

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 14 February 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Present: S Bannister M Hall
P Centofanti D Isbister
D de Joux (Chairman) L Koevoet
S Gerard C McKenzie
B Growcott A Simpson
J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

In Attendance:

Staff: J Graybill (Chief Executive), B Dolan (Office Administrator), A Christensen (Resource Officer), R Adams (Fish and Game Officer), M Webb (Fish and Game Officer), H Stevens (Fish and Game Officer), and J Couper (Fish and Game Officer).

Members of the Public: 25.

19-001 APOLOGIES:

A Brooks, C Fulton.

Resolved (Growcott/Simpson)

19-001

THAT THE APOLOGIES OF A BROOKS AND C FULTON BE ACCEPTED.

19-002 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chairman queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register. No additions were notified.

19-003 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and assembly points for evacuation of the premises.

19-004 NOTIFIED GENERAL BUSINESS:

None.

19-005 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 13 DECEMBER 2018

S Gerard asked that the following words, “*as it relates to value for money of that expenditure*”, be added on 071.4 (top up funding for RDR consents) to give a better understanding to what he said on the night. The sentence would therefore be amended to read:

“*S Gerard stated he was uncomfortable with expenditure for this and Bowyers as it relates to value for money of that expenditure.*”

Chairman commented that he didn't agree with statements in first paragraph for topic 071.4 (top up funding for RDR consents) and was uncomfortable with the wording. D Isbister queried what part of the paragraph was incorrect? Chairman replied that there was an inference that CSI had been coerced to join the appeal to protect our ongoing position and values.

Chief Executive clarified that Council would not have needed to join the appeal as a s274 party if there had been no appeals to the Commissioner's decision. Because the decision was appealed

by other parties it was in the best interests of CSI Fish and Game to join as a s274 party to protect sports fish and game values.

A Simpson stated that if the Chairman felt the wording of the minutes was wrong then could he suggest what the correct wording should be? Chairman questioned if it was necessary to include that paragraph at all? S Gerard said he felt the Chief Executive summarised the position quite well and if that was the wording that was used at the previous meeting then that is the wording. A Simpson agreed that if that was what the Chief Executive said at the previous meeting then it should be in the minutes. He further stressed that Council is confirming whether the minutes are a true and correct record of the previous meeting. Chairman believed CSI were not coerced into joining the appeal yet there was an inference that CSI was. Chief Executive, A Simpson and D Isbister all pointed out that the word "coerced" did not appear in the minutes and re-iterated that Council are supposed to be confirming whether the minutes are a true and correct record.

Resolved (Koevoet/Gerard)

19-002

THAT THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 13 DECEMBER 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE CHANGE RELATED TO S GERARD'S ADDITION REGARDING "TOP UP FUNDING FOR RDR CONSENTS."

19-006 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

006.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Resolved (Centofanti/Koevoet)

19-003

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE EXPENSE LISTINGS FOR DECEMBER 2018 AND JANUARY 2019 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$73,436.62 AND \$97,373.99, RESPECTIVELY.

19-007 PUBLIC ISSUES FORUM:

007.1 Deputation on Sediment Baseline Study for the Rangitata (P Hodgson deputation)

P Hodgson addressed Council on the above topic advising that Salmon Anglers Association (SAA) have been concerned about the sediment in the Rangitata River and anglers feel that sediment build up in the river is affecting the fishery. He advised that anglers have engaged James Brasington from University of Waikato to undertake a baseline study on sediment from Klondyke to the sea as outlined in a joint statement prepared by the 3 sediment experts and at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000. SAA have put aside \$10,000 for the University of Waikato study and are asking CSI to contribute \$10,000 also. Discussion ensued with D Isbister asking what value will be placed on a study that is a snapshot in time and are anglers going to obtain the relevant information when taking in account the timeframe? P Hodgson replied that they needed to start somewhere and they are setting a baseline that includes digital mapping of the riverbed and photos of the river from a high viewpoint. That would then enable anglers to go to historical data and build a model for the river to look at the impact of sediment.

Chairman commented that he could see this will be worth gold for lots of parties and what they are proposing has a lot of relevance as anyone that knows the river knows it is silting up.

P Hodgson queried if Fish and Game have \$10,000 to advance their sediment study? Chief Executive responded that CSI Fish and Game have reserves but spending from reserves must go through a process. A case would need to be put forward as to the benefits of using expenditure from reserves.

Chairman stated that he had contacted Martin Taylor who advised him that CSI have enough funds to deal with the issue. Chief Executive re-iterated that spending money from reserves must go through a process. D Isbister queried if one of the conditions of the consent require RDR to undertake a sediment study and therefore pay for it themselves? A Christensen responded that the issued consent requires RDR to undertake fine sediment monitoring that must commence before they take the water.

