

**Minutes from the One hundred and forty-fourth meeting
of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Held on May 19th 2020 from 3-5pm and May 20th from 10-12pm
via Zoom**

A recording of this meeting can be viewed at:

Tuesday 19/5/20 -
Wednesday 20/5/20 -

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Noel Birchall, Lindsay Lyons, Dave Harris, Paul Blewman, Paul Shortis (Chair), Bill O'Leary, Andy Harris, Rainsford Grubb, Nigel Juby and Dan Isbister.

Guest: Bruce Bates sitting in for Greg Duley on Tuesday 19th May 2020.

NZC Staff:

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch Finance, Jack Kós and Debbie Mair Policy Advisors, Brian Anderton and Richie Cosgrove Senior Communications Advisors, Steve Doughty Business Development Manager.

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

Meeting on Tuesday 19/5/20: Greg Duley & Roy Knight who had connectivity issues and couldn't join the meeting.

Meeting on Wednesday 20/5/20: Greg Duley, Roy Knight, Nigel Juby and Paul Blewman.

3. Identify Conflicts of Interest

Councillors were asked to individually identify any conflicts of interest. No conflicts were identified.

4. Confirm Minutes of Past Meetings

A. NZC Meeting 140 on 14th and 15/2/20

Resolved (Dan Isbister/Andy Harris). No matters arising. Passed

- B. NZC Meeting 141 on 17/4/20**
Resolved (Bill O’Leary/Lindsay Lyons). Dave raised that it was a Teams meeting not a Zoom meeting (Chair noted). Passed
- C. NZC Meeting 142 on 22/4/20**
Resolved (Bill O’Leary/Dave Harris). Dave raised that it was a Zoom meeting not a Teams meeting (Chair noted). Passed
- D. NZC Meeting 143 on 24/4/20**
Resolved (Bill O’Leary/Andy Harris). Dave raised that it was a Zoom meeting not a Teams meeting (Chair noted). Passed

Paul: Public excluded minutes have been approved and will be discussed in public excluded

DECISION PAPERS

5. Election of Executive Committee

Nominations for executive committee which includes the Chairman (no less than 3)
Paul Shortis (included as Chair)
Dan nominated Bill O’Leary, seconded by Paul Shortis
Noel nominated Lindsay Lyons, seconded by Andy Harris
Ray nominates Dan Ibister, seconded by Paul Shortis
Lindsay nominates Noel, seconded by Paul Blewman

Nigel moved/Ray seconded – have an election from NZC for four members, not five.

Paul Blewman moved/Lindsay seconded that they stay with the 5 nominated members.

**Amended motion for an Executive of five members: Votes 3 for, 7 against.
Motion for Executive restricted to four members: Votes 7 for, and 3 against.
That motion is carried**

Number of votes for each individual:
Bill on the executive – 5 votes
Lindsay on the executive – 3 votes
Dan on the executive – 7 votes
Noel on the executive – 7 votes

The Executive Committee is now Bill O’Leary, Noel Birchall, Dan Ibister and Paul Shortis.

6. Consideration of Standing Finance Committee (SFC) Recommendations

Paul Shortis read out section nine of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the Council, 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:

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
Consideration of Standing Finance Committee Recommendations	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable the organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) 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.
Timeline	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable the organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	Section 48(1)(a)(ii) 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.

And that staff remain to provide advice to the Council.

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

Move to go into public excluded.

Resolved (Andy Harris/Dan Isbister). Passed with 10 votes.

Martin asks that all resolutions made during Public Excluded are included in the public Minutes.

Resolved (Lindsay Lyons/ Noel. Birchall) Passed with 9 votes.

Paul Shortis moves that these public excluded items be carried into the public meeting notes.

Resolved (Paul Shortis/Ray Grubb) Passed with 9 votes

At 4:55pm the meeting returned to the Public agenda

It was agreed in the public session of the meeting that all resolutions be brought forward from Public Excluded into the public record.

Resolved (Paul Shortis/ Lindsay Lyons). Passed with 9 votes.

Resolutions from Public Excluded

Ray moved that NZC adopts the amended SFC TOR including the inclusion of Glenn Mclean. Includes the actions of this committee should reflect and be in line with the strategic financial review recommendations as adopted by the NZ Council.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Bill O’Leary) Passed with 9 votes

Ray moves that NZC adopts the SFC Operating process.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/) Bill O’Leary Passed with 9 votes

Amended: Ray moves (Option A in report) that should any Council fall below 20% General and Dedicated reserves combined at the end of the 2020/21 financial year, due to loss of licensed income, its reserves shall be made up to 20% first by use of the NZC reserves and secondly by adjustment to the Levies and Grants system. If this is a result of unapproved spending the NZC can review as at 31st August 2020 and 2021.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Andy Harris) Passed with 10 votes

Ray moves (Option B in report) the use of NZC reserves to bring North Canterbury (shortfall \$225,000) up to 20% General Reserve in relation to its 2019/20 budget.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Dave Harris) Passed with 10 votes

Ray moves (Option C in report) that all regions be asked to cover any 2019/20 operational shortfall from their own reserves.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Dan Isbister) Passed with 10 votes

Ray moves (Option D in report) that NZC endorse these five points:

