

## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Present: A Brooks  
S Gerard  
S Bannister  
B Growcott  
M Hall  
D Isbister  
L Koevoet  
C McKenzie  
A Simpson (Chair)

In Attendance:

*F&G Staff:* J Graybill, B Dolan, R Adams, M Webb.

*Public:* P Shutt, J de Wit.

### 21-014 APOLOGIES:

J Henry (Ngai Tahu).

Resolved (Koevoet/McKenzie)

21-009

THAT THE APOLOGY OF J HENRY BE ACCEPTED.

### 21-015 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.

### 21-016 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and assembly points for evacuation of the premises in case of an emergency.

### 21-017 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 4 February 2021

Resolved (Hall/Koevoet)

21-010

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4 FEBRUARY 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

### 21-018 DEPUTATION:

018.1 J de Wit

J de Wit addressed the Council on a letter he received from CSI lawyers, Timpany Walton, and read out excerpts from that letter and spoke to Council about his views on it.

### 21-019 RECEIVE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

21-011

THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS OF 18 MARCH 2021 BE RECEIVED.



## **21-020 BUDGET AND FINANCE:**

### **020.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing (7.1)**

Chief Executive gave Council an update on the CSI financial situation noting that as previously reported he had advised caution as he believed it was likely income would decrease as the season progressed. This has been the case with the general increase from earlier in the season diminishing due to non-residents not being able to come into the country.

**Resolved (McKenzie/Isbister)**

**21-012**

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2021 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNT OF \$247,774.55.**

## **21-021 CHAIR'S REPORT:**

### **021.1 Recognition of Loyal Service**

Chair noted that CSI Council is extremely fortunate to be supported by a very dedicated and professional team of staff. Whilst staff don't seek recognition Council should not let important milestones pass without thanking valued members of the team for the contributions they are making. He advised that B Dolan, J Graybill had served 30 years and M Webb had served 37 years of loyal service for Central South Island Fish and Game.

Matthew Hall extended his thanks for the work of Bernadette, who is well known for her cheery manner and conversations, and her dedication to the job. "I know that she carries Fish and Game on her shoulders both emotionally and with the efforts of the day". He congratulated Mark noting his 37 years of experience in the science of salmon and trout and emphasised that Mark is widely recognised for his knowledge in Fish and Game and his innovative work on the Zone Committee.

He further acknowledged the work of Jay noting that Jay has been an authority in Fish and Game and is well recognised and seriously respected throughout the whole organisation. "His contribution to Fish and Game has been outstanding". M Hall added that all three staff have put the job first, stating that the hours do not matter to them as it's the job that matters and that it has come with a lot of overtime and a lot of unpaid hours.

L Koevoet re-iterated these sentiments and noted he mostly worked with M Webb who has been great to work alongside over the years he has served as a Councillor on the Council.

Chair thanked J Graybill, B Dolan and M Webb stating it has been a tremendous record of service from them all.

**Resolved (A Simpson/M Hall)**

**21-013**

- 1. THAT CSIFGC EXPRESSES ITS THANKS TO BERNADETTE DOLAN FOR THIRTY YEARS' FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THIS COUNCIL AND TO THE ANGLERS AND HUNTERS OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND REGION.**
- 2. THAT CSIFGC EXPRESSES ITS THANKS TO MARK WEBB FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS' FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THIS COUNCIL AND TO THE ANGLERS AND HUNTERS OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND REGION.**

**3. THAT CSIFGC EXPRESSES ITS THANKS TO JAY GRAYBILL FOR THIRTY YEARS' FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THIS COUNCIL AND TO THE ANGLERS AND HUNTERS OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND REGION.**

021.2 Meeting with Stakeholders (8.3)

Chair advised that dates for meetings are under discussion with the Game Animal Council, the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board, and the Otago Conservation Board. He added that the Minister for Conservation declined his request to meet but advised he will renew that request in a few weeks' time.

021.3 NZC Liaison (8.4)

Chair reported that he attended an online meeting with Regional F&G Chairs in February. Matters discussed included: recruitment for a new NZC CEO, 'cohesive employment policies' nationally, improvement of NZC-Regional relationships, and improvement of external relationships, including with Iwi and Federated Farmers.

021.4 Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (8.5)

Chair reminded Council that it will be revising its current Sports Fish and Game Management Plan. He had invited Councillors to offer suggestions for inclusion in the draft SFGMP but noted that none have done so. He advised that a draft will be circulated for discussion at Council's forthcoming meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, together with a consultation plan and that the consultation plan will provide a timeline (in accordance with ss 17L – 17N of the Conservation Act 1987).

