

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held on Thursday 9 February 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Present: C Weatherall (Chair) L Koevoet
S Bannister (zoom) C McKenzie
P Centofanti D Rattray
B Chisholm (zoom) A Simpson
J deWit (zoom)

In Attendance: J Graybill, Chief Executive, M Webb, Fish and Game Officer.

23-001 APOLOGIES:

J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

Resolved (Centofanti/Rattray)

23-001

THAT THE APOLOGY OF JOHN HENRY BE RECEIVED.

23-002 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 forthcoming.

23-003 HEALTH & SAFETY:

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

23-004 COUNCILLOR STATEMENT:

L Koevoet read a personal statement that he had received a letter of warning for an alleged fishing offence.

23-005 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Resolved (Simpson/McKenzie)

23-002

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

23-006 BUDGET & FINANCE:

CE responded to queries related to the financial reports.

Resolved (Centofanti/Simpson)

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$332,800.40, \$63,379.30 AND \$128,615.20, RESPECTIVELY.

23-007 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

Resolved (McKenzie/Centofanti)

23-003

THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS BE RECEIVED.

23-008 CHAIR'S REPORT:

008.1 Strategic Plan (7.1)

Chair advised that a Strategic Plan is being developed at a national level. C Jordan, NZC CE may attend a future meeting of CSI to explain.

008.2 Letter from North Canterbury Fish and Game (7.2)

Council discussed the letter received from North Canterbury Fish and Game where they asked CSI Fish and Game to consider 1) supporting amalgamation of CSI and North Canterbury regions and 2) realigning the boundary between the regions to include Lake Heron and Mellish Stream into the North Canterbury Region.

Chair advised that the Hunt report supported that Southland, Otago, and CSI remain standalone regions and that North Canterbury, West Coast, and Nelson/Marlborough amalgamate. He noted Council has resolved to remain a standalone Council but was happy to discuss North Canterbury's letter. Various comments were forthcoming.

Those that opposed the suggestion stated that:

- CSI and NC merging would make the size of the region too big to do justice to licence holders.
- Lake Heron is a mid-Canterbury fishery resource and is heavily used by mid-Canterbury anglers. Their representation should remain with CSI.
- Lake Heron is a part of Otuwhaekai, Ashburton Lakes, a much larger fishery and game bird complex. There is no benefit to having more than one Fish & Game region involved in managing such a small part of it.
- The old Ashburton/North Canterbury Acclimatisation boundary was to the middle half the Rakaia River and when present regions were formed that became part of the NCFGC Region. So, it could be argued that CSI have already lost half of the Rakaia River to NCFGC. There should be recognition of this.
- The management styles of North Canterbury and CSI are very different.
- Amalgamation could significantly reduce licence holder participation to Councils.

It was noted that if cost savings are needed that would best be done with the current regions sharing resources and skills.

Those that supported the suggestion indicated that this shouldn't be seen as a North Canterbury takeover but more of a re-definition of boundaries, with common resources such as the Canterbury plains with extensive irrigation and degraded lowland rivers and alpine salmon rivers.

Moved (Chisholm/Bannister)

That Council rejects the recommendation that amalgamations are necessary across Fish and Game.

LOK

CE advised that the recommendations in the Mills and Clark Governance Review were largely accepted, nationally, and considerable work had already been done by the NZC on implementation.

The motion was put and declared LOST. (2 for, 6 against).

A Simpson stated that CSI could either refuse to meet with NC F&G Council or agree to meet and tell them our concerns.

Resolved (Centofanti/Rattray)

23-004

THAT CSI REJECTS HAVING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT AMALGAMATION WITH NORTH CANTERBURY AND REJECTS ANY CONSIDERATION OF HANDING OVER LAKE HERON TO NORTH CANTERBURY.

23-009 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

009.1 2023/24 Gamebird Hunting Regulations (8.1)

1. Mallard/Grey Duck

Resolved (Simpson/McKenzie)

23-005

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF MALLARD AND GREY DUCK FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON.

2. Paradise Shelduck

Resolved (Simpson/Koevoet)

23-006

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF PARADISE SHELDUCK FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON.

3. Black Swan

Resolved (Simpson/Rattray)

23-007

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF BLACK SWAN FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON.

L Koevoet said he heard iwi was wishing to go back to historical harvesting of eggs which would require CSI to look seriously at how many black swan it allows to be shot. CE cautioned that if CSI is wishing to improve its engagement with iwi, then this is one possible mechanism that we could use to do that. The main thing we have in common with iwi is we are both interested in harvesting.

4. Shoveler and Pukeko

Resolved (Centofanti/Rattray)

23-008

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF SHOVELER AND PUKEKO FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON.

LOK

5. Quail, Pheasant, Chukar
Resolved (McKenzie/Centofanti)

23-009

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF QUAIL, PHEASANT AND CHUKAR FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON.

6. Remaining Gazette Changes

The following standard calendar changes were considered, and it was:

Resolved (Rattray/Koevoet)

23-010

**THAT THE WATERFOWL SEASON BE 6 MAY TO 30 JULY 2023.
THAT THE UPLAND GAME SEASON BE 6 MAY TO 27 AUGUST 2023.
THAT THE MID-SUMMER SEASON BE 3/4 AND 10/11 FEBRUARY 2024.**

7. Use of .410-gauge Shotguns

Council was advised that whilst there is an interest to retain .410's for juniors and those being introduced to the sport, it is no longer considered acceptable to put lead into the environment. NZC staff are sensing the Minister will remove the exemption however she may find it acceptable to allow a one-year phase-out of the .410 exemption to allow shooters to adjust and supplies to be built up of non-toxic shot.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie) (7 for, 1 against)

23-011

THAT CSIFG COUNCIL RECOMMENDS TO NZFG COUNCIL THAT A ONE-YEAR PHASE-IN PERIOD BE RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL OF LEAD SHOT FOR USE IN .410-GAUGE SHOTGUNS WHEN WATERFOWL HUNTING.

