

One hundred and thirty-first meeting of the  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**  
**Brentwood Hotel, Wellington**  
Friday 27 to Saturday 28 April 2018  
*Commencing 9.00 am Friday*

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## **PRESENT**

### **NZ Councillors**

Lindsay Lyons (Chairperson), Noel Birchall, John Cumberpatch, Paul Dixon-Didier, Alan Flynn, Matthew Hall, Andy Harris, John Jillett, Andrew Morris, Chris Owen, Colin Sherrard, and Kevin Williams.

### **In Attendance**

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Don Rood Communications Manager, Carmel Veitch Finance, Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

### **Present:**

Friday 27 April Joint meeting with Regional Managers: Rudi Hoetjes, Ben Wilson, Andy Garrick, Mark Venman, Glenn Maclean, Phil Teal, Rhys Barrier, Dean Kelly, Rod Cullinane, Jay Graybill, Niall Watson, Ian Hadland, Jacob Smyth.

Dirk Barr from North Canterbury Fish and Game' Hatchery/Compliance Manager also attended for Friday.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairperson in welcoming everyone spoke of this meeting being a milestone for the organisation, recognising it as an important occasion with NZ Council and regional managers combining for a joint budget and licence fee meeting.

He extended a particular welcome to Chris Owen from Southland for whom this is a first NZ Council meeting. He also wanted the minutes to record the Council's appreciation and acknowledgement of Paul Stenning and his contribution during his term on this council. Paul has sent a well written and complimentary email to the Council and for the record this should be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed the regional managers and particularly Jacob Smyth standing in for Zane Moss from Southland. Finally, he welcomed Carmel Veitch as Finance Consultant to the NZ Council office on her first Council meeting in that role.

The Chairperson went on to explain the work in progress with a strategic plan and the workshop proposed on Saturday to extend that thinking and provide an important agreed direction for the Council to follow.

This joint meeting was a formal NZ Council meeting with managers co-opted to the meeting. The Chairperson explained this meant that managers have speaking rights but no voting rights. The meeting would be run in accordance with the NZ Council's Standing Orders with minutes of decisions and resolutions taken as normal.

The NZ Council's first days meeting is to focus on items to be considered for setting the 2018/19 budget and licence fees. Saturday morning will conclude other Council business along with the strategic planning workshop.

## **2. Apologies**

Zane Moss Manager Southland Fish and Game Council extended his apologies.

**It was agreed that the apology from Zane Moss for absence from the April 2018 New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting be accepted.**

## **3. Conflicts of Interest Register**

Councillors now sign the register and identify whether there were any topics to be discussed at this meeting they perceive to be a potential conflict of interest (COI). A COI sheet was passed around at the meeting for people to note any conflicts with the listed agenda items.

## **4. CEO NZ Council Overview**

Martin Taylor provided an outline of the format and process to be followed. He covered the existing baseline funding and general reserves (as distinct from dedicated reserves) situation before introducing the next item.

## **5. Confirm criteria for evaluating contestable funding applications**

The paper defining the ranking criteria is to be a draft policy and to be circulated to regions for consultation. Meanwhile the paper as it stands is to be used to guide discussion at this meeting.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Noel Birchall)

**Agree to accept the draft policy document and for it to be circulated for consultation with regional councils before becoming policy and setting the rating criteria (4 = essential, 3 = recommended, 2 = good to do, 1 = not recommended) for evaluating contestable funding bids.**

## **6. Contestable funding applications**

Common subject bids were considered first. These included several salary performance adjustments. It was concluded that staff salary increases needed to be assessed against a common salary structure across the organisation. For consistency around salary that would needs some form of independent audit to establish this.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/John Cumberpatch)

**To understand the relativities and using its audit powers under section 26C(1)(j), the NZ council agrees to audit all Fish and Game Councils in relation to all staff terms and conditions of employment. The audit is to be carried out by an independent third party and all data is to be anonymised in the final report, with this audit to be carried out with all possible haste.**

The possibility to increase salaries after the licence fee is set will be determined by the NZ Council and met through regional reserves.

The commissioning of an audit requires the instructions be shared to be seen as being transparent. The submission of contracts will need to be supported by a description of the individuals current position and level of seniority.

