

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

At the **Council Meeting** on **3 Feb 2022** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING
Date:	Wednesday, 8 December 2021
Time:	3:37 pm to 5:10 pm
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, KEN LLOYD, NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TREVOR ISITT, GRAEME NAHKIES
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, RASMUS GABRIELSSON
Guests/Notes:	Dave Barron (Lateness), Lyndon Slater, Bill Southward, Steve Terry, Graeme Nahkies via Zoom

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

1.2 Karakia

1.3 Confirm Minutes

Inaugural Council Meeting 11 Nov 2021, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Cr Strong suggested adding P Musson to the Salmon / Trout Advisory Committee. As this was an operational committee that linked back to Council via the CEO it was deemed not necessary to have more than two governors connected to it. The status quo of two governors allocated the task to liaise with the CEO regarding this Committee would remain.



Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting on 11 November be adopted.

Decision Date:	8 Dec 2021
Mover:	DAVE COLL
Seconded:	PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome:	Approved



Establishment of Operational Committees

To provide terms of reference for each committee prior to their progress in the new year.

Due Date: 28 Feb 2022
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

1.4 Interests Register

1.5 Intro of Lyndon Slater

Lyndon Slater, new Environmental Officer, was introduced to Council. Lyndon gave a brief summary of his background, including some of the experiences and capabilities he is bringing to the team.

1.6 G Nahkies - Co-opted Member

G Nahkies accepted the position of Governance Specialist / advisor, and thanked Council for their confidence to invite him back for a further term.

Cr Barron joined the meeting at 3.48pm, and apologised for his late arrival.

2. 2021 Statement of Service Performance Report

2.1 Statement of Service Performance

D Ambler explained that due to delays from BDO, the final stamped Statement of Service Performance (SSP) Report was only received late this day so was unable to be included in the Board papers.

Cr O'Keefe stated he was concerned over some commentary in the Chairman's Report and stated that Councillors should have input into not only the Chairman's part but the whole SSP. He was also concerned the draft SSP was taken out of the Board papers viewing online. After checking Cr Strong explained that the removal of the SSP from Board Papers in the last day or two had been a mistake, explained that the Chairman's report was his responsibility to write, but also asked for clarification of what concerns Cr O'Keefe had?

Cr O'Keefe explained he was concerned over the statement by the Chair that "NZC members must be truly independent of their Regions". Cr Strong replied he wanted to see an independent and accountable NZC, and that this was in his opinion best achieved by the removal of the level of regional influence at NZC level.



Statement of Service Performance Report 2021

That the 2021 Statement of Service Performance Report 2021 be accepted.

Cr Musson abstained due to not having enough time to read the Report

Cr O'Keefe abstained because the draft Report was taken down off the Board Pro system

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconded: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

February 2022 Workshop - Board Pro training.

2.2 Pheasant Regulations

C Brankin spoke to the proposal to consult on the length of the pheasant season. He wanted to give stakeholders autonomy as to what three weekends they wanted which may include a longer spread to the length of the season.



Pheasant Regulations

This Council give authority for C Brankin and R Gabrielsson to consult stakeholders as to the length of and what weekends they wanted for the 2022 pheasant season.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: NIALL COSTER
Second: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved

3. For Decision

3.1 Black Swan Hunting Regulations

C Brankin spoke to the Report recommending the harvest of Black Swans be reduced, and explained that in his opinion the key steps recommended (1) lowering the bag limit for the main season (May - July) from 5 to 2 per day, (2) shortening the extended Black Swan hunting season, and (3) also lowering the daily bag limit to ten swans per day for the extended season would have little impact on licence holder hunting opportunities or activity.

Cr Isitt agreed with the previous speaker, and expressed concern that farmers were not using alternative methods to reduce nuisance and crop damage, such as bird scarers etc., and instead take the easy option of applying for and obtaining permits to cull bird numbers. After discussion it was agreed that this process and swan regulations requires review. Cr Isitt explained that he would prefer to see the cultural practice of harvesting swan eggs used more widely to help manage swan population levels, rather than rely primarily on shooting to control numbers and reduce crop predation.

Cr Strong stated that a wider review would be scheduled, but also reminded council that decision on the matters put out for consultation in the annual regulation review would be required by early February 2022.



