

One hundred and forty-eighth meeting of the  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**  
Friday 20th – Saturday 21st November  
NZFGC Office Wellington

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**PRESENT**

**NZ Councillors:**

Noel Birchall, Lindsay Lyons, Dave Harris, Paul Blewman, Paul Shortis (Chair), Bill O’Leary, Andy Harris, Rainsford Grubb, Phillip Musson, Nigel Juby, Dan Isbister and Greg Duley.

**NZC Staff:**

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch Finance, Brian Anderton Senior Communications Advisor, Richie Cosgrove Senior Communications Advisor, Steve Doughty Business Development Manager and Jack Kós Policy Advisor.

**Guests:**

Debbie Oakley (Eastern Fish & Game Council), Kevin Williams (Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game Council), Adele Lyons, Bryce Johnson

**1. Welcome and Chairperson’s Introduction**

- Meeting started at 9:35am Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- Chair welcomed guests and new North Canterbury Councillor, Phillip Musson, and Dave Harris to his first in person meeting.
- Chair acknowledged that this was Councillor Lyons’ last meeting.

**2. Apologies received**

- No apologies.

**3. Conflicts of Interest**

- No conflicts identified

**4. Approve minutes for meeting 147**

- Amend minutes to reflect Cr. Grubb’s request that the audit policy be prioritised.

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the minutes of meeting 147 held in August 2020 be approved subject to the above amendment.*

**Moved: Crs. Blewman/O’Leary- Carried**

Cr. Musson abstained as was not present at meeting 147.

**5. Health and Safety**

- Query regarding the liability for both Martin as CE and Crs over the signing of ranger warrants.

- Clarified that informal advice has been received, but not formal advice. Noted this is probably appropriate given the lack of process around ranger appointments.
- NC have looked into, but not legally liable but morally responsible.
- Ultimately not clear, and advice should be sought.

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the report be received.*

**Moved: Crs. Blewman/Harris- Carried**

## 6. Review Action List

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the action list be received.*

**Moved: Crs. Lyons/O'Leary- Carried**

## 7. Approach to Access

- NZC staff spoke to paper and highlighted present threats.
- Discussion around OIO access possibilities and communication with real estate agents around communicating legality of private fisheries etc.
- DOC concession system discussed and that it effectively amounts to sale of rights that wouldn't be tolerated from private owners.
- Need to discuss with stakeholders (OIO, WAC, DOC) that this is a priority and that we won't tolerate it. Need to reaffirm this as F&G principles lest all access be lost.
- Potential issues with recommending closures to Minister identified.
- Discussions around treaty principles and potential conflict between need to uphold s4, whilst opposing iwi closing access.
- Need to get Ministerial approval to close or not open.
- Further options in toolkit – LINZ, WAC, alternative access discussions with landowners, iwi, DOC, regional councils etc.
- CE highlighted treaty settlements and dynamics around this. Pencarrow Station situation was able to be reversed to permit game bird hunting in the past.
- Whakapapa Intake Road currently unresolved and very complex. Expect that at some stage we will need to challenge the closure of access post-settlement legally.
- CE noted other tools in the toolbox haven't got us anywhere and we need to move forward to see if we can/should in certain circumstances not open or close a river. Also highlighted the way this needs to work with the regions.
- Maori landowners noted as a very complex situation, in that the sale of helicopter access can be a primary source of income.
- Chair clarified that closure decisions are left to the regions, and this is simply signalling NZC's support for regions choice to close river.
- Discussion around why this is coming up now – Chair highlighted that this hasn't been reviewed since 2004 and this is an opportune time with a new Minister.

- Suggested there is a need to develop an access toolkit that is wider than simply closing a river.
- Noted that this is consistent with previous policy positions.
- Note acceptance that a fair and reasonable road maintenance fee be charged.