Discussion then focused on the difference between CPI and performance adjustments. It was proposed to accept CPI but wait for the outcome of the audit report before determining performance adjustments.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Kevin Williams)

**That all CPI bids be accepted at the 1.6% level.**

Discussion on Contestable Funding (CF) bids for prosecutions follows the suspending the use of reparation and the expectation of an increase to prosecutions through the Courts. The use of diversion was introduced as a valued process to lower court costs. This practice is used by the Department of Conservation. Diversion is established in law and can be completed without actual court appearance or use of lawyers. It was accepted that this needed to be recorded in detail and shared for consultation with further feedback before considering its adoption.

The ratings of applications used are:

- 4 = essential
- 3 = recommended
- 2 = good to do
- 1 = not recommended.

The attached spreadsheet records the decisions made and the allocation of ratings for each application.

Discussion on interest income from the sale of property is another item that is to be discussed at a future meeting, with the suggestion that associated policy is reviewed.

NZ Councillors and Managers considered the holding position paper for the North Canterbury Hatchery. It was resolved that North Canterbury needed to save another \$20,000 by stopping some trout releases to ensure a cost overrun of no more than \$24,000, taking into account the \$50,000 to be used from reserves.

The NZ Council gave further consideration to this matter on Saturday morning under National Financial reporting (see item 16 below).

## **7. Staff Development Grant**

One application has been received for the 2018/19 financial year. This is from Lawson Davey, Field Officer for Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council. Lawson is Fish & Game NZ's liaison officer with the California Waterfowl Association and wants to reacquaint himself with new personnel running the CWA/F&G hunter exchange programme and to look into R3 programmes for hunting. He seeks \$2,800 for air travel.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/John Cumberpatch)

**That Lawson Davey, as New Zealand's CWA liaison officer, receive a staff development grant of \$2,800 for air travel to meet with the California Waterfowl Association.**

## **8. Proposed Research funding**

Consideration was given for potential research funding to each of the proposals listed below:

#	Title	Cost \$
1.	Economic Impact Assessment of Freshwater Angling in NZ	55,920
2.	Cost benefit analysis of New Zealand Sports Fish Hatcheries	30,000

3.	Acoustic Assessment of Salmonids in large South Island Lakes	62,690
4.	Physiographic technique for nutrient allocation	29,000
5.	Native fish/sports fish interactions	50,000
6.	The influence of climate change on the distribution & abundance of salmonids	20,000
7.	Burden of zoonotic and/or livestock disease presence in mallard ducks	20,000

Ranking the above proposal, the meeting determined that by order of importance to Fish & Game it would be:

- 2.
- 5.
- 6.
- 4.
- 3.
- 1.
- 7.

Therefore, it was agreed to support proposals 2 and 5 in the table above.

Resolved: (John Cumberpatch/Chris Owen)

**That the two top ranked proposals (cost benefit of hatcheries & native fish vs sports fish) are approved for research funding in 2018/19.**

A late proposal from Massey University was referred to the Mallard committee to come back with a recommendation on the research proposal examining zoonotic and/or livestock disease presence in mallard.

## **9. Evaluate and confirm total increase in Budget for 2018/19**

Once initial decisions had been made for each CF item, the meeting then revisited the dollar implications before confirming the totals and the implications this had on setting a licence fee.

## **10. Agree on recommended licence fees**

To best meet the decisions taken, it would require a \$3.00 increase on the adult whole season fish licence and a \$2.00 increase on the adult whole season game licence. Meaning, a 2018/19 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$130 and an adult whole season game licence of \$93 (plus a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.

Resolved: (Mathew Hall/Andrew Morris)

**That the 2018/19 sports fish licence be based on an adult whole season fee of \$130 and the game licence to be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$93 plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat (GST inclusive).**

## 11. Confirm licence category fee ratios

Following the setting of licence fees, discussion centred on whether there was also a need to adjust the ratio of other licence categories to an adult whole season licence. The current ratio has been in place since the four new categories were introduced. These ratios that are applied are:

Licence category	ratio	licence fee
FWS (Whole season)	1	127
F24 (Day)	0.16	20
FSB (Short break)	0.36	46
FLB (Long break)	0.7	89
FWin (Winter)	0.6	76
FFam (Family)	1.3	165
FNR (Non-resident)	1.3	165
FLA (Local area)	0.8	102
FLS Loyal senior)	0.85	108

