

One hundred and fifty fifth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
4th December 2021
New Zealand Fish and Game Council, Victoria Street

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Ray Grubb (Chair), Debbie Oakley, Dave Harris, Richard McIntyre, Dave Coll, Gerard Karalus, Greg Duley, Linn Koevoet, Barrie Barnes (zoom), Dean Phibbs (zoom), Darryl Reardon (zoom), Tom Kroos (zoom from 2:30pm).

NZC Staff:

Di Taylor, Acting Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch CFO, Brian Anderton GM, Jack Kós Senior Policy Advisor,

Guests:

Ngaire Best, DOC, Bryce Johnson

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1. Welcome and CE's Introduction

- Meeting started 8:35am
- Acting CE and staff briefed Crs on their obligations under relevant legislation and standing orders.
- Crs. and staff introduced themselves

2. Apologies

- Cr. Kroos apologised for his absence/interrupted attendance.

1. Agree that apologies from Cr. Kroos be received.

Moved: Crs. Coll/Harris

Carried

3. Declaration of Interest & Oath of Office

- Declarations of interest forms and oaths of office were passed around the council and completed.
- No Declarations for items for this meeting were noted

1. Note any conflicts

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Karalus

Carried

4. Election of Chairperson

- Crs debated the system of election that would be used.
- That NZC adopt System B
- **Moved: Crs. Harris/Oakley**
- **Carried.**
- Cr. Oakley nominated Cr. Grubb, seconded by Cr. Harris.
- **No further nominations received.**

1. Agree that Ray Grubb be elected Chairperson of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Harris

Carried

Ngairé Best arrived at 8:55am and spoke to her role and relationship with Fish and Game.

- NB stated that she wanted to see Fish and Game strong for the next 150 years.
- Her unit's role is to provide the Minister with the advice of statutory entities, not necessarily the interests of the Department of Conservation.
- Oversee 70 entities, ranging from NZCA through to conservation boards through to Predator Free and QEII Trust.
- Not planning to attend every meeting, perhaps every 3, but happy to attend whenever required and is happy to discuss any area of her role further.

Chair:

- Welcomed new members to NZC.
- Chair outlined that meetings will be run relatively informally, while complying with our governance rules.
- Principle in chairing Fish and Game is that we follow the law as set out in the Conservation Act. That is our first and primary responsibility. We have Governance rules established by gazette in 2017.
- Chair outlined that relationship with staff should be via Chair and will be raised with Di at weekly meetings.
- Chair outlined that board operates at a high level, and that we should start this year with effective communication with regions, particularly chairs, and going to initiate in February a formal meeting with chairs. As a board we should think 5 years ahead – look at decisions we make and what it'll look like in five years. Want to put in place modern planning and financial management systems, three year budget cycles, will provide greater autonomy to regions in running their business.
- Operate on the basis of clear objectives and identifying and managing risks.
- Chair outlined personal conflicts:
 - HCAG
 - Freshwater Implementation Group
 - Landcare Trust
 - Personal conflict in relation to chief ombudsman
 - Implementation Review Group

CE:

- Housekeeping – fire/earthquake processes, toilets etc.

5. Appointment of the Executive Committee

- Chair spoke to executive and wants two members appointed now and reserve a position for the February meeting so that new members in particular can ensure involvement.
- Chair nominated Crs McIntyre and Oakley as two members.
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1. *Agree that Richard McIntyre/Debbie Oakley be appointed to the Executive Committee*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Duley

Carried

2. *Agree the fourth member of the Executive Committee be appointed in February 2022 NZ Council meeting.*

Moved: Crs. Barnes/Harris

Carried

6. Subcommittees of Council

- Chair asked whether any Crs. Wished to raise comment on staff views for subcommittees.
- Clarified that all subcommittees cease to exist on election of new council.
- Chair clarified what the role of the remuneration subcommittee is and who its current composition is. Confirmed work is confidential and will remain that way.
- Call for volunteers to be an NZC member on subcommittee.
- Cr. Duley nominated Cr. Oakley. D. Harris seconded.
- Confirmed most of the work has been done and that the requisite information is currently being divulged.
- Cr. Oakley confirmed this is not a strict pay scale, but collating what is around NZ and seeking to put in place some consistency. Not binding, but a guide.
- Staff noted that subcommittees of Council must follow the LOGMIA and Standing Orders. They must be public, unless a motion for exclude the public is passed consistent with the OIA. All subcommittees must also keep minutes and that reports back to NZC