*Recommendation:*

1. Agree that no-one should have to pay to access a public resource.
2. Reaffirm the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's total opposition to private capture.
3. Agree to the updated definitions of private capture and non-commercial private capture.
4. Agree for NZC staff to approach regions to obtain examples of private

*capture.*

**Moved: Crs. Lyons/Isbister – Carried** (Cr. Blewman abstained).

5. Agree to provide support to regions recommending the use of the Anglers'

*Notice*

*to not open waters or sections of waters subject to private capture or take other steps as appropriate.*

**Moved: Crs. Musson/Lyons – Carried**

- Discussion around the need to include access as a specific consideration in the licence database access MOU.

6. That an addition be made to the licence database access MOU recognising that NZC may approach licence holders on the issue of access to the sports fish and game resource.

**Moved: Crs. Juby/O'Leary – Carried** (Cr. Grubb voted against)

Meeting broke for morning tea at 11:00am.

Meeting recommenced at 11:20am.

## **8. Pheasant Preserves: Responding to Ministers Letter**

- Query raised surrounding the look of changing views and what the Minister's response would be.
- Suggestion that we need to meet with the NZGCA in light of the new options and the new Minister. General view was not required as Fish and Game are giving advice to the Minister as requested.
- Noted that prior decisions to allow the operation of game preserves was ultra vires, and that there are remedies around the compliance if we choose Option 1.
- Suggested need to consider a longer transition period.
- Slippery slope argument from commercialising a resource highlighted, and the potential to apply it to sports fish too. Suggested that Option 1 is the only option.

*Recommendation:*

1. That the NZC support DOC's Option 1.

**1. Moved: Crs. Juby/Lyons**

- Agreed to let motion sit on the table and discuss later in the meeting for some councillors to read the late paper

## 9. Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management Strategy

- Suggested that there could be a limit of 7 days put in place.
- Discussion around the question of guides, NZC staff suggested that need to get guides licence in place first.
- Question around displacement and whether there will be a spillover effect.
- Noted that there are issues with social influencers spending huge periods on some rivers.
- Queries around the payment of a backcountry licence for kiwis.
- Question around treaty principle questions as access is restricted on specific issues.
- Need to align with R3 principles.

*Recommendation:*

1. Approve the attached options paper in draft form.
2. Agree to consult regional Fish & Game councils on the attached options paper.

**Moved: Crs. Isbister/O’Leary – Carried**

## 10. Email Access Policy

- CE introduced paper.
- Query around the wording of principle 2. Suggested to amend that ‘All emails sent/received by an entity are the property of each...’
- Discussion around the access to metadata. Clarified that NZC, as the 365 licence holder, legally holds the metadata, which can be OIA’d.
- Question around the inclusion of the word data in the title, suggested that it is added in.
- Discussion around what the process would be for an SOP, and whether each regional manager gets equal input etc.
- Discussion around whether this needs to be done through managers or governance, Chair suggested that it may ultimately need to come back if an SOP cannot be agreed.

*Recommendation:*

1. Agree that the NZC Chief Executive should alongside the Regional Managers/ Chief Executive work towards adopting this as an operational management document / SOP.

**Moved: Crs. D. Harris/A. Harris - Carried**

## 11. Communications Policy

- Suggested that there is an annual programme for the communications strategy.
- Questions raised around the notification with regions when NZC’s national communications touch on a regional issue.
- Change word ‘inform’ to ‘consult’ 4<sup>th</sup> line p73.

- Further discussion around the distinction between regional and national issue.
- Suggestion that line 1 states: 'organisation's purpose, goal and objectives.'
- Discussion on the need for regions to check in with NZC staff when commenting on a regional issue. Clarified that there is no need for permission, simply that they need to check in.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Consult with regions on the Communications Policy, as set out in the policy for setting national policy.*

