

One hundred and thirty-third meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
The Dominion Building 78 Victoria Street, Wellington
Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd September 2018
Commencing 9.15 am

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

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

In Attendance

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Don Rood Communications Manager, Carmel Veitch Finance.

Present:

Anne Marie Baker (Anderson Lloyd) Friday
Steve Doughty (R3 Consultant) Saturday

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

The meeting started early at 9.05am and the Chairperson in welcoming everyone made particular note that this 133rd meeting was the first in the NZ Council Office's new premises.

2. Apologies

Robert Sowman (Policy & Planning Manager).

3. Conflicts of Interest Register

Councillors sign the register to say yes or no to whether there were any topics being discussed at this meeting they perceive to be a potential conflict of interest (COI). A COI sheet was passed around at the meeting to allow people to note any conflicts with the listed September agenda items.

Ron Stuart questioned if he had a conflict of interest in relation to the North Canterbury F&G audit and declined to sign the register. The chair said a conflict of interest was not negative, it was just a statement to ensure any debate was seen to be transparent and fully informed.

4. Councillor only time

The Chairperson asked that the meeting include a brief Councillor only session for members to catch-up on events that have been occurring since the last meeting in July. The meeting resumed at 9.25am

5. Confirmation of Minutes from 19 July 2018 Meeting

Nothing was identified in the minutes requiring further resolution.

Carmel Veitch pointed out a correction was needed in item number 9. This was made.

Resolved: Paul Dixon Didier seconded by John Jillett

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 19 July 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

6. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

No further action was recorded.

7. Environmental Scan

9.30am 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:

- Spending priorities
- Public perception of water quality
- Local government action/inaction on water quality

The meeting began by moving into a

8. Public Excluded Session of the meeting

9.50 am Resolved: (Andrew Morris seconded by Chris Owen)

Discussion over conflict of interest ensued. A vote was taken on the issue of whether the NZC councillor from the region being audited should excuse themselves from the meeting during discussion of the audit.

The vote on North Canterbury was 10 in favour of the councillor leaving the room, one against and one abstention.

Ron Stuart left the meeting at 10.05am.

A show of hands was taken on whether other councillors from regions being audited should also leave the room for any discussion on any audit. The result was that they should stay 10 votes in favour and one abstention.

(Andrew Morris seconded by Chris Owen)

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:

- a. Minutes from the last meeting taken in public excluded.**

Accepted: Unanimously accepted

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

Resolved: Proposed by Ron Stuart and seconded by Kevin Williams

The meeting moved out of Public Excluded at 2.50pm.

9 Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill

Resolved: The Chief Executive's report and recommendations be accepted.

Proposed by Paul Dixon-Didier and seconded by Andrew Morris

10. Wellington Fish and Game Council's letter re All Council Budgets

Discussion was held on how budgets are set for Fish & Game nationally and for regions at the moment and how they should be done in the future.

It was noted that Wellington Fish & Game argues that the existing funding structure is illogical and hard to justify.

As an example of changing costs, Wellington's point about law changes requiring diversion over reparation are putting more costs on regions was also noted.

The Chief Executive told NZC that the remedy requires structural change to the entire organisation and while this is complex, a review is needed.

Recommendation: Review all councils to establish baseline funding, assets and reserves. Vote of thanks to Wellington Fish & Game and its chairman for the recommendation.

Resolved: Proposed by Noel Birchall and seconded by Paul Dixon-Didier

11. NZ Council 2017/18 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 5

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

Resolved: The report was accepted.

Proposed by Andrew Morris seconded by Kevin Williams

That the NZ Council Financial Bi-Monthly Report No 5 be accepted.

12. National Financial Report to 31 August 2018

This provides an update on the YTD expenditure by Council against the 13 budgets 100% through the financial year. Overall the combined regions and NZ Council are sitting at 87% of total budget spent.

Resolved: That the National Financial Report as at 31 August 2018 be accepted.

Proposed by Kevin Williams seconded by Andy Harris

13. NZ Council Budget for 2018/19

The budget for the NZ Council for the 2018/19 financial year was presented and discussed.

The Business Plan highlights a new format to follow the Office of the Auditor General's recommended reporting format. The Council is also being asked to consider the adoption of a three-year work plan.

Resolved:

That the NZ Council adopt the proposed new format and three-year plan for the 2018-2021 period.

Proposed by Ron Stuart seconded by John Jillett

14. RM/Legal Applications

None received.

15. Request to use Reserves – Otago office building upgrade

Otago Fish and Game Council owns its office building on the corner of Hanover and Harrow Streets in Dunedin. It leases part of the lower floor to Window Treatments Ltd. The lease is up for renewal and the tenants have asked for an urgent upgrade.

Resolved: Andrew Morris seconded by Kevin Williams

That Otago Fish and Game Council be allowed to spend up to \$66,000 from its own reserves to update the tenanted space in the Dunedin Fish and Game building and its adjoining foyer and entranceway.

