

One hundred and thirty-fifth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Wellington

Saturday 16 February 2019

Commencing 8.45 am

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

Noel Birchall, Nigel Juby, Lindsay Lyons, Kevin Williams, Alan Flynn, Paul Shortis, Bill O’Leary, Andy Harris, Roy Knight (arrived 8.45 am), Dan Isbister, Colin Weatherall, and Chris Owen.

In Attendance

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

Present:

Bruce Robinson Auditor

INTRODUCTION

1. Appointment of Chairperson and Committee Members

The Chief Executive called for nominations for the position of New Zealand Fish and Game Council Chairperson. Voting agreed to be by show of hands.

Nominated: Lindsay Lyons was nominated by Colin Weatherall/Noel Birchall

There being no further nominations, Lindsay Lyons was declared the new Chairperson of the Council and assumed the Chair.

Lindsay Lyons thanked his colleagues for the confidence they have shown in electing him Chairperson. He quickly reviewed the positive events of the Council’s recent past. It is a team effort to make a great council. It is a privilege to be part of Fish and Game. Feel free to ring Lindsay at any time.

The role of the Executive Committee was outlined, and the Chairperson highlighted the role it has played and acknowledged the previous Executive Committee for the assistance it has provided during the last triennium.

The Chairperson called for nominations for the positions of **NZ Council Executive Committee**.

Nominated: Noel Birchall (Kevin Williams/Chris Owen)

Nominated Chris Owen (Kevin Williams/Nigel Juby)

Nominated Dan Isbister (Andy Harris/Paul Shortis)
Dan withdrew his nomination.

Nominated Paul Shortis (Chris Owen/Nigel Juby)

There being no further nominations, it was resolved: (Kevin Williams/Lindsay Lyons)

That the members of the Executive Committee be Lindsay Lyons (Chair), Noel Birchall, Chris Owen and Paul Shortis.

Welcome

The Chairperson in welcoming everyone extended a welcome to new appointees (Bill O’Leary and Roy Knight) for whom this is a first NZ Council meeting as appointees.

The Chairperson also acknowledged the contribution of Don Rood who is leaving the NZ Council Office staff at the end of February. Don has made a significant contribution and his humour and knowledge has been much appreciated.

2. Apologies

No apologies received.

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 November agenda items.

4. Confirmation of Minutes from 23 & 25 November 2018 Meeting

Page 11 resolution on Game Preserves should have included reference to moving non-compliant preserves with the Wildlife Act.

Page 2 Apologies for Sunday. Change the word absence to apologies.

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Alan Flynn)

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 23 & 25 November 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

Discussion followed listed topics.

Auditors have been spoken to about elections.

Letter has been received from Otago. Its reserves are above the minimum

Meeting schedules to reduce costs remains under consideration. It was suggested meeting of governors was another way of meeting up with regional representatives and interests without all traveling to each location.

6. Public Excluded Meeting

9.08 am Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/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.**
- b. **CE Advocacy Report**
- c. **North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Audit Update**
- d. **Other NZ Council Audits**
- e. **Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions**
- f. **NZ Council Approach to Contestable Funding Bid Process**
- g. **Jardin Mile issues**

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:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
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:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
XX.	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)(be)(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.
	Maintain legal professional privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.
	Enable a Minister of the Crown or any Department or organisation holding information to carry out without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	Sec.9(2)(j)	To enable the Council to discuss the information without improper gain or advantage being given to third parties.	Once agreement has been reached or contract signed.

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: 2.15 pm

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Nigel Juby)

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

7. Governors Forum outcomes

Several points raised during discussion at the Forum were suggested for consideration, such as general election policy preparation, end of tenure review and access, and biodiversity. Support for another governors meeting was noted. It was agreed to have the regional chairs together at least once a year. A request was made for copies of all PowerPoints shown on the day.

8. Strategic Plan & Business Plan for 2018 – 2021

A strategic plan was considered by NZ Council in November 2017 and approved in March 2018. The Business Plan had been created to support that earlier document. The strategic plan contains three goals each supported by a set of measurable objectives.