- 1. Adopt the Committee’s decision to use Scenario 4 above as a working base**

2. **Adopt the use of scenario b) above and requests Regions adopt the 5% operational savings/10% Reserves use**
3. **Notes that this will result in a further use of \$1m in General Reserves**
4. **Adopts the Committee's recommendation to Regions that non-essential spending be restricted until such time as there is greater clarity on likely outcomes and a consequent adjustment to revenue forecasts**
5. **Agrees that a formal review should take place at end November 2020; or initiated by the SFC prior to that if Government Policy changes and forecasts need to be revised earlier**

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Bill O'Leary) Passed with 9 votes

Ray moves (Option E in report) that NZC agrees that all 13 regions be asked to adopt a standard bi-monthly 'reporting by variation' format so that progress to budget can be properly monitored.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Dave Harris) Passed with 9 votes

Ray moves (Option F in report) that NZC adopts:

1. **that the usual Levy and Grants system be followed for 2020/21**
2. **that there be complete transparency across all 13 budgets, including NZC, to ensure confidence in the process in this time of likely restricted revenue.**

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Andy Harris) Passed with 9 votes

Ray moves (Options G and H in report) that NZC asks the SFC to commence a work stream on an overall review of resource allocation across all 13 Regions and; the NZC agree with the Committee's view that this workstream is required to give confidence in the setting of budgets and to understand the need for and provision for reserves and the impact of that provision.

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Lindsay Lyons) Passed with 9 votes

Ray moves (Option I in report) that the NZC notes;

1. **That under the recommendations above, that General and Dedicated reserves could be reduced by \$2.6m to \$3.3m by the end of 2020/21 financial year.**
2. **That the Committee has adopted a relatively conservative stance where we have time to understand the recession and create other solutions if required**

Resolved (Ray Grubb/Bill O'Leary) Passed with 9 votes

Any other business to discuss before 10am tomorrow.

Eleven votes from Councilors for the next NZC meeting to be in the evening.

See you tomorrow at 10am for a continuation of this meeting.

At this point, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5:20pm.

The Chairman opens the meeting at 10am on Wednesday 20th May 2020 via Zoom to continue Meeting 144 which was suspended overnight.

Apologies for Wednesday 20th May 2020

Roy Knight, Greg Duley, Nigel Jubby and Paul Blewman

Resolved (Paul Shortis/ Lindsay Lyons). Passed

Move to Public Excluded.

Resolved Paul Shortis/Bill O’Leary. Passed 8 councillors

DECISION PAPERS

7. Timetable - Public Excluded Discussion

Move out of Public Excluded

Resolved (Paul Shortis/Ray Grubb). 7 in favour, one abstained.

8. Response to Colmar Brunton Survey

On 23 November the New Zealand Council resolved:

- 1. Agree to a scientific randomised survey using an independent agency, to establish views of licence holders on Fish and Games freshwater advocacy. Note NZC to sign off questions proposed by the polling company.*
- 2. To internally survey all governors using the same questions as in recommendation 1.*
- 3. Agree to come back to the next NZC meeting with a recommendation on the future approach to freshwater advocacy taking into account recommendations 1 and 2.*
- 4. Agree that before the report back to the next NZC meeting, the CEO and staff will not proactively make media statements which contain negative statements about farmers.*
- 5. Agree the CEO and staff can make reactive media statements including responding to reports that are consistent with our last 6 months on freshwater advocacy.*
- 6. Agree to investigate the establishment of national environmental awards to highlight good farming practice that is consistent with our position on the NPS-FW₁.*

Martin recommends: Agree to rescind the resolution made on 23 November which said that “the CEO and staff will not proactively make media statements which contain negative statements about farmers.”

Dan Isbister raised a Conflict of interest as a farmer.

Andy Harris raised a potential Conflict of interest as a farmer.

Paul Shortis I am in receipt of an OIA requesting all correspondence between myself and Federated Farmers which I will respond to later this week.

Agree to remove the resolution made on 23 November which said that “the CEO and staff will not proactively make media statements which contain negative statements about farmers.”

Lindsay: Does NZC need to agree whether Dan or Andy can vote on this issue with a conflict of interest?

Dan Isbister – Abstained from vote

Andy Harris – I don't personally feel I have a conflict as I have an interest in a small holding but no financial interest.

Resolved (Noel Birchall/Ray Grubb) 6 votes with 2 abstentions.

To develop and publish a national policy statement on Fish and Game Advocacy to explain the underpinning rationale to statements issued by the NZC of Fish and Game which can be provided to regions to explain the background to national media statements.

Resolved (Paul Shortis/Ray Grubb) 7 votes with 1 abstention

Agree for Paul (Chair) to start a conversation with Federated Farmers and other groups

Resolved (Paul Shortis/Bill O'Leary) 7 votes with 1 abstention

9. Discussion on when to hold next in person NZC meeting.

Paul: I believe its unadvisable to meet under Alert Level 2 restrictions. Unlikely to meet in person for the June meeting perhaps in August. We must follow government guidelines. Any comments?

Andy: Could we have documents sent out, not just online emailed documents before meetings?

Martin: Seven days needed for rural delivery. Once we are at level one and back in the office we could send papers out earlier to improve the zoom meeting experience.

Ray: An essential part is to meet and share conversations to get to know each other.

Paul: Look at an August face to face meeting in Wellington for NZC, dependant on level 2 restrictions.

10. Next meeting the 145th on 2nd June 2020 at 7-9pm.

Any other business

Ray: What RMA commitments coming up?

Action for Paul: Ask Phil Teal for the Peter Wilson Gaant Schedule which outlines the regional projects and RMA commitments

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 11:46am