

# NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 19 June 2019 At 595 Johns Road, Harewood Commencing at 6.29 pm

### 1. Present:

**Councillors:** Dave Coll, Rex Gibson, Stu Henderson, Roy Knight, Ken Lee, Phillip Musson, Richard O'Keefe, Alan Strong (Chair), Bill Southward, Graeme Nahkies, Paul Hodgson, Trevor Isitt, Christopher Brankin (Ngai Tahu)

**Staff:** Debbie Ambler, Richard Cosgrove

**In Attendance:** Larry Burke, Michael Bate, Dennis Gooch, Neil McMillan, Mike Agar, Paul Watts, Colin Eaton, Greg Tarras, Dennis Kelliher, Ivan Cameron, Allan Ashby, Peter Cairns, Roy Blunt, Phill Ball, Graeme Williams, Eddie Pearson, Ivan Cameron, Zane Grey and one other

### 2. Apologies:

**Councillors:** Daniel Maxwell, D O'Neill

**"That the apologies be accepted."**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Musson**

**CARRIED**

Cr Strong welcomed the public and advised that due to this being a formal Council meeting, public attendees would only have input at Agenda Item 8 "Public Session".

### 3. Notification of General Business

C Brankin – Walking Access Act Review

Cr Musson – Ratify Gamebird Regulations for 2019

Cr Strong – Discussion on Ecan meeting to be held on 24 June 2019 in Public Excluded.

Cr Strong – Ratify NCF&G representative on the Finance Review Committee.

### 4. Conflict of Interest:

Cr Musson - Shareholder in Fonterra

### 5. Confirmation of Minutes

#### a. Council Meeting Held 17 April 2019

- i. Under 4.c. Botulism/Toxic Poison on Waterfowl, Cr Coll requested a paragraph be added to explain the motion. D Ambler to complete.

**"That the Minutes from 17 April 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record."**

**Moved: Cr Coll**

**Seconded: Cr Southward**

**CARRIED**

#### b. Action Sheet

Points noted from Action Sheet;

- NZ Bequest Policy – completed;
- Botulism/Toxic poison on waterfowl - that a discussion with Dr Humphrey was required to be had and this be added to the Action Sheet. This subject be

included on the Agenda for the Councillor to Councillor with Ecan. Cr Coll stated the urgency of moving forward with this as there was enough evidence to do so.

- NZ Sport priorities to assist in setting NCF&G goals – completed.

## 6. Health and Safety

Staff allowances were to be cut from 1 June 2019 and all personal field equipment was now the responsibility of NCF&G. An Equipment Register to track equipment has been implemented.

## 7. Meeting Business

### 7c. For Decision

#### 7ci Angling Regulations Review 2019/2020

##### a. Winter Season

Zero bag limits and the promotion of catch and release during the winter season for trout has caused confusion among anglers. General feeling was bag limits were in place to manage fish numbers rather than relying on catch and release. Robust data was required on trout numbers in the lower reaches of rivers and the amount of harvest that occurs was required. However, to gather and build this information would take up to five years.

**“That this Council supports ceasing catch and release as a management tool and use either bag limits or season duration to manage harvest. Staff can’t make specific recommendations on this until there is more harvest data.**

**That the status quo stands until harvest data has been obtained and analysed to enable future decisions to be based on evidence.”**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Lee**

**CARRIED**

##### b. Avon River

**“That the Avon River downstream of the Barbadoes Street Bridge be open all year for trout fishing.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Southward**

**CARRIED**

##### c. Salmon Regulations

NCF&G and CSI have been working on an adaptive management strategy that apply trigger points on regulation changes based on escapement numbers and is still a work in progress with more time being needed to introduce to salmon anglers.

Discussion focused on the reasons why the fishing regulations required to be aligned with CSI.

**“That the salmon season be set from 1 December to 31 March.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Musson**

**CARRIED**

**Against Cr’s Knight, Hodgson and O’Keefe**

**“That the bag limit be set at one salmon per angler per day.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Hodgson**

**CARRIED**

**“That Council supports staff resources to be used to continue work on a season bag limit.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Isitt**

**CARRIED**

**“That NCF&G Council move to yearly regulations setting for salmon.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Knight**

**CARRIED**

**“That the river above the Waimakariri and Rakaia George bridges be closed to fishing for salmon upstream from 1 February each year.”**

**Moved: Cr Musson**

**Seconded: Cr Southward**

**4 Four / 6 Against  
FAILED**

Discussion on a voluntary season bag limit followed and how this would could be implemented.

**“That this Council undertakes to ensure the voluntary season bag limit is explained and promoted well for the 2019/2020 salmon fishing season.”**

**Moved: Cr O’Keefe**

**Seconded: Cr Isitt**

**CARRIED**

**7cii Confirmation of Licence Fee Increase**

R Cosgrove to get up to date data on proportions of salmon and trout anglers that assists in licence fee setting. R Cosgrove to seek explanation from NZC relating to the inequitable distribution from income v budgeted licence sales.

**“That this Council ratifies the decision (via email) in supporting the licence fee increase as outlined in the NZC licence fee recommendation.”**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Musson**

**CARRIED**

**7ciii Chair Role Description Proposal**

The meeting agreed to the Role of Chair Description proposal and would be added to the draft Charter being presented at the August Council meeting. Amendment to paragraph 4 a. to read The Chair is expected to be proactive in keeping the Council informed of initiatives taken on behalf of the Council *be advised through the Chairman’s Report.*

**7civ Council Committees**

Suggestion to form a ‘Chief Executive Employment Committee’ was made. Agreed to hold this paper pending review of the Advisory Committees.