**Moved: Crs. Duley/Isbister – Carried.**

## **12. Trout Farming Research Proposal**

- CE set out what took place at meeting 147. Noting that no decision on supporting/not has been made. This is simply setting out the research question. That burden should not just fall on Fish & Game, but all affected parties.
- CE clarified that we are not bound by the research, it simply informs our position.
- Suggested need to be very careful about how we communicate with stakeholders on this given the sensitivity around the topic.
- Queried whether we need to communicate with MfE on this proposal. Agreed that was a good idea.
- Noted that this could be split into two parts; science and licence holder reactions. Suggested we are bound to follow the wishes of our licence holders, even if they aren't substantiated by science. May not be worth engaging in the science based on understanding of licence holder positions.
- Danger in dismissing this and not determining the scientific risk and being put outside of the tent. Science will demonstrate the risk.
- Chair suggests there is an absolute need for a basis for our position, and that we will get more traction if we walk into high level meetings with a scientific basis.
- Suggestion that we put a motion noting our objection to trout farming, but to inform that position we need research.
- CE clarified the absolute need for a basis for our position. Also noted the potential inevitability of this, and the need to ensure we mitigate major risks.
- Discussion around the relative merits of doing the research separately v as a group.
- Noted need to communicate that we are opposed to trout farming.
- Noted distinction between trout farming and the CIPO, trout farming does not mean that trout will be imported to NZ.
- Need to maintain our social licence to operate, and communicate with licence holders on why we need to do the research.

*Recommendation:*

1. *The NZC is opposed to trout farming because of the risks to the wild trout fishery.*

**Moved: Crs. Grubb/Juby – Carried**

2. *Agree to write to the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Fisheries asking them to establish a group comprised of Fish and Game, Iwi and their officials to look into the potential risks of Trout Farming.*

**Moved: Crs. Blewman/O’Leary - Carried**

### **13. Policy Prioritisation**

- CE spoke to paper and set out categories as NZC Policy, National Policy and SOPs. Noted need to align some individual policies/SOPs into unified documents.
- Suggested prosecutions/compliance needs to come back into policy rather than SOP.
- Suggested need to add audit policy to deal with the process and funding of management audits. Noted that historically this approach has caused antagonism between regions when regional managers have audited another region. Suggested this should happen naturally through management meetings etc, and that should not be part of a NZC audit.
- Remove second reference to Bequests and Donations policy.
- Query around the priority ranking for the National Branding and Uniforms policy. Suggested this is critical as this is our public interface.
- Input audit policy into the NZC policies.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Accept the Policy Prioritisation Report.*

**Moved: Crs. Isbister/Musson – Carried.**

Meeting broke for lunch at 1:05pm.

### **14. Black Powder Submission for Exemption**

- Confirmed that alternatives will be available and at a reasonable cost.
- Discussion around the availability of .410 alternate shot. No current product available, but noted it could possibly be found internationally if we did ban .410 lead.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Agree to no exemptions for Black Powder hunters as a suitable non-toxic shot option is now available to them on the New Zealand market.*
2. *Agree to communicate the updated situation and the means by which they can purchase bismuth shot in New Zealand to NZ Black Powder Shooters Federation.*
3. *Agree to promote the availability of Bismuth ammunition to hunters and highlight the opportunity it gives for heirloom firearm owners to be able to hunt waterfowl.*

**Moved: Crs. Duley/O’Leary – Carried.**

## 15. Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

*Recommendation:*

1. *Agree to advise the Department of Conservation that Fish & Game supports the continued prohibition on the importation of trout and trout products because of the risk to the wild fishery from poaching and biosecurity.*

**Moved: Crs. Grubb/Juby – Carried.**

## 16. Licence Sales System Policy and Data Usage MOU

- CE specified that this has gone out to regions and this is just a noting point.
- Chair suggested that we develop the MOU and then if necessary it can be made a policy subsequently.

*Agreed*

1. *Note the contents of this (Licence Sales System Policy) report.*
2. *Note the contents of this (Date Usage MOU) report.*

## 17. Staff Grant Application

- CE spoke to paper setting out background for the removal of the staff grant because of COVID influenced budget changes. Noted that there is scope to reinstate
- Noted this application was made prior to the decision to rescind the staff grant.
- CV noted that Helen Trotters' trip from prior staff grant was cancelled because of COVID, resulting in a crediting of money that we were not anticipating.
- CE set out that first decision is to decide whether to reinstate the budget.
- CV queried whether NZC thinks Helen Trotter should reapply or carry the allocated funds forward.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Agree to maintain the status quo position with Staff Grants as agreed in April 2020 when the NZC budget was confirmed.*

**Moved: Crs. Juby/Isbister - Carried (Cr. Grubb abstained)**

## 18. Reconsideration of Regional Budgets 2020/21

- CE set out context for this paper, noted that we do not have sufficient information on financial implications of COVID on licence sales to make a decision now. Suggested earliest time we can do this with any accuracy is February.
- Chair noted that whilst we don't have an accurate understanding on revenue we can update what expenditure has been and reforecast based on that.
- Suggestion that SFC review situation in first two weeks of December.