16. Business Plan 2017/18 – Reporting on Results

Reporting of results of the New Zealand Council 2017/18 Business Plan against the outputs is provided as an end of year account of performance.

Resolved: Allan Flynn seconded by Chris Owen

That the NZ Council agree that the Reporting of Results on the New Zealand Council 2017/18 Business Plan records an acceptable level of performance

The meeting ended for Friday 21 September at 4.45pm

The meeting resumed on Saturday 22 September at 8.30am

Acknowledgement was made of the long service to Fish & Game at both a national and regional level of Dan Madsen (?) of Auckland/Waikato and Peter Robinson of North Canterbury. Mr Madsen recently passed away and Mr Robinson is stepping down as a councillor, having previously served as both a NZC councillor and chair.

Resolved: Ron Stuart and seconded by Colin Sherrard

17. NZ Council Business Plan for 2018/19

The Business Plan highlights a new format to follow the Office of the Auditor General's recommended reporting format. The Council is also being asked to consider the adoption of a three-year work plan.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris seconded by Kevin Williams)

That the NZ Council adopt the proposed new format and three-year plan for the 2018-2021 period.

18. 2019 Meeting Schedule

The 2019 meeting schedule sets out meeting dates for the NZ Council over the year, including a Governors meeting of all Fish and Game Chairpersons in February 2019.

Resolved: (Paul Dixon-Didier seconded by Chris Owen)

That the NZ Council meetings for 2019 will be per the schedule listed in the September Agenda papers and incorporate changes, as discussed and agreed at this meeting. It was also suggested alternative ways should be explored and trialled to reduce the costs of meetings outside Wellington.

19. Salmonid Stocking Review – Cawthron Institute Report

Cawthron was asked to provide an independent review summarising the known research and the efficacy of stocking to create or sustain fish populations in the wild. Regional managers propose a working party be established to draft national policy based on the recommendations of this report.

Discussion on the report asked that there be work done establishing best practice on running a hatchery, best practice on stocking practices. It also suggested that a peer review of the report by Canadian salmon expert Dave Willis, who spoke at the 2017 Salmon Symposium.

Resourcing was also raised as an issue that needs to be addressed.

Resolved: (Chris Owen seconded by Paul Dixon-Didier)
John Jillett asked that his abstention be recorded.

- 1. That the Salmonid Stocking report from Cawthron Institute be received.**
- 2. That the NZ Council agree to the establishment of a working party, with particular emphasis on work establishing best practice on running a hatchery and stocking practices, to draft national policy for NZ Council consideration and once approved, then consultation with Fish and Game Councils. It is noted the Eastern Region's knowledge and experience needs to be the basis of the hatchery guidelines.**

20. Water Conservation Orders

Discussion on this issue was held in the Public Excluded Session.

21. National Sea-run Salmon Committee update

The Salmon Committee met in Christchurch on Friday 14th September. Two items on the agenda were responses from Fish and Game Councils on the Committee's letter and the options proposed and the Committee's consideration of the Cawthron Stocking Review report.

Resolved: (Chris Owen seconded by Andrew Morris)

Note the contents of this September 2018 Salmon Committee update report.

22. R3 Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation update

Consultant Steve Doughty joined the meeting at 9.35am and delivered a power point presentation on implementing the R3 programme.

The meeting broke at 10.39 for morning tea. It resumed at 10.56am.

23. NZ Council Staff Activities Report

Council staff presented their report of activities over two months since last reporting to Council. Questions were asked on several points including the guides' licence, definition of a non-resident, eligibility to stand for Fish & Game elections. Congratulations were extended to staff for the content and readability of the report.

Resolved (Noel Birchall and seconded by John Jillett)

That the September 2018 staff activities report be received.

24. 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: (Colin Sherrard and seconded by Andy Harris)

That the September 2018 Health & Safety report be received.

25. RM/Legal Update Report

This item provides an update for those legal projects already approved. The update is provided as a spreadsheet listing projects by region.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris seconded by Andy Harris)

That the September 2018 RM Legal Update report be received.

26. Research Programme Update Report

This item provides an update for those research projects already approved. It consists of a word document providing supportive information and an appended financial spreadsheet.

Resolved: (Ron Stuart seconded by Andrew Morris)

That the September 2018 research Programme update report be received.

27. National licence sales update

An update on licence sales was provided as an Excel spreadsheet with a comparison of YTD figures for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons.

Resolved (Ron Stuart and seconded by Kevin Williams)

That the September 2018 licence sales update be received for information.

28. General Business

A wide-ranging discussion was held on a range of issues including the current elections and trout farming.

29. Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their participation.

The NZC councillors passed on their congratulations and appreciation to Kym Nairne for her hard work, professionalism and commitment to ensuring the recent shift from Ngauranga to the new offices went so smoothly.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.40 pm Saturday 22 September 2018.

Confirmed: 

Date: 13 / 11 / 2018