021.5 Environmental Advocacy (8.6)

Chair advised that following the Council Workshop on 28 February to discuss issues raised by M Hall's paper he asked staff to investigate and report back to our 18 March meeting regarding what data and analysis is available to CSI that supports Council's position that "the environment in respect of the habitat of sports fish is seriously compromised" (per resolution at February 2021 meeting) and, in particular:

- a. Trend data regarding our sea-run salmon and sea-run trout fisheries,
- b. Where fish populations will be, if present trends continue,
- c. The factors likely to have contributed to the decline of those fisheries over the last 30 years, and
- d. What needs to be done to slow or halt present trends.

He referred Councillors to the detailed report provided by staff and in accordance with the consensus of the workshop recommended that Councillor's consider his three recommendations. General discussion ensued on the topic and M Hall noted that before Councillors could move forward with the recommendations it needed to address the previous resolution that was lying on the table from the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 meeting.

**Resolved (Hall/Isbister)**

**21-014**

**THAT COUNCIL REPLACES RESOLUTION 21-008 WITH THE FOLLOWING THREE RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolved (Hall/Bannister)**

**21-015**

**THAT CSI DEVELOP A PAPER FOR DISTRIBUTION TO STAKEHOLDERS THAT:**

- A. SETS OUT A CLEAR WARNING THAT THE SEA-RUN**

- SALMON AND SEA-RUN TROUT FISHERIES ARE IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY, AND**
- B. INDICATES THE REASONS, SO FAR AS WE ARE ABLE TO DO SO; AND**
- C. CALLS ON BODIES THAT CONTROL FACTORS AFFECTING THE FISHERIES TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF THOSE FISHERIES.**

**Resolved (Isbister/Growcott)**

**21-016**

**THAT CSI DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR, AND BUDGET TO SUPPORT, ADVOCACY FOR OUR SPORTS FISHERIES AND SPORTS FISH HABITAT.**

**Resolved (Hall/McKenzie)**

**21-017**

**THAT CSIFGC'S CHAIR AND NZC APPOINTEE PRESS NZC TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR POSITION REGARDING THE THREAT FACING OUR SPORTS FISHERIES WITH THE MINISTER AND FARMING INTERESTS.**

**21-022 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:**

**022.1 Draft 2021/22 Budget (9.1)**

CE reported that with the onset of Covid-19 councils were asked to recast their budgets to show a 5% savings in expenditure plus 10% to come from councils' reserves. NZC has requested that Councils work to last year's recast budget as their bulk fund due to the uncertainty that remains related to Covid-19. CSI's bulk fund budget, entering the 2021/22 budget round is \$673,164.

NZC has advised that applications for funding from the contestable fund can be submitted from Councils in case funding is available on a national basis. The CE recommend that contestable fund applications be submitted for:

- Objective 1.1.1 – Salmon Spawning Surveys – from Special Fisheries Reserve.  
Rationale: for nationally important salmon runs.
- Objective 2.3.2 – Deep Stream Restoration - from Special Fisheries Reserve.  
Rationale: for nationally important salmon runs.
- Objective 1.1.5 – Gamebird Population Monitoring – rationale: to provide the long-term monitoring record for proper management of CSI's gamebird population.
- Objective 9.1.0 – Staff Salaries – Salary adjustment based on CPI of 1.4%.  
Rationale: to maintain parity with cost of living.

**Resolved (Hall/Simpson)**

**21-018**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR SUBJECT TO COUNCIL AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING DECISIONS ON SUBMITTING CONTESTABLE FUND APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES.**

The CE further advised that the NZC is also recommending that there be no increase in licence fees.

Moved (Hall/Simpson)

THAT COUNCIL ADVOCATES TO THE NZ COUNCIL THAT IT SUPPORTS ADOPTION OF A LICENCE FEE INCREASE TO A LEVEL NEEDED FOR COUNCILS TO MANAGE THEIR FISH AND GAME RESOURCE.

The motion was put and declared LOST. 2 for, 3 against.

022.2 Draft 2021/22 OWP (9.2)

**Resolved (McKenzie/Bannister)**

21-019

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE "DRAFT" 2021/22 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES.**

CE advised that the OWP does not need to be provided with the draft 2021/22 Budget to go to the April meeting of NZC which allows further time to review and consider the 2021/22 OWP.

Discussion ensued on various aspects of the OWP including concern that some topics discussed at the Workshop did not appear to be in the OWP. CE advised that the workshop was held two weeks before agenda papers needed to be sent out. Staff received instructions from the Chair and then delivered an extensive report having only being given 5 days to do so. In response to a query on why there was no objective on an inventory, the CE replied that a proposal for inventories/management plans needed to include scope as to the extent/type of parameters and which rivers/waterways to be inventoried, the proposed staff time to be committed, and consideration given to what objectives would come off the current OWP to allow for a project of that magnitude. He stressed objectives in the OWP needed to be realistically achievable with the finite amount of staff time and resources available to CSI.