- Clarification that any reforecast would be all council budgets, incl. NZC.
- CV noted difficulty in getting information until mid December based on regions entering data .
- Noted we need to know whether restraint has been exercised.
- CV clarified that regions are seeking an increase in budgets based on increased early licence sales.
- Chair noted we are not in a position to make any new decisions.
- Noted that CV's papers show that most regions are tracking consistent with budget.
- Suggested one option is to do this for the end of December for the February meeting. CV noted could possibly do this for the end of January as a late paper.
- Noted that even at the end of January we will still not fully understand the implications on the budget of absent NR licence sales.
- Suggestion that it would be imprudent to send out communications that there is a possibility of a budget increase as it may bring on spending.
- Noted that there may be a positive benefit to this in terms of minimising unnecessary spending going forwards.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Undertake an analysis of licence sales and expenditure at the end of November, December and January for the February 2021 meeting to provide information for a budget review exercise.*

**Moved: Crs. Musson/Lyons – Carried**

## **19. National Anglers Survey**

- CE spoke to paper and outlined the two options and their implications. Noted that having seen the value of the NAS for resource allocation, is of the view it needs to be completely external in order to ensure there are no issues with such a critical project. Needs to be beyond reproach. For the sake of \$35k it seems to not be worth it.
- Chair clarified that the resource allocation project is starting to develop the key metric as activity in a region, and the two key pieces of data are the NAS and the hunting survey.
- Noted that regardless it is going to be done by a different person as Martin Unwin is retiring. CE & Chair clarified that still done by NIWA and has the same credibility.
- Noted the poor data quality in the previous survey, and whether this has been addressed. CE clarified that NIWA totally responsible for this.
- Questions around need to set objectives for NIWA, Chair noted this will be covered in contract of engagement.
- Query around whether there is an internal perception risk in terms of skewing results for resource allocation.
- Question around the value of \$40k to secure the perception.
- CV clarified that we have the funds between the current research unallocated fund and research fund in next two years to fund option 3.

*Recommendation:*



1. *Agree to approve the NAS Business Plan as presented.*  
**Moved: Crs. Grubb/Juby – Carried.**

2. *Agree to undertake the NAS with external (NIWA) co-ordination at an estimated cost of \$175,848.*  
**Moved: Crs. Musson/Birchall – Carried.**

## **20. Consolidated Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2020**

- CV spoke to paper and set out that late paper included the signed and verified account. Set out that when commitments were offset against surplus we would have had a net loss of \$13k. Budget figures are those set at beginning of last year, and were reforecast in COVID times. Income is as per budget, plus some donations for water quality and increase in advertising revenue.
- Noted increase in apparent regulation cost covers two fish regulations and one game and will even one next year. Licensing has additional costs based on domestic postage. Licence contract is based on 13 months of this budget against 12 months of the year based on a predecessor whose papers showed we have been paid a month in advance meaning this year as the contract was finalised there was an additional payment. Council meetings under budget because of Zoom meetings. Personnel costs under budget because NI Comms not replaced, plus admin position has not been filled. Discussions around auditor regarding the loan to NC, and auditors espoused that NC's liquidity is not sufficient to pay it back. Effectively cost is being allocated against this year's budget. CV set out 3 options – repayment, request for repayment or setting money as a grant.
- Noted need to address doubtful NC debt and write off or not.
- NC appointee stated that it had been communicated between NC Chair and NZC chair that they repay the loan while having their reserves topped up.
- Chair noted that there is no need to address this presently, but we do need to consider in the budget setting process moving forward.
- CV noted that surplus for this year needs to be seen against forecast loss of 400+k for current financial year.
- Request for committed expenditure record. CV noted it is on page 154. Follow up query regarding our status post commitments. CV noted it would be -\$13k.
- CV spoke to the three points raised in the Audit Findings Report.

