

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held on Thursday 28th Sept 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Present: S Bannister L Koevoet (Chair)
P Centofanti D Rattray
J DeWit C McKenzie
J Henry (Ngai Tahu) A Simpson

In Attendance: S McKnight (CE)

23-052 APOLOGIES:

None.

23-053 URGENT MATTERS FROM CHAIR:

053.1 Eligibility of Councillors

Chair advised that it had come to the attention of the NZ Council that some Councillors in regions did not have current licences to fish or hunt. Regions have been requested to ensure all Councillors hold a current licence.

053.2 Clarification of Use of Zoom at Council Meetings

Chair advised that the Government has repealed the legislation allowing using zoom for meetings and have reverted back to rules of pre-Covid. Legislation states if you attend at meeting via Zoom you will not form part of the quorum. Therefore you are not present in the room and cannot vote.

23-054 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? L Koevoet advised he is no longer a member of the Lower Waitaki River Management Society. P Centofanti advised he is no longer the Secretary of McKinnons Hatchery but is still a member of the Committee.

23-055 HEALTH & SAFETY:

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

23-056 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

0.56.1 2023/24 Annual Meeting Dates (NZC & CSI)

CE advised that the recommended CSI dates were selected to fit around the meetings of the NZ Fish and Game Council for more efficient decision making.

CE

THAT THE CSI MEETINGS FOR 2024 TO BE HELD ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

- **1 FEBRUARY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING GAME REGULATIONS TO SUBMIT TO NZC BY 2 FEBRUARY
- **14 MARCH** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING APPROVE OWP & BUDGET FOR SUBMITTING TO MANAGERS/CE'S FOR RECOMMENDATION TO NZC BY 20TH MARCH.
- **16 MAY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING APPROVE ANGLING REGULATIONS AND LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION TO SUBMIT TO NZC BY 31 MAY.
- **18 JULY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING.
- **19 SEPTEMBER** CSI COUNCIL MEETING – LAST MEETING OF CURRENT COUNCIL.
(October 30th – newly elected Council takes office).
- **THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER OR WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER** CSI COUNCIL MEETING. (NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL REQUIRED TO MEET NO LATER THAN 20TH NOVEMBER 2024 (3 WEEKS AFTER THEY TAKE OFFICE)).

056.2 Proposal to Reduce the Number of Central South Island Fish and Game Council Sub-Regions to Zero

A paper was presented noting the current system of sub regions poses several challenges that hinder effective governance and license holder representation. It was also noted that the "first past the post" electoral system can be subverted when candidates stand for sub regions where there are no other candidates.

Discussion ensued with some Councillors noting that with potential upcoming structure changes in the organisation it could mean that sub regions would no longer be fit for purpose. Others supported maintaining sub regions as they considered local area knowledge was important and suggested having four sub-regions. There was also a view that Council can trust and rely on staff to keep them informed of issues in any particular area.

Moved (Simpson/Centofanti)

That the Central South Island Fish and Game Council (CSIFGC) hereby removes all sub regions from its structure and operates as a single region.

Moved (Bannister/Koevoet)

That the Central South Island Fish and Game Council (CSIFGC) reduce the number of sub regions to 4.

The amendment was put and declared LOST.

The substantive motion was put and declared CARRIED. (L Koevoet abstained).

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

23-085

THAT THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HEREBY REMOVES ALL SUB REGIONS FROM ITS STRUCTURE AND OPERATES AS A SINGLE REGION.

056.3 Resolution to Revoke Resolution 22-025 – Annual Survey of Licence Holders

CE gave a presentation on a recent comprehensive survey of licence holders conducted by NZ Fish and Game. The survey covered a wide range of topics (at a cost to license holders of over \$150,000) and provides statistically relevant data for the whole organisation's current direction and the attitudes and values of license holders. It was recommended that CSI Council's Resolution 22-025 (passed at a CSI Council meeting on 3rd February 2022) be revoked in its entirety. General discussion ensued where Councillors voiced their views, and it was:

Resolved (Rattray/Simpson)

23-086

BASED ON THE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF DATA FROM THE NATIONAL LICENSE HOLDER SURVEY, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT RESOLUTION 22-025 BE REVOKED IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE CSI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL SHALL UTILISE THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL'S SURVEY TO GUIDE ITS STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS GOING FORWARD. THIS DECISION IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND SHALL BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

At this point of the meeting S McKnight expressed his objection to the inappropriate comment made by John DeWit that 'people who think their shit doesn't stink'. He stated it was not appropriate, and he would not accept that behaviour in our meetings. Chair requested that Councillors call out inappropriate behaviour if they hear it as this is something that must be stopped.