*SG considered there was sufficient time.*

022.3 Winnemen Wintu People-Genetics & Restoration Project for McLeod River, California (9.3)

CE reported that in April 2018 Council supported the genetics and restoration project proposed for the McLeod River, California to assist the Winnemem Wintu people who wished to investigate the genetics of the chinook salmon in New Zealand (that originated from the McLeod River in 1900) with the long-term view of restoring their extinct runs in the McLeod River. He added that the project involves the collection of tissue from NZ chinook salmon from our major salmon rivers in collaboration with North Canterbury FGC. Analysis will inform the genetic makeup of NZ salmon and the potential for restoring salmon to the McLeod as requested by the Winnemem Wintu people.

He added that the value of this project is that it adds information on genetic makeup of NZ salmon to that from other genetic studies. In addition, it has strong support from Ngai Tahu at a cultural level with Winnemem Wintu.

**Resolved (Bannister/Brooks)**

21-020

**THAT THE CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE WINNEMEM WINTU PROJECT TO ASSIST WITH TISSUE COLLECTION FOR GENETIC ANALYSIS.**

022.4 National Sea-Run Salmon Committee (NSRSC) (9.4)

CE advised that the main accomplishments of the NSRSC were to adopt a definition of “wild salmon” and to successfully initiate a season limit bag to the Minister with the assistance of the NZC staff. Since these achievements the Salmon Committee has not seen the need to meet for nearly a year. He believed that policy work of the Committee has now been completed and it is time for implementation by the South Island regions. He recommended that the South Island Regions, led by CSI and NC FGC regions, resume a collaborative role in managing the South Island salmon resource.

**Resolved (L Koevoet/S Bannister)**

**21-021**

**THAT THE CSI COUNCIL RECOMMENDS TO THE NZ COUNCIL THAT THE NATIONAL SEA-RUN SALMON COMMITTEE BE DISBANDED AND THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE SEA-RUN SALMON BE UNDERTAKEN COLLABORATIVELY BY THE SOUTH ISLAND SALMON REGIONS.**

022.5 Salvage and Monitoring of Sports Fish Stranding's in the Tekapo Power Scheme (9.7)

R Adams provided a report summarising salvage and monitoring of sports fish strandings undertaken by the CSI Fish & Game for the period 2013 to 2021 at the Tekapo Power Scheme resulting from the operation of Gate 16 and the George Scott spill weir.

He advised that from March to July 2020, CSIFGC staff relocated 879 live trout, observed 21 to be dead and 67 permanently stranded. The tagging and release of 24 trout into Gate 16 pond gave evidence that many trout remain within the upper Tekapo riverbed spillway despite flows being released that permitted downstream migration. It was considered that once stranded in the Gate 16 pond and the upper Tekapo riverbed, trout have a low likelihood of successfully migrating to permanent water under regular short-term operational flow releases and most are lost from the fishery.

R Adams recommended that through the consenting process, or prior through proactive collaboration, Genesis formally recognise the losses of sports fish to the fishery and the resourcing required due to the operation of Gate 16 and the George Scott spill weir by: formalising a salvage management plan that minimises losses and ongoing stranding, funding cost-recovery of salvage operations undertaken by CSIFGC and mitigates for losses caused. He added that this document should be used as the basis of formalising a salvage management plan.

**Resolved (Hall/Brooks)**

**21-022**

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE REPORT ON SALVAGE AND MONITORING IN THE TEKAPO POWER SCHEME AND AUTHORISES STAFF TO CONTINUE LIAISON WITH GENESIS ENERGY ON A SALVAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RECONSENTING OF THE GENESIS SCHEME.**

**21-023 NZFGC REPORT:**

D Isbister gave an update on NZC issues. He advised that:

- P Shortis has stood down from the NZC and is currently the interim NZC CE until the ministerial review is reported back mid-April.
- A conservative/cautious approach is being taken re budgets.

- NZ Council will send a paper out to regions for consultation on the handling of non-resident licence income.

## 21-024 GENERAL BUSINESS:

### 024.1 John Wilkie

M Hall advised Councillors of the passing of John Wilkie. John had been a much-respected Councillor on the CSI Council for a number of years. CE advised that a sympathy card had been sent from Council to the Wilkie family.

## 21-025 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:

Resolved (Isbister/Growcott) at 9:40 pm

21-023

**THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING, NAMELY—**

**025.1 MT COOK ALPINE SALMON – SOCKEYE SALMON (14.1)**

**025.2 RELATIONSHIP WITH LICENCE HOLDERS (14.2)**

**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 [i.e. OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Sockeye Salmon	OIA section 9(2)(b)	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 under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.
Relationship with Licence Holders	OIA section 9(2)(a)	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 under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.

## 20-025 PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:

Council resumed in open session at 11:16 pm.

Meeting closed: 11:16 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 20 May 2021.

Signed  Date 20/5/21