### *Recommendation:*

1. *Council approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.*  
**Moved: Crs. Grubb/Blewman – Carried.**

## **21. NZC Finance Report to 31 October**

- CV set out this as the financial report for the first two months of 2021 FY. Noted two amendments inconsequential to the figures. Also noted annual accounts are in the old format and would like to change to this format. Same numbers as the July budget, just put into a financial report with profit and loss.

- Question around whether paying/receiving levies/grants monthly as opposed to quarterly would be desirable.

*Recommendation:*

1. *The New Zealand Council approve the Financial budget as presented in Table 1 with a Deficit of \$486,938*
2. *The New Zealand Council approve the Financial reports for the 2 months ended 31 October 2020.*

**Moved: Crs. Grubb/Duley - Carried**

## **22. National Finance Report to 31 October**

- CV set out purpose of report to show where regions are against budget. Table two shows total expenditure at 13% spent against 17% of year. Table is missing capital expenditure and this will be incorporated into future reports. Noted that NZC had requested councils not to spend on capital expenditure including out of ARF.

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the NZC accept the National Financial Report as at 31 October 2020.*

**Moved: Crs. Isbister/Blewman – Carried**

## **23. Organisational Reserves Update as at 31/08/20**

- CV set out paper and noted that only audited accounts are NZC's. Substantial change observed against forecast reserves as a result of game season, government subsidy, increased licence sales and reduced spending. Only region that would require a top up currently would be NC.
- Query on the inclusion of RMA/Research in our figures as they are a restricted reserve.
- CV also noted figures subject to change based on receipt of audited figures.
- Need to have change of language – we are not 'better' than expected, we are 'less worse' as still overall reserves are reduced.
- Noted many of these discussions need to be had in February.
- Noted historically NZC reserve sat at 50-70% as they were a bank for regions.
- Need to determine what our reserves should be as a percentage of our budget for risk management purposes. Chair stated hopes the Reserves Policy will address this.

*Recommendation:*

1. *The New Zealand Council Accept the Draft Organisational Reserves update as at 31 August 2020.*
2. *The New Zealand Council consider the implications of the Councils that required a top-up of reserves.*

3. *Note that North Canterbury's Accounts are still in Draft form and hence the amount of top up required cannot be finalised until North Canterbury have presented their final audited Statements. Likewise changes to other Councils audited accounts could impact the top up required to other Councils.*
4. *Agree that this decision (to top up Councils Reserves) can be conducted by email once accounts are finalised.*

**Moved: Crs. D. Harris/Grubb – Carried** (Cr. Musson abstained)

#### **24. Meeting Dates 2020/21**

- Noted need for flexibility based on review, but requested to block these dates out as stands.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Council approve the following dates for meetings for the 2020/21 year:*
  - *November 20th -22nd in Wellington 2020*
  - *February 16th and 18th by ZOOM 2021*
  - *April 16th and 17th in Wellington 2021*
  - *June 17th by ZOOM 2021*
  - *August 27th and 28th in Wellington 2021 or other location*
  - *November 26th and 27th in Wellington*
2. *These dates may be subject to change due to the Review.*

**Moved: Crs. Isbister/Blewman – Carried.**

#### **25. GBHT Report**

- Clarified that there is no expectation of an increase for the price of the game bird habitat stamp.
- Concern expressed around the potential to have non-game birds on the licence.
- RC informed that there is an intention to open the 2023 habitat stamp to be open to any game bird species each year.