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Colin Sherrard)

**Agreed to set up a review of licence ratios to improve income and maintain customer satisfaction**

## 12. Promote more youth & women candidates for 2018 Elections

It has been of some concern for the NZ Council, and an issue raised by the current Minister of Conservation, that Fish & Game is unduly represented by older, white males. Discussion focused on what if anything might be done to help promote greater participation by youth and women in the organisation, especially in an election and governor context. No suggestions were agreed but it was suggested councils' might consider co-opting youth and/or women representation if suitable candidates did not come forward.

## 13. Material to up-date for 2018 Elections

For each election several documents are produced and made available. These include candidate profiles, candidate handbooks, candidacy application forms, etc. There was no further discussion on what else might be useful. However, it was agreed that draft updates of current material will be circulated to regions for comment.

3.00 pm. At this point, the Friday joint meeting with managers ended. The Chairperson in closing this part of the meeting acknowledged the contribution from everyone and gave special thanks to managers and the knowledge they shared.

*Afternoon tea break*

Regional managers left the meeting following afternoon tea.

### **3.45 pm the meeting recommenced, with NZ Council and its staff present.**

It was decided that in the time available for the remainder of the afternoon the meeting would consider public meeting agenda items and leave the public excluded session (minutes from the last public excluded meeting and the strategic vision workshop) until first thing Saturday.

## 14. Response to the Joint Meeting

The Chairperson asked for the meeting's response to the format of Friday and how helpful or useful the Council found holding a joint meeting with managers. The meeting went well and helped people to get to know each other. It allowed NZ Council to get involved and share in the dialogue.

### **15. NZ Council 2017/18 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 3**

The purpose of this paper is to update the NZ Council financial position to the month ended 31 March 2018.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/John Cumberpatch)

**That the NZ Council Financial Report as at 31 March 2018 be accepted.**

The improvements in the financial reporting was noted and greatly appreciated. Councillors complimented Carmel for her contribution.

### **16. National Financial Report to 31 March 2018**

This provides an update on the YTD expenditure by Council against the 13 budgets. Overall the combined regions and NZ Council are sitting at 50.19% of total budget spent.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Chris Owen)

**That the National Financial Report as at 31 March 2018 be accepted.**

The financial situation with North Canterbury and its contestable funding bids (item 6 above) generated further discussion.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Paul Dixon-Didier)

**That the NZ Council conduct a review of hatchery decisions by North Canterbury, NZ Council and managers to establish the total cost of budget overruns from 2009 and decisions that lead to those.**

### **17. Confirmation of Minutes from March 16 & 17 2018 Meeting**

Nothing was identified in the minutes requiring further resolution.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Kevin Williams)

**That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 16 & 17 March 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

### **18. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings**

Points were clarified on some items, others were agreed to be removed, but no further action was recorded.

### **19. Environmental Scan**

This item is intended to last up to 30 minutes and allows councillors to raise or comment on recent media issues or matters occurring in the regions. Subjects raised at this meeting included:

- Northland Regional Council is continuing to request black swan and paradise shelduck to be removed from the 1<sup>st</sup> schedule of the Wildlife Act.
- Sedimentation in Bullet Creek, Wanaka has resulted in an abatement order being issued to an adjoining developer.
- Spray and pray can often result in sedimentation and is a big problem. Examples in the Central South Island and Eastern regions were cited.
- A question was raised about access for duck hunters on the JK Donald Block at Lake Wairarapa once the reserve goes back to Iwi. This Block has been the recipient of Game Bird Habitat Trust grants.

- Environmental improvement by Transit NZ in the Huntly area has received close to a million dollars. IT was questioned whether this has been funding wisely used or whether Fish & Game could have used it more effectively in this area.
- The subject of cycleways, with the example of the Para Wetland in the Nelson/Marlborough region being cited, continues to raise issues for game bird hunters.

## **20. Health & Safety Bi-Monthly Report**

A NZ Council health and safety policy was approved in July 2016. This policy is now supported by bi-monthly reporting to Council on health & safety action as recorded by Council staff.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Kevin Williams)

**That the Health & Safety report for April 2018 be received.**

## **21. CE Activity Report**

The CEO for the NZ Council reported on activity he has participated in over the last 6 weeks since last reporting to Council.

