there had been no meeting and recapped the substantive areas where consistency of approach was being sought. These involved Fish and Game Council accounting practices, reserves policy, interest policy in relation to licence fee determination, and the need to clarify financial management roles within the organisation.

10. Salmon Symposium update

Councillor Matthew Hall as co-convenor of the Symposium handed out and spoke to a written update on the upcoming symposium.

11. Health & Safety 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 (Kevin Williams/Andrew Morris)

That the Health & Safety report for September 2017 be received.

12. Business Plan 2016/17 – Reporting on results

This reports against the outputs set out in the 2016/17 NZ Council Business Plan as an end of year account of performance. This document will be used for auditing purposes to show what was achieved, by when.

In respect of project 1720 it was noted that the Council had completed its self-assessment of its performance and that this should be corrected in the Report of Results for the 2016 – 2017 year. Regarding project 1715 it was noted that a date had been set for the Governor’s Forum to be held in the current operational year with this to be recorded in the Report.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/John Cumberpatch)

That subject to the agreed alterations for projects 1720 and 1715 the NZ Council agree that the Reporting of Results on the New Zealand Council 2016/17 Business Plan records an acceptable level of performance.

13. 2018 Meeting schedule

Following discussion on alternative dates, locations and travel arrangements to those proposed in the pre-circulated Meeting Schedule, it was **agreed** that for the March meeting in the West Coast Region the date be brought forward one week to the 16th – 18th, that the May meeting become a two day meeting (18th – 19th) and preferably held at the Brentwood Hotel, that the July meeting be extended one day to a three day meeting to accommodate the Governor’s Forum, and that the invitation to hold the scheduled September meeting at the National Trout Centre in Turangi be accepted with an extra day added (i.e. 28th – 29th).

It was also agreed to investigate travel options for the March meeting on the West Coast.

Resolved (Andrew Morris/Kevin Williams)

That the NZ Council meetings for 2018 will be as per the Schedule contained in the September 2017 Agenda, now incorporating the changes, as discussed and agreed at this meeting.

14. Public Excluded session of the meeting

11.05 am Resolved (Matthew Hall/Andrew Morris)

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. Matters relating to the appointment of the new NZC Chief Executive**
- b. Minutes from the public excluded session July 22 2017.**

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.”

11.30 am Resolved (Andrew Morris/Colin Sherrard)

To move out of Public Excluded and back into a Public Session of the Meeting

15. Operational Report

The bi-monthly operational report was considered with questions raised mainly for information. Questions raised under various project headings were answered or the point queried was explained. Discussion occurred on the following projects:

Project 1110: Species Advocacy

Discussion occurred on the need for Fish and Game New Zealand to have consistent policy on how Fish and Game regions should consider, approve or decline applications to remove sports fish for control, removal or research.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Matthew Hall)

That National Policy be developed on the process for Fish and Game regions to consider, approve or decline applications to remove sports fish for control, remove or research.

It was **agreed** that the Chief Executive establish a small group to prepare a draft National Policy for consideration by the Council.

Project 1140: Commercial users of the Sports Fish and Game Resource

In response to a request from professional fishing guide Kevin Payne to address the Council on the proposed guides licence it was **agreed** that Mr Payne be invited to do so, and to provide a discussion paper in advance setting out the essence of what he wished to discuss with the Council.

It was further **agreed** that any consideration of a Fish and Game concession regime, modelled on the established DoC concession regime, was a separate matter for a later time.

Project 1440: Youth Programme

In response to Retail New Zealand having expressed concern over the use of its copyrighted 'Take a Kid Fishing' slogan it was **agreed** to bring this to the attention of regional Fish and Game Councils and to endeavour to work jointly with Retail New Zealand in a manner that optimised the mutual benefits for both organisations.

Project 1461: South Island Public Awareness

Following discussion of the very good public awareness outcomes being achieved by the South Island Public Awareness Adviser it was recognised that with the reduced availability of the North Canterbury Fish and Game pool vehicle it was necessary to find alternative options for travel around the South Island.

It was **agreed** that the South Island Comms Adviser investigate all vehicle options for the National Comms Manager to bring forward to the New Zealand Council for its consideration, including the possibility for sponsorship.