1. *Note the current NZC subcommittees are deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members of the council at, or following, the triennial election of members.*
2. *Note that the chairperson is a member of every committee of the council.*
3. *Agree to re-establish the National Remuneration Sub-Committee.*
4. *Approve the Terms of Reference for the National Remuneration Sub-committee subject to amendment of para 6 of one NZC councillor plus the NZC chair, and three suitably qualified regional representatives.*
5. *Agree to appoint NZ Councillor Oakley to the National Remuneration Sub-committee and Colin Weatherall, Phil Teal and Andy Garrick as co-opted members. Cr Oakley will be the Chair of the National Remuneration Sub-committee.*
6. *Agree to consider further subcommittees of the NZ Council in the February 2022 NZ Council meeting and invite the Acting Chief Executive to present a proposal of subcommittee options for Council consideration.*

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Phibbs

Carried

7. Approve Minutes for Meeting #154

- Matters arising from minutes:
 - Health and Safety Report – confirm mover was A. Harris.
 - Clarifying meeting recommenced following day.

1. *Agree that the minutes of meeting #154 be approved.*

Moved: Crs. Duley/Coll – Crs. Koevoett, Barnes, Reardon and Phibbs abstained.

Carried

8. Performance Report for the New Zealand Fish and Game Council

- CFO confirmed that copy that went with Agenda didn't have final auditors approval stamp, so have provided physical copy of that now.

- CFO spoke to report and noted that due to high domestic sales against a conservative licence sales forecast and that NZC covers licencing costs, regions are up against budget.
- Confirmed that doubtful debt provision for North Canterbury was confirmed as a grant and is nil on budget.
- Various other line items marginally ahead of budget.
- Expenses over budget:
 - Licencing
 - Magazine
 - Payments to regions:
 - Grant to NC and top up of reserves.
 - Personnel costs:
 - Significant recruitment and change in this financial year.
- Expenses under budget:
 - Coordination – no audit undertaken in last financial year.
 - Website – had \$200,000 budget with 80k unspent, but will be transferred to next year.
 - Research – accrues each year and currently over but will be spent next year.
- CFO spoke to restricted and dedicated reserves. We have money in reserve, but it is committed to a specific subject area.
- Last statement is a Statement of Service Performance. Is becoming as important or even more important. Effectively is what we do, why we do it. Outcome/impact reporting. Hoping to rejig this for next financial year and make it more aspirational.
- Auditor confirmed accounts to be a true reflection of the actions of the Council this year.
- Cr. McIntyre commented that there has to be a better way to work out Fish and Game's finances, particularly in light of amalgamations. Need to review how we distribute revenue.
- Cr. Phibbs:
 - Can the report be changed at all? Significant error on p68 in the receivables. Need to go back to auditors and change before submission to Minister.
 - P. 69 Nelson misspelt.
 - Needs to be sent in colour too for traffic lights.
- Chair thanked Carmel for her effort.
- Chair:
 - In February will come to you for a review of Statement of Service Performance. Need to report more specifically and will be looking for objectives and reports on achievement.
 - In the past we have done punitive audits, what we would hope to do are management audits where regional managers can assist other regions to compare methods of doing work to become more efficient in the ways we operate.
 - In terms of budget, we achieved something a bit over a million over budget in terms of licence sales. At the moment the increases stay with the regions they occur, and one of the things we need to look at is the way that this occurs.
 - Success in coordinating the RMA group has been exceptional. Nigel on NBEA, Mischa on wetlands, Jacob on IWG.

1. *That NZC thanks Carmel Veitch for her work as CFO this year.*

2. *Agree that Council approve the Audited Performance Report of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2021, subject to the changes to Note 17, and endorse report Chair wrote.*

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Oakley

Carried

9. Annual meeting and budget timetable 2021-22

- Chair opened floor to discussion.
1. *Approve the following dates for meetings for the 2021-22 year:*
 - *December 4th 2021 in Wellington*
 - *February 18th and 20th 2022 in Wellington*
 - *April 29th and 30th 2022 in Wellington*
 - *June 16th 2022 by Zoom at 7.00-9.00pm*
 - *August 23rd & 25th 2022 by Zoom at 7.00pm- 9.00pm*
 - *November 25th & 26th 2022 in Wellington*
 2. *Agree that a Governors forum be held: February 19th in Wellington – (NZC & Chairs)*
 3. *Note that a managers meeting will be held 28th April 2022*
 4. *Agree to a joint meeting with Managers Friday 29th April*
 5. *Note these dates may be subject to change due to the Review.*

Moved: Crs. Karalus/Barnes

Carried

CE

- Asked if Council wanted all meetings sent as a calendar invite?
- Confirmed this will be sent out but can be declined if you don't want this in your personal calendar.