D Rattray requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

Resolved (McKenzie/Koevoet)

23-012

THAT CSIFG COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT NZFG COUNCIL UNDERTAKE INTERNAL REVIEW BY STAFF WITH EXPERIENCE/KNOWLEDGE IN BALLISTICS ON THE KILLING EFFICACY OF DIFFERENT NON-TOXIC ALTERNATIVES IN .410-GAUGE SHOTGUNS.

009.2 Winnemem Wintu Project (8.3)

CE briefed council on a request from the Winnemem Wintu people of northern California who wish to import salmon eggs from NZ to restore salmon to the McLeod River, where they are now extinct. The McLeod River (northern California) was the source of Chinook salmon eggs brought to NZ in 1900 that grew into the salmon runs we now know in NZ. The Winnemem Wintu have a cultural connection with salmon and approached John Wilkie, TRONT and a CSI Councillor, for assistance to return eggs to the McLeod.

Leak

The Winnemem have approached California and US fisheries agencies for permission to import salmon eggs to California. These agencies have proposed a rigorous testing programme before approving importation to ensure stocks returned to California are disease free as a protection to California's extensive salmon hatchery facilities.

Council must consider the number of salmon to be taken from our struggling fisheries and the effort required to undertake the project over perhaps 2 to 3 years. The project has cultural value for the Winnemem as well as social licence value for F&G. Caleen Sisk, Chief for Winnemem Wintu, has requested to speak to Council about the project. CE recommended that Council respond favourably to this request.

Resolved (McKenzie/Centofanti)

23-013

THAT AN INVITATION BE EXTENDED TO CHIEF SISK, WINNEMEM WINTU, TO MAKE A 30-MINUTE PRESENTATION TO CSI COUNCILLORS WITH DATES YET TO BE DECIDED.

009.3 Sea-Run Salmon Management Plan (8.2)

CE advised that M Webb has started preparation of a Sea-Run Salmon Management Plan. General discussion ensued on the merits of having a statutory or non-statutory plan. It was noted that the process for preparing a statutory plan was much more complicated and would take much longer. The view was expressed to initially prepare a non-statutory plan and if later a statutory plan was seen as an advantage, one could be prepared.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

23-014

THAT A DRAFT SEA-RUN SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN BE PREPARED BY STAFF AS A NON-STATUTORY PLAN WITH THE PROCESS FOR ITS PREPARATION AND ADOPTION TO BE DETERMINED BY COUNCIL.

009.4 Risk Register (8.3)

Resolved (Rattray/McKenzie)

23-015

THAT THE RISK REGISTER BE RECEIVED.

010 NZC REPORT:

010.1 L Koevoet advised that the status of the non-resident licence levy is on the agenda for the NZC meeting. CSI has resolved to hold the non-resident funds within its region and not be transferred to a general licence pool for distribution by the NZ Council. Council **ADVISED** L Koevoet to hold firm to its resolution to retain the non-resident levy in the CSI Region.

In response to a query CE advised that NR levy is held in Council's "special fisheries reserve" and CSI is planning to utilise some of this in the forthcoming budget round. He stressed that a decision on status of the NR levy should not be made until the resource allocation project has been completed. This must be done with urgency to achieve a more equitable allocation of resources between regions.

Council **AGREED** that in future the NZC Report to Council be provided in written form in the agenda meeting papers to allow Councillors to digest information before the night of the Council meeting.

Resolved (Weatherall/Rattray)

23-016

THAT THE NZC REPORT BE RECEIVED.

22-011 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Resolved (McKenzie/Rattray)

23-017

THAT THE INWARD CORRESPONDENCE BE RECEIVED.

22-012 ELECTION OF CHAIR:

Chair invited nominations for the position of CSI Chair to become effective from 16 March 2023.

L Koevoet (Nominated – C McKenzie, Seconded – A Simpson).

No other nominations were forthcoming, Chair announced that L Koevoet to be the incoming Chair for CSI effective at the 16 March 2023 Council meeting. C Weatherall indicated that he will resign as Chair prior to that date but does not intend to step away as a co-opted Councillor immediately and would remain available to Council for a short duration. Appreciation was extended to C Weatherall for stepping in and assisting Council through its turbulent times.

Resolved (McKenzie/Simpson)

23-018

THAT L KOEVOET BE ELECTED CHAIR OF CSI COUNCIL EFFECTIVE AT THE 16 MARCH 2023 COUNCIL MEETING.

After a brief discussion it was **AGREED** that consideration of the position of CSI's NZC appointee be deferred to the March 2023 meeting of Council.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie) at 10:30 pm

23-019

THAT THE MEETING BE EXTENDED 30 MINUTES.

23-013 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie) at 10:30 pm

23-020

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING.

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:

013.1 Waitaki Meridian Consents

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
Consent Renewal-Meridian	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.

013.2 CEO Recruiting Update (11.4)

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
Confidential Matters	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.

013.3 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes: Meetings of 17 November 2022 (11.1)

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
Approval of Public Excluded Minutes.	OIA section 9(2)(j)	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.

PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:

Council resumed in open session at 11.10 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Next Extraordinary Council Meeting – Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 7 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 16 March 2023 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed: 11.10 pm

Signed LR Koeverst

Date 16/3/23

WCB