

Meeting of the  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**  
Wellington Airport  
Friday 3 February 2012  
*Commencing at 9.30 am*

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**1. Present**

Chris Lynch, Dan Madsen, Lindsay Lyons, Bruce Bates, Alan Flynn, Richard Moore, Jean Willis, Peter Robinson, Matthew Hall (Chairman), Dave Witherow and Peter Sutton.

**2. In Attendance**

Bryce Johnson (Chief Executive), Jenny Norris (Finance & Administration Manager), Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager) and Robert Sowman (Policy & Planning Manager).

**INTRODUCTION**

**3. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members and briefly recapped issues he had been involved with since the last meeting.

**4. Apologies**

An apology was received from Robin Blackmore.

The DG of Conservation's representative (a replacement for Martin Gembitsky is still to be confirmed by the Department).

Resolved (Dan Madsen/Richard Moore)

**That the apologies be accepted.**

It was agreed that the Chairman send a note to Robin wishing him well.

**MEETING REVIEW**

**5 Notice of motion**

A notion of motion was circulated by Councillor Lynch to obtain information on instructions to Chen & Palmer from the NZ Council regarding the CSI affair and, in particular, any instructions regarding preparation of a report to the Ombudsman's office.

*Following brief discussion an amendment to the notice of motion was put:*

Resolved (Peter Sutton/Lindsay Lyons)

**Regardless of the outcome of this enquiry all NZ Councillors agree that the matter is then closed.**

*However, the motion lost.*

Resolved (Chris Lynch/Alan Flynn)

**That the Chairman of the NZFGC writes immediately to the NZ Council's solicitor, Mai Chen, directing that she provide him with a copy of:**

- **All instructions to her, including by whom and when, regarding the work her firm charged out to the NZFGC in relation to the CSI affair.**

- **All advice provided to the CEO in response to his letter of 21/5/2010.**
- **All instructions to her, including by whom and when, regarding the preparation of a report to the Ombudsman's office.**

Motion carried 6:5

Peter Robinson, Jean Wills, Richard Moore, Lindsay Lyons and Peter Sutton asked that their opposition towards the motion be recorded.

## **6 Identification of other Urgent Business**

Items raised for inclusion in the agenda:

- Councillor meetings on a Friday and the implications of this for employers.
- Memorandum from CE to the Chairman for circulation to Council. The item to be considered at the next meeting.

## **7. Annual Agenda**

It was agreed the January meeting be retained with the first part of the meeting kept for discussion of particular items, such as meeting with strategic allies.

## **4. Conflicts of Interest Register**

The conflicts of interest register was made available for recording any conflicts that might arise at this meeting. Bruce Bates and Lindsay Lyons noted their conflict of interest with discussion on the Operational report item (Project 1140) dealing with the proposed guide licence. Councillors Bates and Lyons refrained from voting on a resolution to do with this item.

## **5. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting**

The meeting considered the Minutes of the New Zealand Council meeting held in Lower Hutt 20 November 2011.

The following changes were noted and accepted:

- P11 Dan Madsen was opposed to the resolution above that where his name is recorded in the initial minute.
- P12 correction in the spelling of Jean (not John)

Resolved (Dan Madsen/Richard Moore)

**That the minutes of the New Zealand Council meeting held on Sunday 20 November 2011 subject to the agreed two changes be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

## **6. Matters arising from the November minutes**

Councillor Willis questioned the presence of Councillor Witherow in light of the Council's previous vote of no confidence, and following brief discussion of the associated reply from the Otago Council it was resolved:

Resolved (Peter Robinson/Lindsay Lyons)

**That this Council receives an assurance from Council Witherow that he will conform to NZ Council governance policies.**

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Councillor Witherow seeking this assurance.

## ***NZ COUNCIL BUSINESS***

### **14.1 Operational Report**

The following queries arose from the Operational Report.

#### **Project 1210 Habitat Management**

The CE explained developments within the Land and Water Forum had now moved to a more politically challenging phase of recommendation implementation where Fish & Game and its 'Team Green' colleagues would be pushed to make further compromises regarding habitat quality. He also questioned the commitment of the dairy industry, given its recent disregard for the Land and Water Forum recommendation on riparian fencing following the MAF audit of the overstated Clean Streams Accord performance.