Project 1715: Governor's Forum

It was **agreed** that the Project Objective in the current Business Plan be amended to show that the forum is to happen in July 2018

Project 1890: Staff Development Grant

It was **agreed** that in future all staff development grant recipients are to provide a report to both the New Zealand and Regional Fish and Game Councils on the outcome of their grant funded activities, inclusive of recommendations for Fish and Game New Zealand.

Resolved: (Andy Harris/Paul Dixon-Didier)

That the Operational Report to 31 August 2017 be received.

The Council broke for lunch at 12:32pm, and resumed business at 1:22pm.

18. NZ Council 2016/17 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 5

The Finance Manager explained there is still scheduled expenditure to be recorded. The Auditors are coming to the NZ Council office on 16 October to undertake the annual audit. Several questions were raised and answered for clarification on expenditure. Report No 5 records the Council being 100% through the year with expenditure at 89.27%.

Resolved: (John Jillet/Colin Sherrard)

That the Financial Report No. 5 to 31 August 2017 be accepted.

19. Fish & Game NZ Finance Report

This item provides an update on expenditure by all thirteen Fish and Game Councils as at 31 August 2017 being 100% through the financial year with total expenditure unavailable at this time.

Resolved: (Andy Harris/Andrew Morris)

That the National Finance Report to 31 August 2017 be received.

20. Legal Funding Applications

While no *new* legal fund applications were before this meeting of the Council urgent applications for addition funding for three existing cases had been circulated to the Council at short notice. These were discussed during each of their respective cases under the RM/Legal update report.

21. RM/Legal updates report

The RM/Legal updates report provides details on the project manager, approved sums and spending to date of RM legal projects from around the country. There were discussion and verbal updates provided on some cases.

This discussion included comprehensive consideration of three urgent applications for addition funding.

Resolved: (Andy Harris/Noel Birchall)

That with the addition of \$20,000 to Greater Wellington Natural Resources Plan case 02-2015-16, \$120,000 to Ngaruroro WCO case 03-2015-16, and \$30,000 to Horizons One Plan case 01-2016-17, the September 2017 RM/legal update report be received.

It was agreed the memorandum that had been provided to the New Zealand Council be circulated to managers for their information.

It was also noted that the 'Kai Iwi Lakes Judicial Review case 05-2016-17' had been put on hold pending a response from the Kaipara District Council and others involved in this case.

22. Research Programme update

An update was provided on research projects currently in progress. The actual status of projects 38, 41 and 47 was again questioned.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Noel Birchall)

That outstanding research projects 38, 41 and 47 be removed from the Research Fund budget unless the Wellington Fish and Game Chief Executive can provide compelling reasons to retain them.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Colin Sherrard)

That this September 2017 Research Programme update report be received.

22. National licence sales & licence systems update

An update on licence sales was provided with a comparison of YTD figures to 31 August for the 2016/17 seasons and initial sales for the new 2017/18 fish season.

Resolved: (Alan Flynn/Andrew Morris)

That this September 2017 national licence sales update report be received for Council information.

23. Correspondence

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

The following summary of action would not appear in the public minutes but remain as a record on file.

Correspondence considered

No:	Subject	From	Letter dated
i	Future administration options of the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board	Andy Tannock Chairperson NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board	7 September 2017
	<i>Resolved: (Matthew Hall / Alan Flynn) Andy Tannock be invited to address the Council with his previous general proposal fleshed out in more detail for discussion with the NZ Council, along with the administrative matters raised in his recent letter.</i>		
ii.	2018 Election	Mark Venman Manager Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council	12 September 2017
	<i>Agreed: That the letter be received, and the HBFGC decision to return to a 12 person Council be noted.</i>		

iii. Regarding correspondence from Paul Centofanti re non-reply to his earlier correspondence it was **agreed** that this matter be clarified with Robert Sowman on his return from annual leave, with a view to having this matter concluded by the November meeting.

It was also **agreed** that this correspondence be referred to the Central South Island Fish and Game Council for its response.

24. Urgent General Business

No further urgent general business was discussed.

Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their support.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 2.59 pm Friday 29 September 2017.

Confirmed: 

Date: 25 / June / 2018