A list of issues, benefits and options in a position paper would help determine what might be added to a future business plan.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Andy Harris)

That the NZ Council

- 1. Note the 2018/21 Business Plan when it is forming other resolutions that will impact on the strategic direction or expressed outcomes in the three-year plan**
- 2. Agree to approve the 2018/21 Strategic Plan and accompanying 3-year (2018/21) business plan**
- 3. Agree to make future decisions that supports the plan**
- 4. Request a paper on the costs and benefits of establishing a central RMA legal function.**

9. NZ Council 2018/19 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 2

The purpose of this paper is to update the NZ Council financial position to the month ended 31 December 2018. To date the Net deficit of \$310,775 – against a budget deficit YTD of \$402,927. The main variance areas are the Election overspend and Regional Audit costs.

The storage of art is to be considered at a future meeting.

Discussion followed on what information is available on the outcome of RM/Legal spending. It was proposed to amend the RM/Legal application process to include a report back on the outcome.

Another suggestion was a sunset clause to say if not utilised within a given period the money is returned to the fund.

There was discussion on reviewing budgets and exploring the impacts associated with a three year cycle whereby every third year a ground up budget process was employed to ensure funds area applied for the purpose they were allocated and redundant allocated funding was eliminated.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Kevin Williams)

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

10. NZ Council Contestable Fund Bids

Consideration was given to contestable fund bids for the NZ Council include in its 2019/20 budget. Seven bids were proposed.

Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/Bill O’Leary)

Support the R3 Co-ordinator contestable fund bid for \$86,000 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council meeting.

Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/Dan Isbister)

Support the RMA legal spend contestable bid for \$430,000 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council meeting.

Resolved: (Dan Isbister/Colin Weatherall)

Support the Sea-run Salmon Committee contestable bid for \$40,000 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council meeting.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Chris Owen)

Support the Election Cost contestable bid for \$15,000 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council meeting.

Resolved: (Andy Harris/Noel Birchall)

Support the Salaries Regional Support contestable bid for \$10,400 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council Meeting.

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Kevin Williams)

Support the Budget Baseline Review contestable bid for \$15,600 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council meeting.

Resolved: (Bill O'Leary/Nigel Juby)

Support the Salaries CPI Review contestable bid for \$13,489 going through for consideration in the April NZ Council meeting.

Resolved (Colin Weatherall/Chris Owen)

That a contestable fund bid for \$188,000 be included to build up the New Zealand Council reserves

11. National Financial Report to 31 December 2018

This provides an update on the YTD expenditure by Council against the 13 budgets 25% through the financial year. Overall the combined 13 councils are sitting at 33% of total budget spent.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Andy Harris)

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

12. Fishandgame.org.nz Accounts

Enquiries have been made as to whether NZ Councilors could have a Fish and Game email address rather than have to use their own private emails for Council business. Council did not support this proposal.

13. 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 November 2018. Like the RM/Legal update, it consists of a spreadsheet but with a word document providing supportive information.

It was proposed future research projects to include a report back on the outcome achieved at the end of the project. Another suggestion, as agreed with RM/Legal funding above, was a sunset clause to say if not utilised within a given period the money is returned to the fund.
Project 74 – Cost Benefit analysis of sports fish hatcheries – was discussed.

Resolved (Noel Birchall/Chris Owen)

That the Cost Benefit Analysis of sports fish hatcheries be withdrawn from the research fund.

That the February 2019 Research Programme update report be received.

14. Correspondence to be considered

Five letters to the NZ Council Chairperson have been received and referred to the Council for consideration and a response. In some cases, a submission or letter was prepared and circulated for Council consideration and acceptance with release before the February meeting.

Agreed to acknowledge Otago F&G Council letter and register their wish for a good outcome.

Many of the points raised by the Auckland/Waikato F&G Council letter of 19 November 2018 have been addressed. Reasons for use of public excluded can be defended given the sensitivity of current issues.

The letter from Southland on restricting a non-resident licence as a local area licence requires a supporting options paper to put forward out all possibilities. There is not enough information to make a decision on this now. The range of options needs to be developed by managers and invite Southland to “hold the pen”.

15. Reports to be received

Councillors acknowledge the information provided and make particular thanks to staff for input into the Infringement Systems Bill and its enactment.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Paul Shortis)

The decision was to accept all reports listed under the heading of Reports to be Received.

16. Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their participation and a special thanks to new councillors and the amount of discussion from everyone. Best wishes to Don Rood for his last NZ Council meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.15 pm Saturday 16 February 2019.

Confirmed:

Date:/...../2019