Resolved: (Alan Flynn/Chris Owen)

**Note the contents of this April 2018 CEO Activities Report.**

*Meeting closed at 5.05 pm Friday.*

**Saturday 28 April 2018**

8.25 am

The second day's meeting Saturday morning commenced with the following present:

### **NZ Councillors**

Lindsay Lyons (Chairperson), Noel Birchall, John Cumberpatch, Paul Dixon-Didier, Alan Flynn, Matthew Hall, Andy Harris, John Jillett, Andrew Morris, Chris Owen, Colin Sherrard, and Kevin Williams.

### **In Attendance**

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Don Rood Communications Manager, Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

The meeting began by moving into a

## **22. Public Excluded session of the meeting**

8.30 am Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier/Kevin Williams)

**To move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting**

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.*

**That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:**

- Minutes from the last meeting taken in public excluded.**
- Strategic planning workshop**

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:

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PLAIN ENGLISH REASON</b>	<b>WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED</b>
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

**Note**

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

*Time: Saturday, 9.45 am*

Resolved: (John Jillett/Andrew Morris)

**To move out of Public Excluded and back into a Public meeting.**

### **23. Specific letters to be considered**

Letters had been received and required consideration by the NZ Council. These included the following:

- a. Letter from Federated Farmers dated 6 April 2018 included an unfortunate reference to personalities. This was not accepted as “good form”.



- b. Submission on Overseas Investment Amendment Bill was prepared within a limited timeframe and completed in support of the Federated Mountains Clubs submission.
- c. Federation of Freshwater Anglers letter was tabled and discussed.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/John Jillett)

**That the specific letters be received.**

*Saturday morning tea break.*

## **24. NZ Council Staff Activities Report**

Council staff presented their report of activities over the last 6 weeks since last reporting to Council. Questions were asked on several points, but no issues raised with the paper being accepted.

## **25. RM/Legal Update Report**

This item provides an update for those legal projects already approved and where there has been some action since reported in September 2017. Several inconsistencies were identified in the update report. An observation made in looking at two updates was that reports from recipients of grants for attendance to international conferences etc, need to be reminded to provide a report for Fish and Game NZ.

It was agreed that in future the update be provided in the form of a spreadsheet with a word document providing supportive information.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

**That the April 2018 RM Legal Update report be received.**

## **26. RM/Legal Application**

An application for additional funding has been submitted by Central South Island Fish & Game Council for the second suite of resource consent applications lodged by Rangitata Diversion Race Limited (RDR) to cover numerous hearing delays and extension requests by RDR. The recommendation is for \$68,320.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/John Cumberpatch)

**The application by Central South Island Fish and Game Council for funding against an RDR resource consent application be approved for funding from Central South Island Council's reserves for an amount up to \$68,320.**

## **27. Research Programme Update Report**

This item provides an update for those research projects already approved and where there has been some action since reported in September 2017. Similar to the RM/Legal update it was agreed that a spreadsheet accompanied by supportive information be used in future.

Resolved: (Andy Harris/Matthew Hall)

**That the April 2018 research Programme update report be received.**

## **28. National licence sales & licence systems update**

An update on licence sales was provided with a comparison of YTD figures to 11 April 2018 for the 2017/18 seasons. The report and accompanying tables/figures were explained and discussed.

Discussion moved to licence category ratios with a view of being implemented in time for the coming fishing season. Categories proposed for consideration included day licence price (with 3-day or short break category being included), along with new categories involving a day non-resident licence and a child day non-resident licence. The meeting recognised the need to consult with regions over amending ratios and introducing new categories and saw the opportunity to do this at the same time as consulting about the new season licence fees.

Resolved (Andrew Morris/Paul Dixon-Didier)

**That Noel Birchall draft new ratio and licence categories to be included for consideration by regions at the same time as they are consulted about 2018/19 licence fees.**

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

**That the national licence sales report for April 2018 be received.**

## 29. Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their participation.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.05 pm Saturday 28 April 2018.

Confirmed:  .....

Date: 28 / 04 / 2018