#### **Project 1140 Concessions/Guide licence**

The NZ Professional Fishing Guides Association is supportive of the NZ Council's resolutions from its November meeting in all but one instance (that guides be restricted from certain areas through a guide licence requirement). This resolution was discussed and it was recognised that being able to claim full support from the Association would assist the promotion of the guide licence. Therefore, the initial proposer of this resolution agreed that compliance with certain waters restricted for youth fishing could be controlled by other means and this resolution could be withdrawn.

Resolved (Jean Willis/Richard Moore)

**That Clause 5 in the guide licence recommendations from the November NZ Council meeting be removed.**

Councillors Bruce Bates/Lindsay Lyons did not vote due to recorded conflict of interest as fishing guides.

Councillor Chris Lynch abstained.

#### **Project 1450 Website**

There was unanimous support and acknowledgement towards the newly updated Fish & Game website.

Resolved (Jean Willis/Peter Robinson)

**That the NZ Council extend its appreciation and congratulations to Hamish for the introduction of the revised website**

#### **Project 1850 Elections**

Councillor Lyons reported that the Eastern Council will be encouraging any potential conflicts of interest to be disclosed in candidate profiles and that the NZ Council should encourage other F&G councils to do the same.

It was agreed to include an item on elections at the next Council agenda. Consideration needs to be given to material from NZ Council on how to get more people engaged in the process and for this material to be shared with regions.

Resolved (Jean Willis/Lindsay Lyons)

**That the Operational Report for February 2012 be adopted.**

## **14.2 NZ Council Bi-monthly Financial Report**

The Bi-monthly Financial Report was considered page by page.

Resolved (Bruce Bates/Dan Madsen)  
**That the Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 be adopted.**

## **14.3 Specific proposals for Capital Expenditure**

There were no specific proposals to consider.

Resolved (Peter Robinson/Jean Willis)  
**That the Specific Proposals for Capital Expenditure Report be received.**

## **14.4 Legal Fund Update Report**

The November update report was considered.

Resolved (Chris Lynch/Matthew Hall)  
**That the February Legal Fund Update Report be received.**

## **14.5 2010/11 Auditor's Key Issues Memorandum**

Resolved (Chris Lynch/Bruce Bates)  
**That the NZ Council 2010/11 Business Issues Memorandum be received.**

## ***NATIONAL FISH AND GAME ITEMS***

Prepare a file note on the relationship with DOC and the meeting held with the Deputy Director Policy on 2 February.

## **15.1 Relationship Building with ...**

### **Department of Conservation**

The Chairman and Chief Executive met with the Deputy Director-General Policy (Doris Johnson) and her deputy the Director Policy (Jeff Flavell). The meeting heard about the restructuring that has occurred within the Department and the new organisational hierarchy (a copy of the "line-diagram" is to be provided to F&G). Other items for discussion included future relationship management with F&G and between F&G and the Minister and priorities for legislative change.

### **Federated Farmers**

A brief account of this meeting had been provided earlier in the day. The general outcome points towards future meetings and a constructive partnership being possible with common points of interest being explored. It is still early in such a relationship but the approach adopted by the new Federation's Chairman was very encouraging.

## ***GENERAL***

## **16 NZ Council Correspondence**

It was agreed that the letter from Otago in reply to the NZ Council Chairman's letter to Otago on the vote of no confidence in Councillor Witherow be received.

## **17 Urgent General Business**

One outstanding item was discussed for consideration under Urgent General Business.

The change of meeting times to include Friday sessions and the absence from work for some councillors creates problems with employers. It was agreed expenses incurred arising from councillors needing to take leave could be reimbursed to those employers who regard this as an issue. This would still be more economical than re-scheduling meetings to minimise councillors' absence from their employment.

Councillor Sutton left during this discussion.

The Chairman also handed out to all councillors present the memorandum from the CE to the Chairman and councillors on governance. It was agreed that the content of this memorandum would be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.33 pm Friday 3 February 2012.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/12