Black Swan Hunting Regulations

That NCFG Council support the following recommendation:

1. C Brankin and R Gabrielsson be directed to consult licence holders, Ngāi Tahu, and relevant landowners on a strategy for the management of black swans.
- 2 Consultation will include intention of Council to amend regulations no later than early February 2022 in key areas:
 - a. allow for the harvest of 2 black swans a day for the regular gamebird season (May – July)
 - b. improve monitoring and reporting of swan harvest and control permits by establishing an appropriate Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere management unit to the “Definitions of Areas” – currently only Area A and Area B
 - c. reconsider the need and purpose of the extended swan season (Aug-Sept), and amend regulations by adopting one of the three proposed options

OPTION 1 – status quo / no changes to current game bird regulations
(not preferred)

OPTION 2 – the extended swan season to be abandoned (not preferred)

OPTION 3 – allow for a harvest of 10 swans a day for a reduced extended season (Aug only) aligned with the end of the quail season, AND establish exclusion zones around known swan breeding colonies to provide sanctuary and protection for nesting swans during the extended season (preferred option)

The preferred options provide a compromise with the recommendation from the Summary Report and could be presented as an interim measure while further work is done to develop an long-term approach to swan management that protects all parties values.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Second: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

4. For Discussion

4.1 Staff / Guest Speaker Presentations

It was decided that the presentation by Steve Terry would be held over to the Annual General Meeting, to save time. It was also explained that B Cogan had notified staff that he was unfortunately unable to make the AGM, but expressed his desire to do his presentation at a later date.

4.2 Decline of the Sea Run Trout Fishery

Cr Isitt outlined the amount of juvenile fish being lost down irrigation channels and on the amount of non compliant fish screens. That a coloration with CSI Council to find a way forward to access the extent of the problem, then find out a way forward. The need to hold agencies (ECan, farmers) to account.

R Gabrielsson stated that fish screens were a significant area of concern and would require advocacy and hard evidence. Favoured scheduling joint discussions with CSI. Require these meetings to be completed prior to any alignment of strategic priorities yet to be discussed by Governors.



Decline of the Sea Run Trout Fishery

The the proposed motion by Cr Isitt (listed below) be declined:

That staff immediately prepare an updated Report on fish screens, and a joint meeting is organised with CSI staff and councilors about this pre Christmas. Any current reports should also be sent to Councillors.

Cr Isitt - against - lack of urgency.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: KEN LLOYD
Seconded: RICHARD O'KEEFE



Decline in Sea Run Trout Fishery

Staff prepare a report on fish screens issues for the February 2022 governance workshops to aid councils strategic priority setting.

Due Date: 28 Feb 2022
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

5. Standard Reports

5.1 Chairman's Report



Chairman's Report

That the Chairman's Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconded: DAVE BARRON
Outcome: Approved

5.2 CE Report

R Gabrielsson was asked to add to his CE Report topics discussed at informal Managers meetings. Minutes from other regular manager's meeting to be circulated to Councillors once received.



CE Report

That the CE's Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconded: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

5.3 Finance Report

In reply to Cr O'Keefe, R Gabrielsson stated a more detailed cashflow report and analysis of council expenditure could be made available to the finance committee, but that the level of micro detail was not considered helpful for general council meeting.

Cr Musson and the Chairman both stated they were both happy with the level of detail and financial overview currently provided.

R Gabrielsson also confirmed that he expected the budget review for the Freshwater Improvement Fund project to be finalised in collaboration with MfE, so that the final three year HCWWP budget plan can be presented at the 2022 February workshop.



Finance Report

That the October 21 Finance Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

5.4 Health and Safety Report

R Gabrielsson stated there would be a need for significant training and skills courses for new staff member that will be joining the staff team early next year.

C Brankin asked about a Health and safety process for volunteers for Covid 19.



Health and Safety Report

That the Health and Safety Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

5.5 NZC Report

Cr Lloyd asked if the NZC finance review panel was a independent one or not - and this was suggested as a topic for February 2022 workshops discussions.

Cr Coll stated there would be consultation to regions regarding a discount for disabled persons, or some form of Disability Licence. It was noted that because Fish & Game license's are sold regionally but can be used nationally it is important (but may be difficult) to establish a clear definition(s) and consistency on the types of "disability" eligible for the proposed licence discounts.



NZC Report

That the NZC Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 8 Dec 2021
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Outcome: Approved

6. Close Meeting

6.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

Signature: _____

Date: _____