056.4 Introduction to Staffing Options

CE presented a paper that with Councils support he would take to the October Managers Meeting citing 8 different options on increasing the staffing level for CSI region. He believed a compliment of 10 staff would align with staffing numbers in other similar sized regions.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

23-087

THAT CSI COUNCIL DELEGATES THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE REGIONAL MANAGERS AND CE'S FROM OTHER REGIONS TO BUILD THE STAFF COMPLEMENT IN THE CSI REGION TO 10."

056.5 Site Maintenance – CSI Office

CE advised of the development of asphalt subsidence at the main office entranceway which poses a significant trip hazard for staff and members of the public entering the building. In addition, he advised that gravel parking and driveway area to the west of the building has filled with mud and debris over time and requires resurfacing.

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

23-088

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$10,000 FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE OFFICE ENTRANCEWAY AND CAR PARKING AREA TO BE FUNDED FROM THE GENERAL RESERVE

056.6 Risk Register – Update (September 2023)

CE spoke to his update on the Risk Register. It was **AGREED** that reputational risk from inappropriate Council member conduct be added to the register.

23-057 NZFGC MATTERS:

057.1 Summary of NZC Meeting (5.1)

CE noted that under the Insurance and Indemnity that CSI Council already pay a significant levy and if NZC adopt having premiums based on licence holders it would potentially be double dipping. It was noted that NZC are walking a fine line as they must show they are making a non-legislative change and at the same time need to consider how they can modernise the organisation. **AGREED** that the CE write to the NZ Council highlighting CSI Councils concern on this issue.

057.2 Draft Policy on Setting National Policy (5.2)

NZ Council provided a draft policy on the process on setting National Policy for regional consultation.

In response to 2.1 'leadership' it was pointed out that in the Conservation Act the NZ Council has a "co-ordination" role – not a "leadership" role. Council also discussed "reasonable time" for regions to provide feedback on consultation. It was noted that regional Council meetings needed to be held at a time that feedback could be given to NZC in a reasonable timeframe.

057.3 Draft Conflict of Interest Policy (5.3)

NZ Council provided a draft policy on a Conflict of Interest Policy. Council felt paragraph 4(a) was incorrectly worded where it states, '*a member with a Conflict of Interest or a Potential Conflict of Interest must identify the conflict and disclose it to the Council in a timely and effective manner*'. It was felt that the disclosure should be an 'interest' as it may not necessarily be a conflict. I.e. the member should disclose their 'interest' first and then figure out if there is a conflict after that.

057.4 Draft Code of Conduct (5.4)

NZ Council provided a draft policy on Code of Conduct policy. Council were satisfied with this policy as written.

CSB

23-058 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:

Resolved (Rattray/Simpson) at 9:11 pm

23-088

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:

058.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes: Meeting of 27 July 2023

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.

058.2 Confidential Matters

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)	To protect the privacy of natural persons.

Chair requested that John DeWit leave the room for the Public Excluded part of the meeting. Mr DeWit verbalised strong resistance at leaving the room. Chair asked Mr DeWit to leave the room on two further occasions before Mr DeWit left. In doing so Mr DeWit, pointing directly at Councillor A Simpson in a threatening manner, yelled that “*Ms Thomas was going to act against your kangaroo court*”. J DeWit left the room at 9:13 pm.

PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:

Council resumed in open session at 9:35 pm.

J DeWit returned to the Council room. Chair advised Mr DeWit that at the 27 July 2023 Council meeting that the CSI Council had a Vote of No Confidence in his ability to conduct himself as a Councillor on the Central South Island Fish and Game Council and that this decision taken by Council has now been released into the public domain.

J DeWit responded that he would have his right of reply and he would do this at Councils Annual Public Meeting where he is not governed by rules in the Council meeting.

23-059 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Resolved (McKenzie/Simpson)

23-093

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27 JULY 2023 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

23-060 BUDGET & FINANCE:

CE spoke to his report noting Council is at year end and advised that there is still income to be received from other regions in relation to the Salmon Endorsement fee. He indicated CSI licence sales are still looking to be approximately 7% (LEQ's) above our previous years licence sales.

Resolved (Simpson/Rattray)

23-094

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2023 AND AUGUST 2023 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$76,383.45 AND \$317,550.55, RESPECTIVELY.

23-061 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Questions were responded to on queries related to Inward Correspondence.

23-062 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

Chair reminded Councillors if they have any queries to put them to the CE for response. Councillors noted the good work of staff and expressed their appreciation.

CE advised of the upcoming introduction of a mapping programme that will contain access points across the Country.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 30 November 2023 at 7 pm.

Annual Public Meeting: Thursday 7 December 2023 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed: 9:55 pm.

Signed *W. McKenzie*
Chair

Date 30-11-23