10. Advocacy update

- Cr. McIntyre: noted that in NPS etc duck hunters are not as well represented.
 - Chair: Have approached MfE directly and have opened up direct negotiation with head of that unit for Mischa and RMA group to engage. Wetland provisions were simply unacceptable to us.
 - Cr. McIntyre: many farmers wanting to build wetlands but unable to.
 - BA: Having discussions with DairyNZ and did joint submission on wetlands. Met with MfE policy team earlier this week – Beck Reed, Nigel Paragreen, Mischa, Ben and David from AW. Next step is for MfE to give advice to Minister on next steps.
- Cr. Karalus: Queried whether Valued Introduced Species had made it into final bill?
 - Chair: confirmed it had not but would be one of the advocacy focuses. Very unlikely to get same protection in NBEA as in RMA. The EDS proposal will be of material benefit to the perception of valued introduced species.
- Chair: Spoke of the Rangatiratanga claim of Ngāi Tahu. We have opened up discussions on this claim with NT at their invitation.
 - Cr. McIntyre queried what NT's perspective of trout and salmon are?
 - Confirmed this is what we are going to continue discussions around.
- Cr. Phibbs: question around the role of advocacy. How do you go about your advocacy? Do you have a plan around this to best direct advocacy?

- BA confirmed that we do have a strategy and work closely with regions on this. But that the last 5 months has probably seen the most consultation documents the Government have released in the past 5 years.
- CE: Wanted to make this a broader update just for new members.
- Cr. Phibbs: Clarification around point 39.
 - Chair noted they prepared a think piece that didn't portray relationship between introduced and indigenous species in a positive light. Doesn't affect that we work with them daily on issues very well and receive good support from them.
- Chair: Every time we get involved in an advocacy proceeding we do what is in Fish and Game's best interests. All of the consultation documents recently have been critical to our statutory mandate and will shape freshwater for the next twenty years
- **ACTION: Send out NBEA submission (Beck).**
- Chair:
 - Gives congratulations to Southland for the appeal of their land and water plan. Environment Court determined that their plan wasn't adequate and the RC has come back with proposals that are exceptional in protecting freshwater.
 - Rakaia Conservation Order: Media article stating that Ecan not enforcing WCO. Integrating work with North Canterbury FGC and NZFFA and working with lawyer that did initial work.
- Confirmed that supporting EDS Advocacy Proposal will cost \$25,000.
- Cr. McIntyre: Strong support for Native Forest Coalition both from Fish and Game perspective and perspective as a farmer. Huge win win for a lot of different industry groups.
 - Cr. Barnes: Remember there was a paper done on pines as related to native forest and that after a period of time native forest carbon sequestration exceeded pines.
 - Cr Phibbs: No financial cost? Just time cost?
 - Confirmed.
 - Cr. Phibbs: Question around whether it's better for Fish and Game to allocate our resources elsewhere?
 - Confirmed this doesn't have significant time consequences.

1. Note the contents of this report

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Duley

Carried.

2. Agree

2.1 to support the EDS advocacy proposal and fund the \$25,000 from the advocacy budget.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Barnes

Carried

3. Agree

3.1.1 to support the Native Forest Coalition proposal

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Coll

Carried

Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10:36am

Meeting recommenced at 11am

11. Identification of fish spawning areas and designation of process

- Staff spoke to the paper.
- Chair commented that all of us can think of places where spawning is under threat from stock, or planting of pines etc. This is an opportunity for those areas that deserve protection to have it progressively over time. Initial examples will be uncontroversial. This is a tool that we can use to significantly enhance one of our prime objectives under the act.

1. *Agree to the process proposed for the designation of spawning areas*
2. *Request NZC staff to report back to NZC after the first spawning area has been recommended to the Director-General.*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Barnes

Carried

12. Public relations and communication strategy development

- Chair spoke to paper and need for a communications strategy that sets out our aspirations and achievements and communicates this externally.
 - CE: This it not to say we have formally engaged with a company – we have simply done a scoping exercise with them. Noted the engagement with regional staff in this process. Outlined proposed composition of group.
 - Cr. Phibbs: Think this is a no brainer to get a good approach to comms and PR.
 - Chair: Blackland have comprehensive knowledge of the messages we need to put across and will be able to reflect what we need as a result.
 - CE: Confirmed we haven't selected them, but will go through process with working group as to who we engage.
 - Chair: Do any councillors want to have a role in this group?
 - Cr. Barnes: Can you clarify the regional comms reps?
 - CE: we have regional staff with significant comms experience, and we want to make sure that we are bringing their perspectives in to this project. I have engaged with managers to discuss availability of staff.
 - Chair: Certain sensitivity in the regions – two attempts to develop a comms strategy in last 18 months, both of which have been rejected. Please communicate to your councillors that this strategy will be integrated with regional aspirations. It will not be imposed.
 - Cr. Duley: confirmed has an interest but not time.
 - Cr. Grubb: like to involve Cr. McIntyre in this (voluntold).
 - Supported.
1. *Agree to establish a working group comprising:*
 - *2 x regional communication representatives*
 - *NZ Council representative (Cr. McIntyre)*
 - *NZ Council Acting CE*
 - *NZ Council GM Strategic Engagements*
 - *NZC Communication and Marketing Manager*
 2. *Authorise the Acting Chief Executive to contract with an external provider for a fee not exceeding \$20,000 (excluding GST), with the contract to be circulated to NZC via email prior to engagement.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Oakley