Chief Executive addressed P Hodgson stating that in January he posed a number of questions to him via email and has not yet received a reply. He queried P Hodgson if the Salmon Anglers Assn expert had provided comment to the SAA on river morphology and fine sediment studies as he could advise that the CSI expert has for CSI. P Hodgson replied that James Brasington is co-ordinating with NIWA so they could have the whole river measured, looking at fine sediment.

D Isbister requested to hear what CSI experts' views are. Chief Executive replied that CSI had obtained an opinion from Murray Hicks on James Brasington's sediment project proposal and that Dr Hicks did not believe it addressed fine sediment deposition in wetted areas and would like further information.

Chairman thanked P Hodgson for this deputation and advised that his request would be considered by Council.

007.2 Deputation on Environment Court Appeal Funding (P de Joux)

Phil de Joux addressed the Council on behalf of the Salmon Anglers Association (SAA) requesting \$90,000 from CSI Fish and Game to assist with funding for the SAA to go to the Environment Court in relation to the RDR consents. Phil read from his paper that outlined the background and reasons for putting forward this request.

Chief Executive stated that CSI had not appealed the decision as he had a duty of care to maintain financial prudence and base decisions on firm evidence and legal advice. CSI had asked all of its experts to assess the decision of the Commissioners and recommend if they had further evidence likely to overturn the Commissioner's decision. Their advice was that they did not.

Chairman thanked P de Joux for this deputation and advised that his request would be considered by Council.

007.3 Deputation on DDT in the Opuha Dam (A Campbell and N Stone)

Allan Campbell addressed the Council with concerns of high levels of DDT and arsenic in trout from Lake Opuha. He provided Council with the background and history of the issue and requested that Fish and Game get trout from the lake re-tested to get clarity on whether the trout can be eaten or not.

Chairman thanked Messrs Campbell and Stone for their deputation and advised that Council would take advice on the issue.

19-008 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

008.1 2019/20 Game Gazette Review (9.1)

M Webb provided recommendations on the 2019/20 gamebird hunting conditions. The following recommendations resulted:

008.1.1 Mallard/Grey Duck

Resolved (Isbister/McKenzie)

19-004

- 1. THAT THE CURRENT DAILY LIMIT BAG FOR GREYLARDS PLUS SHOVELER (MAX 2 SHOVELER) REMAIN UNCHANGED AT 50 BIRDS.**

008.1.2 Paradise Shelduck

Resolved (Simpson/McKenzie)

19-005

- 1. THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF PARADISE SHELDUCK FOR 2019/20.**

008.1.3 Black Swan

Resolved (Centofanti/Isbister)

19-006

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF BLACK SWAN FOR 2019/20.

008.1.4 Shoveler and Pukeko

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

19-007

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF SHOVELER AND PUKEKO FOR 2019/20.

008.1.5 Quail, Pheasant and Chukar

Resolved (McKenzie/Koevoet)

19-008

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO GAME SEASON CONDITIONS CONTROLLING HARVEST OF QUAIL, PHEASANT AND CHUKAR FOR THE 2019/20 SEASON.

008.1.6 Remaining Gazette Changes

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet)

19-009

THAT THE FOLLOWING STANDARD CALENDAR CHANGES BE ACCEPTED:

- I WATERFOWL SEASON, 4 MAY TO 28 JULY 2019**
- II UPLAND GAME, 4 MAY TO 25 AUGUST 2019**
- III MID-SUMMER SEASON, 1/2 AND 8/9 FEBRUARY 2020**
- IV UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES WITH SPECIAL CONDITIONS, 4 MAY TO 25 AUGUST 2019 AND 1 APRIL TO 1 MAY 2020.**

008.2 Meeting Dates for the 2019 CSI Council Year (9.2)

Chief Executive advised that some adjustments have been made to include a March meeting this year due to NZ Council changing their date requirements for receiving information on Budgets and OWP's.

THAT CSI MEETINGS BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 2019:
THURSDAY 14 FEB 2019
**WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019 (ADDITIONAL MEETING AS A ONE-OFF TO
ALLOW FINALISING OF BUDGET AND OWP).**
THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2019
THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2019
THURSDAY 15 AUGUST 2019
THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2019
**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 (DATE TO BE ADVISED, DEPENDANT ON
COMPLETION OF FINANCIAL AUDIT).**

008.3 Draft OWP (9.3)

Chief Executive spoke to the draft Operational Work Plan provided with the meeting papers, built around the 8 functional areas from the Conservation Act. He advised that he had been made aware of a Councillor meeting to discuss input to the OWP yet he had received no report.

Chairman advised that no official notes were taken, and that Councillors could pass on their thoughts at tonight's meeting. D Isbister and L Koevoet stated that they were of the understanding that the Chairman was going to provide the Chief Executive with notes from that meeting for staff to take under consideration. Chairman advised he did not take notes as it was an informal meeting and that the meeting was just for ideas.