*Recommendation:*

1. *Note the new ways of generating funds for the trust by having commercial items licensed to carry the artwork of the latest game bird habitat stamp*
2. *Agree to the hunter licence fee contribution for the stamp being retained at \$4.00 but to see this increasing in the future to help further enhance the public image of hunters.*

**Moved: Crs. Blewman/Duley - Carried**

3. *Agree the game bird or other wildlife species to be depicted on the 2023 habitat stamp be open to any wetland bird species.*

**Moved: Crs. Isbister – LOST as no seconder**

4. *Agree the game bird to be depicted on the 2023 habitat stamp be open to any game bird species.*

**Moved: Crs. Musson/Juby - Carried**

5. *Agree to a photographic competition to select an artist to produce the artwork*

*of the 2023 stamp.*

**Moved: Crs. A. Harris/O'Leary - Carried**

6. *Note the Trust Board's 2020 meeting will be held in Queenstown on 20 August 2021.*

## **26. Subcommittees Report**

- SFC Report:
  - SFC has a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft reserves discussion paper out with the regions. When it comes back we should have a policy developed underneath the principles paper. Also tasked to develop principles for budget/levy process, not being addressed currently because of review and resource allocation project.
  - CE queried whether could see the ideas on budgeting and levy system.
  - Had been just sent to governors but will send to CE.
- Licence Subcommittee
  - Progressing on policy for licence sales system.
- Remuneration Subcommittee
  - Disestablished but NZC resolution in 2018 that Fish and Game need to respond to the Fore Consulting report that said there was no consistency on salaries/wages across the organisation.
  - Managers have subsequently picked up task and made agreement amongst selves to set salary bands and job descriptions.
  - NZC needs to decide whether it has a role in providing advice to regional governors on salaries of managers and staff.
  - Chair queried whether this would come back to NZC to be a national policy.
  - Chair suggested this is currently an info gathering exercise, but there is some debate as to whether NZC should have input.
  - Noted that it's inappropriate for Managers to be determining what they should be paid. Appropriate for them to determine salary ranges for staff, but not themselves due to inherent conflict of interest. NZC needs to provide guidance to councils on manager remuneration.
  - CE noted there is a need for consistency and guidance from NZC on what is appropriate for managers and staff to be paid. Job descriptions and salaries need to be targeted to the role that's required. Question is whether we need logic and consistency across the organisation.
  - Given the potential for this to cross into national policy believe NZC needs to have an interest in this process.
  - Suggested that given each council is distinct entity and managers are employed by councils, managers should not be discussing their own salaries but ok for them to consider staff salaries.
  - Noted that the Resource Allocation Project may substantially influence this given that salaries impact the national budget there is a need for some cohesion nationally.
  - Intended for remuneration subcommittee to resume its role at an appropriate time.

- Suggested there is a need for principles to guide this process and to determine what outcomes are sought.
- Noted that internal parity and parity with other employers are two quite distinct things. We cannot prevent people from leaving to a promotion position at a regional council etc.
- Nationally there is a commonality of skills across the region and it would be easy to establish a job sizing exercise.
- CE clarified that this was what was underway, but there were differing views on manager salary banding. Key point though is what advice does NZC want to give to governors of regional councils, who employ the managers.
- Question is whether we should have a national policy of remuneration to advise other governors. If national policy, must go through NZC.
- Chair noted even regardless of whether results in direct national policy it will impact on levying and grants policy etc that will impact NZC.
- Message needs to go to regions that NZC will provide advice on this.
- Noted no benchmark for paying regional managers. Some councillors expressed they did not know what they pay their managers. Regional governors operating in a vacuum when determining their salaries. Need NZC oversight.
- Noted very difficult to reduce overpaid staff's salaries but that the salary for underpaid staff can be increased slowly over time.
- Chair suggested that we are proposing to reconstitute the remuneration subcommittee, or that we have an informal involvement.
- Suggested Chair talk to whoever is leading the project (presumably Phil Teal) and explain the national policy implications.
- Support from previous members of remuneration subcommittee for Paul approaching Phil and having a chat.
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*1. Note the contents of this report*

Meeting broke at 5:10pm Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

Meeting recommenced at 9:40am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Cr. Lyons' long service on the NZC as both Councillor and Chair was recognised and a gift was presented to him.

