

One hundred and fifty seventh meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
30th April & 1st May 2022
West Plaza Hotel, Wellington

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Ray Grubb (Chair), Debbie Oakley, Dave Harris, Dave Coll, Gerard Karalus, Greg Duley, Linn Koevoet, Barrie Barnes, Dean Phibbs, Tom Kroos, Darryl Reardon and Richard McIntyre (via zoom)

NZC Staff:

Brian Anderton, Acting Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch, CFO, Jillie Steedman, Taranaki Fish and Game (to take minutes)

Guests

Some Regional Fish and Game Council Chairs
Edward Ellison, Chair NZ Conservation Authority

1. Welcome and Chair's Introduction

- Meeting started at 2:30pm Friday 30th April.
- Chair welcomed NZC Councillors and Regional Chair's.
- Chair outlined some amendments to the order of the agenda so that Councillors with particular interest can be present.
- Chair noted Edward Ellison, who is the Chair of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, will be joining the meeting 1st May at 10:30.

2. Apologies

Debbie Oakley for Sunday.

3. Conflicts of Interest

Darryl Reardon (Northland region), Dave Coll (North Canterbury region) and Ray Grubb (Otago region) registered conflicts of interest with contestable funding applications and they did not vote on those items

Discussion on 22/23 Licence Fee

Councillors and Regional chairs discussed at length the options for the licence fee, noting;

- The high CPI of 5.9%
- Cost of amalgamation / change management, which will be paid for by New Zealand Fish and Game.
- It is unrealistic for Fish & Game to keep absorbing losses.
- Licence holders already have the pressure of increased daily costs, i.e. fuel prices etc.
- Costs for our statutory obligations have also increased.
- Uncertainty of how many non-resident anglers we should expect with borders re-opening.
- ACTION: Investigate possibility of the development of a policy for licence fees to match CPI and convey to the Minister.
- A possible of risk of non-compliance.

Break 3:00pm

Reconvened 3:15pm

11. Complete 2022 2023 Budget Round Decisions

11a Approve CF Applications to Set Total Budget & Set Licence Fees for Consultation

Carmel Veitch spoke to this paper

- The status of the RMA reserve and the contestable fund applications was discussed, noting that the balance to be carried forward will be \$150K and that the contestable fund bid for \$500K be reduced to \$350K to maintain a balance of \$500K.
- The Northland CF application for a field officer was discussed. It was agreed to approve \$70,000 as a one off from Northland reserves and for a review of the Northland budget to be undertaken by the CFO of NZC.
- The Otago CF application for performance increments was discussed, noting the Rem review and its implications. This application was not approved by NZC.
- The funding for the PhD research, which is co-funded by Cawthron was discussed. It was suggested that it be funded from the Research fund and that fund be split out \$75,000 Research and \$25,000 for the PhD Research for 3 years and to segment the research fund to show our contribution.
- Costs of Fish & Game's restructure were noted. It was suggested that there be consultation with regions to devise a shared formula to fund amalgamation costs. However, after advice from the Acting CEO and CFO that NZC have no powers to levy Council's reserves it was decided to add the \$500k to the Licence fee – hence a late Contestable funding application that hadn't been included in the agenda papers.

Council moved to a workshop session and staff left the meeting.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Approve** 73 contestable fund applications to the value of \$1,877,814 (\$1,672,684 from the licence fee, \$202,430 are approved from Reserves and \$2,700 approved for capital expenditure)
2. **Approve** the Total budgets of \$11,686,092 (subject to licence fee approval).
3. **Agree** to consult on a 2022 2023 adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$145 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$107 (inclusive of a \$5 fee (agreed meeting 155) for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.

Moved: Crs. Barnes / Karalus

Carried

ACTION: Consultation with Councils and subsequent recommendation to the Minister.

4. **Agree** that the acting CEO will ask Northland Fish & Game to provide access to financial information to enable verification to finalise national accounts

Moved: Crs. Oakley / Barnes

Abstained Cr Reardon

Carried

5. *Agree to approve in principle the contestable application by Northland Region to continue with the current field officer to a maximum of \$70K, subject to confirmation of the amount needed to be funded (one-off) from Reserves*

Moved: Crs. Duley / Koevoet

Abstained Cr Reardon

Carried

6. *Agree that the contestable fund application from Otago region for staff performance increments are not approved, in light of the REM review*

Moved: Crs. Harris / Koevoet

Abstained Cr. Grubb

Carried

11b Licence Endorsement Fees

Councillors discussed the backcountry licence endorsement fee, noting;

- Query of the pricing mechanism, noting the difference in the number of backcountry fisheries within regions.
- Noted that licence holders tick all the boxes for a free backcountry endorsement which does not give a clear indication of how many are actually using the endorsement. After Wellington Fish & Game introduced a fee (for liability insurance) the number of endorsements asked for dropped substantially.
- Council discussed the staff proposal for a backcountry licence and this was not supported.

