

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING



At the **North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting** on **24 Jul 2024** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Thursday, 22 February 2024
Time:	6:44 pm to 11:01 pm (NZDT)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), CHRIS BRANKIN, RICHARD O'KEEFE, DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, GRAEME NAHKIES, KEN LLOYD, TEHAU ANGLEM, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	RASMUS GABRIELSSON, RICHARD COSGROVE
Apologies:	NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON

1. Opening Meeting
 - 1.1 Welcome by Chairman
 - 1.2 Karakia
 - 1.3 Interests Register
 - 1.4 Council Discussion on Issues and Risks That May Require Council Attention

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Consultation Papers From New Zealand Council

1. Drug and Alcohol Policy

No comments or feedback was raised about this proposed national policy.

Draft Governance Code of Conduct

7 - In relation to "Misconduct" the need for confirmation that this will be covered in Standing Orders was raised.

3. Prevention of Bullying and Harassment Policy

No comments or feedback was raised about this proposed national policy.



Consultation Papers from NZC

That all questions and/or comments that were raised from the Consultation papers be forwarded to G Nahkies for compilation and then to send to NZC.

Decision Date: 22 Feb 2024
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

2.2 Kaputone Stream Consultation

It was encouraging to hear Christchurch City Council wanted to enhance the Kaputone Stream for native species and trout. The stream, which was once spring fed has long been known to hold trout. Council would be supporting this Proposal.



That the Council agrees with the application by DoC to not public...

That the Council agrees with the application by DoC to not publicly notify this change to the marginal strip.

K Lloyd abstained.

Decision Date: 22 Feb 2024
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Rangers Fishing Competition Application



2024 Rangers Competition

Approval was given to hold the 2024 Rangers Competition.

Decision Date: 22 Feb 2024
Mover: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved



Fishing Competitions

That a reporting template be included with fishing competition applications, to ensure competition organisers provide data, in a useable format, back to NCFG.

Due Date: 30 Sept 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

2.4 Fishing Regulations 2024

North Canterbury Fish & Game undertake to carry out public consultation prior to the Council's annual fishing regulations review prior to May 2024.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Confirm Minutes Dated 7 December 2023

NCFG COUNCIL MEETING 7 Dec 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Approve minutes

It was noted that Council wants to see the inclusion of a "Action List" to be reinstated with meeting papers.

Decision Date: 22 Feb 2024
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

3.2 General Business

Sports Fish Relocations and Salvage Operations From Waterways

The need and benefits for clarification about what processes Department of Conservation (DOC) follow when deciding if introduced fish need to be removed from a waterway was raised. It was agreed this issue should be highlighted to the NZC Office as differing views could present challenges for Fish & Game.

Currently there are a number of trout removal/suppression projects around New Zealand, including several in the NCFG region. NCFG is working with Professor McIntosh from Canterbury University on improving our understanding of how to help lessen or fully mitigate negative interaction between trout and threatened non-migratory native fish in small headwater tributaries in the upper Waimakariri and Rakaia catchments.

None of the sites the research is being carried out in would be classified as a "recreational trout fishery" nor are believed to provide trout spawning or rearing contributions of significance to valued trout fisheries.

T Anglem (Ngai Tahu) confirmed the importance of native fish species and their habitats to cultural values, especially whitebait for Ngai Tahu. He recommended Fish & Game engage more with Ngai Tahu representatives to identify areas where we could work together. It was noted that NCFG have already begun to expand their work in this space (e.g assisting ECan and DoC with mudfish protection and actively supporting research like the Fish Futures project).

The need for targeted efforts on this type of work that fit within and help deliver on Fish & Game's regional and national strategy goals was acknowledged.

The Impacts and the Use of Pesticides Like Glyphosate

Should F&G be advocating for more exclusion of pesticide use in waterways. It was noted that over the last 10+ years there appears to have been a heightened focus on targeting invasive weeds in riverbeds by local authorities. So far there is little detailed analysis of potential impacts to the river systems in Canterbury.

Fish Screens

ECan are currently considering what direction to take with the Fish Screen Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee and is unclear as to what format this would take.

It was noted that many older fish screens and water diversion consent conditions appear largely ineffective at mitigating negative impacts on fish. Clearly a large number of current fish screens in Canterbury need to be bought up to a higher standard, and in many cases improvements to water diversion practices and irrigation intake infrastructure are also urgently needed.

Council noted that Fish & Game must gather information to be in a position to challenge ECan in time for consent renewal, and that work to this effect should be a part of Fish & Game's ongoing strategy to benefit us in the future.

Board Alone Time

In the general discussion it was noted Councilors would like to consider making room for some Councillor "alone time" of approximately 30 minutes at meetings. Resolution: Noted Chair intends to work out how to include this into meetings.

Building Relationships with Ngai Tahu

Discussion on how to progress building a governance relationship with Ngai Tahu was held.

Take A Kid Fishing Decision

Council discussed the current communications with members of the TAKF Trust and acknowledged the benefits of starting this relationship afresh.

NZC Request for Regions Make 3% Budget Cuts

It was noted that NZC should be looking at regional / national reserves to ensure these saved funds were used by the organisation before further savings are imposed. The need for all regions to agree to a 3% budget cut was discussed.