**Returned to Agenda Item 8: Pheasant Preserves: Responding to Ministers Letter**

- Debate around whether to go into public excluded for this topic.

*Recommendation:*

- Motion to move into public excluded.

## 1. Crs. Grubb/Duley – Motion Lost.

- Discussion on conflict of interest. Cr. Duley requested the opinion of the council on whether he had a conflict in this instance. Varying opinions expressed, but ultimately determined that Cr. Duley does not have a conflict. No conflicts identified regarding this paper.

### *Recommendation:*

- **1. That the NZC support DOC's Option 1 as set out in the Departmental Briefing.**

#### **1. Moved: Crs. Juby/Lyons**

- Chair clearly clarified what the implications of this motion are.
- Support expressed for motion, with the caveat that we say the expiry period should be 5 years.
- Queries made around the process of revoking or rescinding a pre-existing resolution of the council. Support expressed for this view.
- CE clarified that the Council is entitled to change its mind, and that this returned to the agenda because the Minister requested follow up questions in conjunction with the letter from the NZGCA proposing alternate options.
- Suggestion that this conversation should have been opened by determining whether we needed to review our existing position.
- View expressed by councillors that the letters actually call into question the decision of council previously. Suggested there was some confusion as to what Option 2 actually entailed, and the idea of it being a final decision with no further pheasant preserves has changed in light of the suggestions from the NZGCA.
- Chair clarified that we have recommended Option 2 formally to the Minister. Noted that motion presumes we would disagree with our previous meeting. Suggested first need to determine whether the council would reaffirm its support for Option 2.
- Support expressed for added expiry date motion as effectively what we had supported last meeting to allow for a transition period, and to communicate that with pheasant preserves.
- Chair clarified that Option 2 allows existing game preserves to continue in perpetuity. Further clarified that there is nothing illegal with pheasant preserves in their capacity as provided for in the Wildlife Order 2019.
- View expressed that this issue should be reconsidered in light of the Chair's use of his casting vote to oppose the status quo at meeting 147.
- Chair spoke to his use of the casting vote and what the status quo in fact means as Chair said there were effectively two status quos.
- Suggested that the council does not look good when it changes its mind from the previous meeting.
- Suggested that the list of questions from the Minister highlight the complication of the previous decision of NZC and means it is quite acceptable to reconsider.
- Motion suggested by Cr. O'Leary to give process to this discussion:

1. 'In light of the Ministers' questions and information received in a letter from the NZGCA this council agrees to revisit the question of game preserves.'
- Chair suggested that in order to advance timely and queried whether Cr. Juby would withdraw his motion until the debate occurs.
  - Suggested Option 2 could simply be modified to add in a specified end date.
  - CE suggested this is semantics and that if you make Option 2 a finite period you are effectively doing Option 1. Need to agree on what option and what length of time.
  - Disagreement expressed and suggestion that modifying existing motion is preferable.
  - View suggested that regardless of decision made need to have reasons to back up the decision.
  - Motion to amend Option 1 to add a grace period.
  - Debate around the length of the grace period, and it was suggested that the length should not be 5 years as they have already had 3 years.
  - Suggestion that this approach will simply result in the decision being revisited in a few years.
  - Suggested that preserves did not see these 3 years as a transition period to closing but to determining a permanent arrangement. So 5 years suggested as more appropriate.
  - CE noted that 5 years from the original point gets you to 2024. In terms of communicating with NZGCA we have had clear legal advice stating that this is three years for them to transition in to becoming a legal preserve. Legal advice received said to only communicate formally through official letters.
  - Suggestion we could move that we are comfortable with a time period 'up to x', then leave that to the Minister.

*Recommendation:*

*That the NZC support DOC's Option 1 as set out in the Departmental Briefing.*

**Moved: Crs. Juby/Lyons**

- *Amendment put:*

That the above motion be amended to:

*That the NZC support DOC's Option 1 as set out in the Departmental Briefing with the addition of a grace period to the end of the 2025 season.*

**Moved: Crs. Grubb/Lyons – Amendment Carried**

Motion amended to:

1. That the NZC support DOC's Option 1 as set out in the Departmental Briefing with the addition of a grace period to the end of the 2025 season.
  - i. **Moved: Crs. Juby/Lyons – Carried (Cr. Isbister against)**

Discussion around how this will be communicated to the Minister and agreed that CE & Chair will respond to Minister's letter explaining policy background to decision.