1. *Agree to consult on a \$5 fee for sea run salmon licence endorsement*

Moved: Crs. Harris / Karalus

Carried

The Chair thanked Councillors

Meeting closed 5:30pm

To be reconvened at 8:00am Sunday 1st May 2022

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00am

Continuation of agenda item 11

- Carmel Veitch tabled papers that included the approved contestable funding applications
- Councillors discussed the estimated figure of \$500K for the amalgamation process and how it would be funded.
- There should be future discussion on individual licence categories and the pricing of them.
ACTION: The Licence Working Party will start a program to review this.
- Uncertainty of the number of Non-resident licences expected for the next year, and the pricing of the NR licences.
- Invite regions to share ways to improve Pressure Sensitive Waters.
- A day licence for designated fisheries for Non-resident anglers.
- The acting CE explained the process to get this type of licence added and noted the cost to Fish & Game for ESL to make the necessary changes, which could not go ahead until we get approval from the Minister.
- Councillors were encouraged to have the PSF paper included in the meeting agendas.
- Encourage regions to nominate designated waters.

1. *That an annual fee for whole season non-resident licences be recommended for consultation at \$250 and regions are encouraged to invest time in monitoring Pressure Sensitive Waters. A uniform policy giving effect to etiquette and compliance and data gathering for a long-term objective.*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs / Grubb

Carried

2. *To establish a new licence category called a Designated Waters Licence, which regions could choose to apply to waterways they believe would benefit from it via the Anglers Notice and Sports Fish Licences, Fees and Forms Notice. This will have a daily fee for non-residents and will be free for full season resident licence holders.*
3. *Note the Acting CE will provide further advice via email and Council will confirm this decision after receiving said advice.*
4. *Authorised the acting CE to contract with ESL on system to deliver this.*

Moved: Crs. Kroos / Barnes

Carried

16. Wildlife Act Review

The Chair introduced this paper.

Discussion included

- Long overdue for review.
- The importance of s23 which precludes the sale of game and the sale of hunting rights.
- Seen as an opportunity to highlight Fish and Game views on what is not working.
- Upland Game preserves.
- Differences between the Wildlife Act and the Conservation Act on ranging activities.
- Possible working party to consider s23 consisting of Crs. Duley, Oakley, Reardon and McIntyre

- The importance of “Valued Introduced Species”.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Agree** to the direction proposed in this paper
and
2. **Delegate** to the working group, consisting of crs. Duley, Oakley, Reardon and McIntyre to finalise approval of communication to the Department

Moved: Crs. Coll / Kroos

Carried

15. Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee

Councillors discussed the benefits of this appointment, and it was noted that the Chair should fill the position to look for objectives and opportunities. It was thought that Matt Osborne from Eastern Fish & Game should accompany the chair to these meetings.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Agree** to recommend to the Minister that the NZC Chair, Ray Grubb, is appointed to replace Andy Garrick on the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee and to invite Matt Osborne to accompany the Chair.
2. **Request** that the NZC’s TFAC appointee provides reports to NZC following TFAC meetings.

Moved: Crs. Kroos / Duley

Carried

Edward Ellison who is the Chair of the NZ Conservation Authority joined the meeting via zoom at 10:30am

Mr Ellison was welcomed by the Chair who noted his professional involvement

Included in Mr. Ellison’s talk to the Council was

- Biodiversity Strategy
- Conservation Law Reform
- Wildlife Act review
- The new Director General of Conservation – Penny Nelson

Comments to Mr. Ellison from Councillors included

- The possibility of a 10 year Management Plan template
- Concessions to fishing guides
- Freshwater not being high enough in their priorities and can this be addressed in the Conservation Law reform
- Encourage the Conservation Authority to look at Local Government’s poor administration of RMA
- DOC attendance at regional F&G council meetings

Councillors appreciated Mr. Ellison’ time and he left the meeting at 10:40am

4. Approve minutes for meeting 156

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Agree** that the minutes of meeting #156 be approved

Moved. Phibbs / Kroos

Carried

5. Review Action List

6. Health & Safety

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Receive the Health and Safety Report