**“That this Council endorses the Executive Committee to continue the employment process of the new CEO with shortlist profiles coming to a special Council meeting for final decision.”**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Coll**

**CARRIED**

**7cv Governance Workplan**

Council agreed on a direction for the Workplan going forward. Concern was raised regarding visibility/input of staff with Councillors and it was decided that a staff member would present on one of the four key priorities at forthcoming Council meetings;

Habitat and Restoration - 21 August meeting;

Stakeholder Engagement - 16 October meeting and;

Finance - 11 December meeting.

The Executive Committee be tasked in converting the recommendations made in this Report into a workplan and bring back to the 21 August meeting.

**“That this Council endorses the general direction of the Governance Workplan and its continued development.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong                      Seconded:                      CARRIED**

**7cvi Additional Tissue Sampling Winnemem Wintu Project**

Agreed that tighter control of this Project is necessary.

**“That this Council supports the new project for tissue sampling with the Winnemem Wintu people.”**

**Moved: Cr Isitt                      Seconded: Cr Musson                      CARRIED**

## **8. Public Session**

N McLean and G Tarris had confirmed their question that the salmon regulation changes were for one year only. Z Gray was concerned about the alignment of regulations between CSI and NC and C Eaton concerned about the reduction in fishing time would not translate in lower licence fees. The upshot of discussion was that stakeholders needed to be kept informed on issues at hand.

M Bate stated that solving the water pollution problems would help the duck and fish problems currently being experienced.

## **9 Reports**

### **9a. Chairman’s Report**

Cr Strong outlined an initiative between NC and The Complete Angler holding fishing classes at NC premises with a pod cast running alongside this. Points raised in his report were the successful running of the South Island Staff Conference, the advertising for the new CEO position, the fishing regulations review and meetings he had attended.

**“That the Chairman’s Report be adopted.”**

**Moved: Cr Gibson                      Seconded: Cr Isitt                      CARRIED**

### **9b. Finance Report**

Discussion on group buying power with R Knight taking topic to next NZC meeting.

R Cosgrove along with R O’Keefe to complete an internet/computer review.

Discussion on the use of volunteers and interns. That a full asset review was required.

**“That the Finance Report be accepted for the nine months ending 31 May 2019. The policy on capitalisation of Fixed Assets be reviewed by Council.”**

**Moved: Cr Gibson                      Seconded: Cr Musson                      CARRIED**

### **9c. Staff Reports**

Loss of staff contact was of concern and suggestion that one staff member per meeting present on particular projects that are currently being undertaken. It was then decided this be left to the discretion of the new CEO. That the Manager’s Report be used to summarise staff activities.

**“That the new CEO combine individual staff reports and present this as a Managers Report for future Council meetings.”**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr Gibson**

**CARRIED**

**1 against: Cr Isitt**

**9d. NZC Report**

R Knight reported on the licence fee recommendation, licence working party, the investigation of alternative income sources, budgets and NZ Chair/NZC meeting on 22 November 2019.

NZC was calling for volunteers to go on three committees; one being the Strategic Finance Committee which would consist of two NZ Councillors and two suitably qualified persons nominated by the 12 regional Councils.

**“That Cr O’Keefe be nominated for a position on the Strategic Finance Committee pending the Terms of Reference review”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Lee**

**CARRIED**

**9e. National Sea Run Salmon Committee Report**

To enable more data to be collected from stakeholders, a proposal to rename the Back Country fishery to Recreational fishery was being investigated. NCF&G to ask the NSRSC to consider a put and take fishery and the introduction of a salmon stamp or something similar, to assist in funding the fishery. It was decided;

**“To hold a workshop on enhancement and hatcheries, with a date yet to be decided”.**

**Moved: Cr Musson**

**Seconded: Cr Coll**

**CARRIED**

**“That the NSRSC report be accepted”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Knight**

**CARRIED**

**9f. Advisory Committee’s Reports**

After discussion, it was decided to wait for the advisory committee’s restructure and to have proper terms of reference before reactivating the Salmon and Trout Committee.

**9f i. Executive Committee Report**

Because the Agenda for this Report had not received, context was lost by not being included. It was decided;

**“That the Report be accepted and that the Agenda and minutes be resent to Councillors.”.**

**Moved: Cr Gibson**

**Seconded: Cr Hodgson**

**CARRIED**

**10. General Business**

10.1 After discussion on mixing genetics of wild salmon with hatchery grown salmon and not sourcing eggs from commercial growers it was decided;

**“That no commercial salmon stock be used in the NCF&G hatchery operations”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Southward**

**CARRIED**

10.2 C Brankin advised that the Walking Access review was underway.

10.3 Duck Shooting Regulations

**“That NCF&G Council formally ratify the Gamebird Regulations for the 2019 season that was voted on by email”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Coll**

**CARRIED**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm and moved into Public Excluded

**“That the meeting move into public excluded session at 10.10pm”.**

**Moved: Cr Strong**

**Seconded: Cr O’Keefe**

**CARRIED**

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019

6.30pm

595 Johns Road, Harewood