Carried

ACTION: CE to engage with comms providers and managers on regional representatives (Di).

13. NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board in 2021

- CFO spoke to paper and provided outline on operations of GBHT and their outputs.
- Cr. Coll: Noted there is no justification for licence fee contribution increase.
 - Justification is that the more money received, the more money that can be given out in grants. Similarly decreased interest has reduced revenue.
- Cr. Phibbs: Concern that 20% increase and we are in challenging times for funds anyway, and that this is a difficult one. Would like to see further justification.
- Cr. McIntyre: To give a comparable example, DairyNZ takes portions out of levy to allocate to specific features. Most GB hunter won't have the problem with the extra dollar but may think that it's us receiving the extra dollar. Want GB hunters to know what they are getting.
- Chair: Suggest, if approved, need budget explanation of where money should be used, and need to communicate with hunters that this extra dollar is to GBHT.
- Cr. Duley: Not a single hunter won't buy a licence because another dollar is getting to GBHT.
- CE: We will use magazine to get this out.
- Cr. Reardon: Confusing that we have two entities – F&G and GBHT – just know that there's a great number of licence purchases who only see the sum total cost of the licence. Need to do something to differentiate between cost of licence and contribution to habitat. And market in that way. Be clear that \$5 is for habitat creation/protection.
- Chair: Spoke to further opportunities we have to communicate with licence holders via 3 minutes with Fish and Game licence holders.
- Cr. Phibbs: Would like to know that we are getting the best bang for our buck and see what the direct benefit of these contributions are.
 - CFO noted that the annual report that has performance objectives in it will be sent out to councillors.
 - Cr. Phibbs: More selling it to licence holders. The whole story.

Action: increase communication of the split in licence fee and GBHT contribution to licence holders (Steve).

1. *Agree to the hunter licence fee contribution for the Habitat Stamp being increased to \$5.00 for the 2023 game season.*
2. *Agree the game bird or other wildlife species to be depicted on the 2024 habitat stamp be open to any game bird species.*
3. *Agree to a photographic competition to select an artist to produce the artwork of the 2024 stamp.*
4. *Note the Trust Board's 2022 meeting will be held in Christchurch on 23 September 2022.*

Moved: Crs. Duley/Barnes

Carried

14. Public Records Act Disposal Authority

- CE Spoke to paper and noted that this is a start of the process. We are looking to include in scope the regions so they also see the same benefit (as are subject to same audit requirements).

- Cr. Phibbs: Disposal authority is the statutory one that you want to comply with. Be careful not to get sucked into the consultant treadmill.
1. *Note the Public Records Act Audit Report and letter from Chief Archivist.*
 2. *Agree to contract with IM Consulting to create a Disposal Authority for Fish and Game New Zealand.*
 3. *Agree for the Acting-CE to sign this contract.*
 4. *Agree for NZC to put in a contestable fund bid for the April contestable fund round for \$12,000 for this project.*

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Coll

Carried

Action: Contestable fund bid for April. Prepare letter to Chief Archivist on action plan (Jack/Brian/Di).

15. 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 meeting 154	As per PE motion in Public Minutes 154	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.

Licence System Update	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or 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.
Active legal proceedings	Section 9(2)(i) OIA The withholding of information is necessary to Maintain legal professional privilege	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.

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

Moved: Crs. Karalus/Phibbs

Carried

1. That NZC move out of public excluded.

Crs. Harris/Koevoet

Carried

18. Chief Executive Report

- CE spoke to her report, in particular outlining the magazine RFP and disability licence.