Moved: Crs. Reardon / Karalus

Carried

7. Subcommittee Report Back

Executive Minutes 18th March and 1st April 2022

Amendments:

- Apologies for lateness were for DT not DB

Confirm actions

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Agree that the minutes of the executive committee be approved

Moved: Karalus / Coll

Carried

8. Business Plan Approval for 21/22

- Noted that impacts of our work plan will need to be included in future work plans.
- Include Develop three-year budget cycle process 23/25

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Approve: the outputs for the 2021/2022 Business Plan subject to risk management and set objectives for NZC performance

Moved: Crs. Grubb / Duley

Carried

9. Draft 2022 – 2025 Business Plan

- Staff to develop a draft timetable for this work to be done.
- It was thought that it may be necessary to contract outside help to complete this and the need to acknowledge the cost within this financial year.
- It was noted the anticipated cost for this work is outside the Acting CE delegation.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Invite the Executive Committee to work with staff to prepare a Business Plan for 2022-2025 and report back in the August NZ Council meeting for approval

Moved: Crs. Harris / Phibbs

Carried

2. Approve the Acting CE authority to act on behalf of the Executive Committee to engage a contractor to undertake this work

Moved: Crs. Coll/Barnes

Carried

10. NZC Budget Approval (Combined NZC and National)

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Approve** that the research programme be lowered to \$75K to fund \$25K for Cawthron PhD research.
2. **Receive** this report
3. **Approve** the budget of \$2,169,057 be approved as per Table 1. With the breakdown of \$1,130,607 to the NZC budget and \$1,038,450 to the National budget.

Moved: Crs. Kroos / Reardon

Carried

12. RMA Legal Fund Update and Applications

- o Councillors discussed the two applications.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Receive** the information; and
2. **Approve** the funding application for \$50,000 from Nelson/Marlborough

Moved: Crs. Grubb / Phibbs

Abstain Cr. Kroos

Carried

3. **Give** power to the executive committee to approve or decline all or part of the legal fund application from North Canterbury

Moved: Crs Reardon / Koevoet

Abstain Crs. Coll

Carried

4. **Approve** \$10K for the EDS / BerrySimons WCO application.

Moved: Crs. Kroos / Barnes

Abstain Cr Coll

Carried

13. Research Fund Applications

- o Councillors discussed the Angus Proposal. Councillors noted that this should go to the Research Committee and ask for recommendations and terms of reference and budget, then report back to NZC or Executive committee
- o Research Committee nomination – David Klee and invite Helen Trotter
- o There was strong support for the Licence Scoping Study from LWP and Managers. Carmel explained the reason for the review.

- NZC agreed to accept a late application from Otago F&G was tabled regarding research into women's angling and its impacts, which will be managed by Helen Trotter with the work done by Otago University student.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Agree** to fund the licence scoping study at a cost of \$3,500 + GST

Moved: Crs. Kroos / Harris

Carried

2. **Approve** Angus and Associates proposal in principle subject to a review of objectives and terms of reference.
3. **Delegate** to the executive power to approve the Angus & Associates proposal and delegate to the Chief Executive the authority to enter into this contract subject to Executive Committee oversight.

Moved: Crs. Grubb / Koevoet

Carried

4. **Give power** to the executive committee to approve the research application from Otago F&G for research into women's angling \$20,000

Moved: Crs. Grubb / Harris

Carried

14. Cawthron Scholarship Board

- ACTION: Two nominations should be recommended by the research strategy group and approved by executive committee for June Meeting

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game council:

1. **Agree** to the proposed approach outlined in this paper; and
2. **Appoint** two Fish and Game representatives to this group; and
3. **Agree** for the attached MOU subject to amendments to be signed by the Acting Chief Executive.

Moved: Crs. Phibbs / Koevoet

Carried

17. Acting Chief Executive signing delegation

- It was noted that the amount of \$10,000 seemed quite low

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Delegate** to the acting Chief Executive the authority to contract with Real Creative Media for the supply of the Fish and Game Magazine for three years; and

2. **Agree** to the recommendation from the Executive committee that the Doughty Consulting Limited contract (16 hours per week maximum for three months) be approved.