Trout Management Plan

To include a section on the use of trout removal/suppression as a tool in the trout management plan for assisting improved protection of vulnerable non-migratory galaxiids, and to help demonstrate to Ngai Tahu & DOC what our fishery values are located so they see how important sports fish are culturally, and where our key resources are located.

Due Date: 22 May 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Glyphosates Used In River Systems.

R Gabrielson to write to NZC to raise NCFG concerns about the Regional Council's use of pesticides like glyphosate in North Canterbury river systems and its potential negative impacts on ecosystem health.

Due Date: 22 May 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Councillor "Alone Time"

The Chair to work out how to include a 30-minute Councillor alone session to Council meetings.

Due Date: 22 May 2024
Owner: ALAN STRONG



Building Relationships with Ngai Tahu

Cr Strong and T Anglem (Ngai Tahu) to discuss how to best progress a governance relationship between NCFG and Ngai Tahu.

Due Date: 22 May 2024
Owner: ALAN STRONG



Take A Kid Fishing

That engagement with members of the TAKF Trust be restarted so this relationship would continue.

Decision Date: 22 Feb 2024
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved



NZC Request for Regions to Make 3% Budget Cuts

That the governance advisors aid Cr Strong to draft a response to the NZC Chair letter requesting budget cuts be made.

Due Date: 22 May 2024
Owner: ALAN STRONG

4. PUBLIC SESSION

4.1 Public Session

5. STANDARD REPORTS

5.1 Standard Reports

The Chairmans Meeting Report

Cr Strong provided an update from the last regional Fish & Game Council chairs meeting. Plans for an operational merger between Taranaki and Wellington regions and the seeming lack of progress on a operational merger between Eastern & Hawkes Bay Fish & Game was briefly discussed.

A South Island Chairs meeting was planned to be held in Christchurch in March 2024. The NC & CSI Chairs have agreed to meet to discuss the proposed operational mergers recommended in the Hunt report.

Operational Report

- 1.The number of staff hours budgeted for Compliance required to be reported back to the Council.
- 2.NCFG were now in a better position to direct effort to ensure key stakeholders were more engaged. H Sanders-Garrick was thanked for her work in getting the data to this point to allow informed decisions to be made.
3. When communicating with stakeholders, to easier point out specifics, bullet points be used in what was being achieved in short communications to licence holders.

Finance report

- 1.Council requested a copy of the cashflow forecast tool once the accountant has signed off on it.
- 2.The governance advisors highlighted the benefits of a half a page of analysis of the financial results.
- 3.The General Reserve account to be renamed to better reflect it as a 20% minimum cash reserve.
- 4.It was acknowledged there were inconsistencies in how depreciation was reported on and dealt with across all regions.

Health and Safety report

Cr Barron asked that the risk register be made available at the next Council meeting.

Cr Barron stated he is not comfortable with Health & Safety process at NCFG, by stating he would like to see clear evidence that all processes were being followed and completed. He questioned the "health and safety" culture of the organisation as being positive and proactive when two councillors had stood down from the H&S subcommittee.

Cr Barron asked if the recommendations provided once the initial audit had been completed been carried out

R Gabrielson confirmed that staff were taking health & safety matters very seriously. He stated NCFG complied with the NZC national H&S policy. He stated there was a clear process for continually identifying and implementing improvements. The CEO also noted he had not been informed that Councilors Musson and Lloyd have resigned from the H&S committee.

Freshwater Improvement Fund Project Report

C Brankin updated Council on matters relating to wetland protection covenant details and the remaining focus for the FIF Project over the coming months. This Project formally ends on 30 June 2024, after which the Project Manager would submit a final report to the Ministry for the Environment. This Report would be made available to Council when completed



Rename General Reserve Account

Rename General Reserve account to 20% Minimum Cash Reserve.

Due Date: 13 Mar 2024
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Add in Actual Hours to the Compliance Report

Actual hours to complete compliance was required to be reported on in the Compliance Report.

Due Date: 20 Mar 2024
Owner: RICHARD COSGROVE



H&S Committee Update to Council

Cr Strong to contact Cr's Musson and Lloyd to discuss health and safety and report back to the council.

Due Date: 31 Mar 2024
Owner: ALAN STRONG

6. FOR INFORMATION STAFF REPORTS

6.1 For Information Papers

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: North Canterbury Fish & Game Council Meeting - Budget Setting Workshop - 14 Mar 2024, 6:31 pm

New Actions raised in this meeting

Item	Action Title	Owner
2.3	Fishing Competitions Due Date: 30 Sept 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Item	Action Title	Owner
3.2	Trout Management Plan Due Date: 22 May 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
3.2	Glyphosates Used In River Systems. Due Date: 22 May 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
3.2	Councillor "Alone Time" Due Date: 22 May 2024	ALAN STRONG
3.2	Building Relationships with Ngai Tahu Due Date: 22 May 2024	ALAN STRONG
3.2	NZC Request for Regions to Make 3% Budget Cuts Due Date: 22 May 2024	ALAN STRONG
5.1	Rename General Reserve Account Due Date: 13 Mar 2024	RASMUS GABRIELSSON
5.1	Add in Actual Hours to the Compliance Report Due Date: 20 Mar 2024	RICHARD COSGROVE
5.1	H&S Committee Update to Council Due Date: 31 Mar 2024	ALAN STRONG

Signature: _____

Date: _____