## **27. Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:*

*(a) pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Confirm Public Excluded minutes for meeting 147	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Pending Freshwater Litigation	Section 9(2)(h) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

*(b) And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council.*

**Moved: Crs. Isbister/A. Harris – Carried.**



*Amendment: That the above resolution be amended to include Debbie Oakley.  
Moved; Crs. Isbister/Lyons*

*Recommendation:*

1. *Move out of public excluded*  
**Moved: Crs. Juby/Musson.**

## **28. CEO and Staff Activity Report 210**

- Query around what the Freshwater Implementation Group is, CE set out the group's composition and purpose.
- Query around the NPS-FM work and where the first test case is likely to be – suggested probably Otago.
- Query around the footage of winter grazing and it was noted that the footage was taken at the direction of the Southland Fish & Game Council.
- CE clarified that this was well within our environmental advocacy and that there is a tension between access and highlighting poor practices. That this is clearly a part of our role.
- Note from councillors on the need to show good farming practices too.
- Conversation on the progress of the Guide's licence.

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the report be received.*  
**Moved: Crs. Blewman/Lyons – Carried.**

## **29. RMA/Legal Report**

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the RMA/Legal Reserves Report to the value of \$562,103 be accepted as at 31 October 2020.*  
**Moved: Cr. Blewman/Duley - Carried**

## **30. Research Fund Update**

- CV queried whether council wanted to allocate the unallocated to the NAS/ trout farming. Suggested no need for a decision now.

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the Research Fund Report be accepted with a balance of \$270,797 as at 31 October 2020.*  
**Moved: Crs. Blewman/Birchall - Carried**

## **31. R3, Marketing / Licence Sales**

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the report be received.*

**Moved: Crs. Musson/Isbister – Carried.**

### **32. Website RFP Update**

*Recommendation:*

1. *That the report be received.*

**Moved: Crs. Blewman/Musson – Carried.**

### **36. Correspondence**

- Suggestion for an expanded correspondence register to cover both in and outwards correspondence.

*Recommendation:*

1. That the register be accepted.

**Moved: Crs. D. Harris & A. Harris.**

### **General Business**

#### **Display at Te Papa**

- Depicts pest things in NZ and includes trout as a pest in NZ. Should we as a council address this?
- Noted that NZC contacted Te Papa about this at the same time that they did their water quality display. Display has been updated.

#### **NZC Staff Output**

- CE commented on the high quality work staff achieved this year through COVID and in light of the internal and external challenges.

*Recommendation*

1. *That the council formally thank the staff for their performance and dedication during the COVID and subsequent period.*

**Moved: Crs. O’Leary/Musson**

#### **NES/NPSFM**

- Request from Cr. Juby to include the NES in the next agenda given that it’ll come up at regional councils.
- Confirmed this is on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Election of Chair**

- Chair announced his intention to resign from the NZC as both chair and councillor.

*Recommendation*

1. *To adjourn the meeting put at 11:55am.*

**Moved: O’Leary/Juby. – Carried**

- Meeting recommenced 12:35pm.
- 2. Chair formally resigned as chair, but will remain as the Wellington appointee until replaced by Wellington.
- 3. The CE called for nominations. Two nominations:
  - Cr. Grubb – Moved Crs. Juby/Duley – Motion carried.
  - Paul Blewman – Moved Crs. Musson / Birchall
- 4. Ray Grubb is now Chair of NZC.
- 5. Discussion around if Council should elect a Vice Chair and Cr Grubb said he will select a vice chair.
- 6. Chair outlined the work undertaken by Cr. Shortis as former Chair.

Request from Debbie Oakley to bring the Non-Resident Levy on to the agenda at meeting 149. (CE to collate correspondence from regions).

### **37. Meeting close**

Meeting closed at 12:40pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November.