Moved Crs. Karalus / Reardon

Carried

18. Policy Modernisation Subcommittee

- Policies should provide guidelines to make decisions
- An amendment to the wording of the Terms of Reference for Policy Modernisation Subcommittee point 2. To read “The purpose of the committee is to review oversee and prioritise existing national policy and omissions.
- New policies should allow flexibility in a changing environment and may need assistance from a policy professional.
- Policies to assist with the amalgamation should be given the first priority.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Agree** to establish a subcommittee to review existing national policy and undertake appropriate updates; and
2. **Agree** to appoint three New Zealand Councillors to the subcommittee; and
3. **Agree** to the attached term of reference subject to amendments

Moved: Crs. Barnes / Harris

Carried

4. **Agree** in principle that NZC National Policies include objectives, principles and guidelines leading to flexibility and speed of decision making

Moved: Crs Barnes / Phibbs

Carried

5. **Appoint** Crs. Phibbs, Barnes and McIntyre with the Chair Ray Grubb to the Policy review subcommittee

Moved: Crs. Reardon / Duley

Carried

19. Public Excluded Motion

Recommendation:

1. *That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:*
 - (a) *pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

| 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 |
|---|---|--|
| Confirm Public Excluded minutes for | As per PE motion in | Section 48(1)(a)(ii) |

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---|
| meeting 156 | Public Minutes 156 | That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist. |
|-------------|--------------------|---|

(b) And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council on all items

Moved: Crs. Kroos / Harris

Carried

20. Approve public excluded minutes 156

1. That the public excluded minutes for 156 be approved.

Moved Crs Karalus / Koevoet

Carried

1. That Council move out of public excluded.

Moved: Crs Karalus / Koevoet

Carried

23. Advocacy Update

- ACTION Improve fish passage with use of screens to prevent fry entering irrigation
- ACTION MOU DOC – Brian
- ACTION The Chair to meet with Penny Nelson DG of DOC
- Discussion on ways to change the usage of dry areas to match actual rainfall
- ACTION Join the Environment Aotearoa Charitable Trust. Benefits of this were discussed - Valued Introduced Species – able to have input to the agenda – meet with PM as part of this group. The acting CE explained our involvement with other groups ie. Game Animal Council.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

*1. **Receive** the information as an update on the discussions and advocacy activities recently undertaken.*

Moved: Crs. Coll / Kroos

Carried

*2. **Agree** that NZC supports joining Environment Aotearoa Charitable Trust*

Moved: Crs. Grubb / Coll

Abstain Cr. Duley

Carried

Break for Lunch 12:20

Reconvened 12:35

24. Cawthron Fish Futures Project

- Executive Committee charged with concept on how we review this presentation
- Seen as a significant risk if we don't take part.
- ACTION Prepare formal risk analysis.
- Possibility that their views won't align with ours.
- A request from them for two liaison people.
- ACTION It was seen as essential for the Chair to contact Robin Holmes to get their view on our involvement.
- The need to use comm's strategy to gauge how people think.

25. Chief Executive Report

The Acting Chief Executive noted

- How well received the Fish and Game cookbook has been. The promotion of it has been extensive.
- An update on ESL licence system upgrade and is confident in delivery and we are starting to see results. Pushed out to end of June.
- Noted National office staffing.
- Councillors wondered about an increase in the cost of the magazine due to increase in postage costs, less advertising and increased printing costs.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Receive the information*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs / Duley

Carried

26. NZC Finance Report

- Noted that there have been no applications for the staff scholarship fund.
- It was decided to allocate, through contestable funding, \$10,000 to RMA Staff development annual as separate from the staff scholarship. Seen as an opportunity for up-skilling and to identify and develop talent.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Note the NZC Finance Report as at 31 March 2022. With a surplus of \$351,141.*
2. *That NZC agree to \$12,000 be transferred from NZC meeting budget to Governance Advice & performance for the Strategic Pay project currently being undertaken Nationally.*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs / Duley

Carried

3. *That \$10,000 be used for RMA Group training from the Staff Development fund.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb / Kroos

Carried

27. National Finance Report

- It was noted that all councils are working within budget.

- The Chair noted the important decisions made through meetings and the ability to change to meet demand.

Recommendation

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Note the Finance Report as at 31 March 2022.*

Moved: Crs. Duley / Grubb

Carried

The Chair thanked Brian Anderton and Carmel Veitch for their support.

Cr. Kroos noted the pressure the Chair is under and Councillors appreciated his efforts.

ACTION Cr. Reardon would like to see promotion of what we do with licence income especially promotion of the \$5 component for GBHBT in the Game Licence.

Cr. McIntyre articulate to licence holders where their \$ goes. It was thought that this could be shown within the magazine and annual reports.

Meeting Closed 1:15pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. M. S.', written in a cursive style.

18/10/2022