

## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7:00 pm.**

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

In Attendance: S McKnight (CE).

### **24-016 APOLOGIES:**

J Henry (Ngai Tahu).

### **24-017 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:**

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register; or considered that the business of today's meeting would give rise to any actual or perceived conflict with their interests? None were advised.

### **24-018 HEALTH & SAFETY:**

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

### **24-019 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:**

#### 011.1 Malcolm Eadie, Facilitator for the CSIFGC Performance Review (4.1)

CE introduced Malcolm Eadie, facilitator for Council's upcoming performance review sessions. He advised that Malcolm's guidance and experience can help Council gain valuable insights and chart a course for continued success.

Malcom Eadie gave his presentation to Council including: Council reviewing their own work and identifying if there are ways councils' performance could be improved; understanding the difference between management and governance; and Councils collective skills around the table. I.e. does Council have the collective skills to govern its business and its stakeholder environment, and does it have the analytical skills needed around areas of finance and strategic thinking.

M Eadie responded to Councillors queries and comments, and it was **AGREED** that Councillors will undertake filling out a questionnaire to be returned to M Eadie ahead of a Councillor workshop scheduled for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6:30 pm.

011.2 Special Licence Application Policy Adoption (4.1a)

CE advised of the background leading to the request that CSI Council adopt a Special Licence Application Policy that Otago Fish and Game has developed and adopted recently. CE explained he had been approached by a biodiversity ranger from DOC advising of their intention to go an area of the Kauru River to trap and euthanise trout in the name of the lowland long jawed galaxiid. DOC were advised that a special authority was required from CSI Fish and Game to undertake any such activity. After further discussions with DOC it was agreed that the fish would instead be transferred to the Kakanui River.

CE advised that putting a policy in place would promote consistency and efficiency and support our shared objective of responsible resource management and conservation.

It was suggested that Fish and Game seek the authorisation to issue special licences from the new Minister. The current authorisation was obtained in 1990.

**Resolved (Dewit/Bannister)**

**24-007**

**THAT THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADOPT THE SPECIAL LICENCE AUTHORISATION POLICY PROVIDED TO THIS MEETING.**

011.3 Draft 2024/25 OWP (4.2)

CE advised that the OWP is goal focused and structured to highlight specific and measurable goals to enable a more holistic understanding of the impact of our work. This will be demanded from the Office of the Auditor General at our end of year audit.

CE responded to Councillor queries explaining the prioritisation system within the OWP, advising that staff have worked through the OWP and allocated their time accordingly over all the projects. If a new project is to be added, then current project(s) with similar time allocation would need to be placed into the future projects list. Projects that are not being completed at this time are listed as 'Future Projects' as this ensures that we always retain the thinking behind the projects listed.

**Resolved (Simpson/McKenzie)**

**24-008**

**THAT THE CSI COUNCIL RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE 2024/25 OWP AS THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2024/25.**

011.4 Draft 2024/25 Budget (4.3)

CE explained various aspects related to the draft Budget including how the funding from Meridian is shown against the Waitaki related projects and advised of income we will be receiving for work undertaken on the Winnemem Wintu salmon project. CE further explained that with the current shortage of staff in the CSI region he is in contact with other regions to seek assistance.

*Wdt*

**THAT THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2024/25 BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED TO NZC FOR FINAL APPROVAL BY THE MINISTER.**

011.5 Update on Sea-Run Salmon Management Strategy Consultation Costs (4.5)

CE presented two cost estimates for conducting online consultation for the forthcoming 10-year Sea Run Salmon Management Strategy. He advised that the first option would divert staff resources from ongoing operational work however the second option with Hothouse Design undertaking the full build would ensure minimal disruption to staff and ensure the consultation process for the sea run salmon management strategy is conducted effectively and professionally.

**Resolved (Rattray/Bannister)**

**24-010**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVE \$7,670 TO BE RELEASED FROM RESERVES TO RESOURCE THE ONLINE CONSULTATION ON THE SEA RUN SALMON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.**

011.6 Staff Update (4.5)

CE advised that Mark Webb has formally notified his intention to retire with his last day expected to be on April 30, 2024. A consultation process has been undertaken with a new staff structure involving the creation of two new Senior Fish and Game Officer positions. These positions have been successfully filled by H Stevens and R Adams. M Webb's vacancy will be advertised as a Fish and Game Officer role. Council congratulated H Stevens and R Adams on their new roles in the organisation.

011.7 Risk Register (4.6)

CE advised that Risk 8 and 12 of the Risk Register has been updated to reflect areas identified at Council's February 2024 meeting.

011.8 Opihi Environmental Flow Release Advisory Group

Chair of Opihi Environmental Flow Release Advisory Group (CE) advised that weekly meetings have been held on the status of water in the Opuha Dam. Lake Opuha has done its job but now is at the end of being able to augment flows in the river. Over the next 10 days the flow will be stepped down to "Natural Flows" and with no rain on the horizon staff time may be diverted to undertake fish salvage operations.

**24-012 NZFGC MATTERS:**

012.1 Update from NZC Meeting – 16-18 February 2024

A Simpson advised that at the NZC meeting it was recognised that savings needed to be found across the organisation as the Minister has signalled that he wouldn't be welcoming any request for a licence fee increase. As yet, there is no indication as to what the future structure of Fish and Game will look like from the Future Structure Working Group. Therefore Regional Chairs agreed to co-ordinate meetings – one meeting of the six North Island Council Chairs and one meeting of the six South Island Council Chairs with a view to explore possible future structures. He felt if the South Island regions were able to work together on solutions it would show the Minister and other stakeholders that we can make it work.

*Law*