C McKenzie handed forward a list that he had compiled on the day to assist the CE. Chief Executive undertook to email the list to Councillors and request their input for consideration by staff as OWP objectives.

008.4 Annual Agenda (9.4)

Council considered the draft Annual Agenda provided in the Council meeting papers. It was:

Resolved (Koevoet/Bannister)

THAT THE ANNUAL AGENDA LIE ON THE TABLE UNTIL THE 13 MARCH 2019 COUNCIL MEETING AND DISCUSS WITH THE OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN.

008.5 Governance and Strategic Planning Sessions

Councillors were asked what times and dates suited them best to attend sessions on Governance and Strategic Planning. It was **AGREED** that evenings suited Councillors the best. Chief Executive advised G Nahkies was available the week of 25th Feb so dates would be finalised with G Nahkies and Councillors would be advised.

At 10:30 pm and in accordance with Standing Order 1.3.4 it was:

Resolved (A Simpson/P Centofanti)

09-012

THAT COUNCIL CONTINUE WITH THE AGENDA AND CONCLUDE THE MEETING AT 11 PM.

008.6 RDR Appeal (9.5)

008.6.1 Sediment Study Contribution Request

A Christensen provided a paper to Council on the Salmon Anglers Association (SAA) request that CSI contribute \$10k to help fund a “Sediment baseline study for the Rangitata River” which mentioned the RDR hearing decision.

CSIFG sought the expert opinion of Dr Murray Hicks to better understand the methodologies, goals and outcomes of the project in terms of the concerns raised around fine sediment during the RDR hearing, and the extent to which this might advance CSIFG's case in the 10-cumec appeal by SAA. CSIFG's sediment expert understands that while some useful information about river processes will be obtained from the project, the outline provided to date does not appear to address fine sediment and sand in low energy wetted areas/aquatic habitat (i.e., side braids, pools, along banks) or map substrate underwater.

As recommended in the expert's joint statement and as is common with project proposals, further details are required to properly assess a project including agreement on methodology, who will undertake the work, a timeframe for the monitoring and delivery of results, and an outline of financial responsibilities.

A general discussion ensued with some Councillors supportive of giving funding and others feeling it was an incomplete proposal and therefore could not be supported. In response to a query A Christensen clarified that the proposal could be reconsidered after CSI experts have studied the full scope of the proposal.

Chairman stated that we are only talking about \$10,000. M Hall responded that he felt Council had a responsibility to cover itself on this and keep itself safe. The whole thing is about risk management. The CSI Council could have costs charged against it so felt it was important to receive expert advice on this matter.

Resolved (Isbister/McKenzie) (5 for, 4 against)

19-013

THAT BECAUSE THE SAA'S SEDIMENT STUDY HAS NOT BEEN FULLY SCOPED, COSTED AND RECOMMENDED BY CSI'S EXPERTS AT THIS STAGE, CSI CANNOT AT THIS TIME APPROVE A \$10,000 CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY.

P Centofanti, S Gerard, D de Joux, and S Bannister asked that their votes against the motion be recorded.

P Hodgson requested that he be provided a copy of M Hick's opinion and the Chief Executive agreed to do so.

At 11:05 pm It was AGREED that the meeting be extended to finish this item on the agenda.

008.6.2 Environment Court Funding Request

A Christensen provided a paper in response to CSI being asked to contribute \$90,000 to help fund a case against RDR at the Environment Court. She stated that CSIFG ran a comprehensive case at the Canterbury Regional Council level hearing. This included evidence from Murray Hicks in terms of sediment and geomorphology and we are continuing to fund all of his work to date. CSIFG has sought Murray's feedback on all issues related to sediment raised through the appeal and mediation process and has passed this information on to the other parties to assist them. CSIFG is funding Murray's involvement in expert caucusing and informal discussions to advance understanding of potential sediment effects and proposals to study, monitor or manage those effects.

She added that CSI continues to consider the role it will take in the appeal and makes decisions based on the best information before us and the expert opinions and legal advice we receive.

Resolved (A Simpson/D Isbister)

19-014

THAT STAFF BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED AND TO LIAISE WITH OUR EXPERTS AND LEGAL COUNSEL, AS WELL AS THE APPELLANTS, SO THAT WE CAN GIVE COUNCIL AN INFORMED ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE ON OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN TERMS OF APPEAL INVOLVEMENT AND FUNDING IMPLICATIONS.

19-009 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 13 December 2018 (Continued) – PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:

Resolved (Hall/McKenzie) at 11:20 pm

19-015

THAT COUNCIL MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION TO APPROVE THE 13 DECEMBER 2018 PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES.

Meeting resumed in open forum at 11:22 pm.

Meeting closed: 11:22 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday 13 March 2019.

Signed



Date

13/3/19