- Cr. Oakley: Feel like this [disability licence] could open a can of worms, particularly around what constitutes disabled.
 - CE: Would be looking at using an external like Mobility Services.
- Cr. McIntyre: Is the issue access or cost relative to access?
 - Both
- Staff: Spoke
- Cr. Barnes: Again, what constitutes disabled?
- Cr. McIntyre: We don't price licence based on access or hours fished etc.
- Cr. Koevoet: was approached by a disabled individual who was horrified by this.
- Cr. Duley: Fish and Game shouldn't be entering into decisions around what is or isn't disabled, but should go to disability commission for that. Needs to be applied consistently across all regions.
- Cr. Phibbs: once you start making a decision around who gets a licence you open a PR can of worms. Potentially not worth it. Need to weigh up that side of it.
- CE to go out for consultation to regions and note NZC's reservations.
- CE also outlined two further topics:
 - Received late late paper from LWP who have been having conversations around updates to licences. This will be sent to NZC by email and they will be looking for feedback.
 - Cawthron Fish Futures – noted strong regional consultation through this process and outlined that Cawthron is seeking F&G's involvement rather than surprising us at the end of 5 years.

1. Note the report of the Acting Chief Executive

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Duley

Carried

Meeting broke for lunch at 12:40pm.

Meeting recommenced at 1pm.

19. Fish & Game Review

- Chair outlined that he is Chair of the ISG and that Brian Anderton sits on this group. Fish and Game have a majority in this group.
- Views of Cr. Barnes canvassed as to why Auckland/Waikato have refused to engage in this project.
 - Cr Barnes requested a moment to prepare his response.
- Cr. Oakley: Because of COVID there have been some issues with meetings and I'm not sure that this Eastern's views have been incorporated adequately.
- BA: Can we pick this up when David Hunt arrives?
- Cr. Barnes: From what I understand, the AW Council hasn't met in person with this group and by one meeting recently introducing the new councils to this process, this is part of the reason why they haven't engaged. Not unfair for them to say that and down the track things may change, just take a little bit to get there.
- BA: Para 18 – Ray and I will become back involved at the end of the process at which point there will be formal consultation on an options paper with all 13 councils. This is the informal process to inform options. Looking to get buy in from all councils.
- Cr. Koevoet: Do we have a timeline?
 - Chair: Final report from amalgamation meeting available late march for the April meeting.

- Cr. Oakley: How do you know where our governance shortfalls are to target the governance training?
 - CE: We will do a self-evaluation during this process so we understand the skills that we have around the table and know how to distribute roles around the table.
- BA: Because I sit on the review group separate to my role with F&G please feel free to contact me directly about this.

Strategic Priority Setting Process

- CE spoke to paper.

Budget Setting Overview

- CFO provided briefing to all councillors on how Fish and Game's budget setting process works.
- Cr. Harris: Are we proposing to stick with this or to move to a modern budget program?
- Broad consensus across council.
- Cr. Oakley: If changing budget process couldn't do it till financial year after next right?
 - Chair: yes, but need to socialise this through February and April
 - CE: But not implemented until following year.
 - Cr. Oakley: need to ensure that all councils bring forward a budget in order to make sure that all regions are able to receive the money they need to operate.
- Chair: Need to identify what we need to do for the year and what it's going to cost, then commit our finance according to those priorities. Some clear errors in the system. For instance revenue gained ahead of budget going to reserves and not available for redistribution. Those that do not have increase in licence sales don't have the opportunity to change the way in which they work, whereas a region that does can apply to use it out of reserves or reset overall budget. Two areas of CF –
- ongoing or specific project. If you have overhead in your reserves you have greater opportunity to put forward case. Concentrating activities in smaller and smaller areas of the country. Wonder if this is because our budget system doesn't let us reallocate money around the country to provide the resource/distribution of effort. Lots of Q's about how we run our budget system. As a council we need to look 5y ahead to achieve the best results for our organisation.
- Cr. Harris: You mentioned that the major selling regions do very well when we have a licence sales increase, but equally they do poorly when we have a decrease. The reserves to survive this comes from the good years.
- Chair: 3y budget cycle will let us average this out substantially more.
- Cr. McIntyre: Is the elephant in the room not whether all the money should go to a national fund for reallocation if it's a national licence?
- Chair: Absolutely right – we need to change our mindset and think as Fish and Game Inc. each region needs to identify the money it needs to achieve its results out of a national pool. At the moment I would accept that NC needs a reset, but we don't have the capacity to do this in our current system.
- Cr. Oakley: agree with Richard but there is more than one way to skin a cat. Doesn't mean NZC gets all the income. Need to think about how we function given that there are destinations for angling and places licences are bought.
- Chair: This likely signals the biggest body of work for the next year across NZC.

- Cr. Karalus: as part of the review process this is one of the biggest issues that has been raised.
- Chair: We did the Resource Allocation Project, but looking at results felt we needed the financial system in place in order to action it.
- Cr. Coll: NC see RAP as one of the most important pieces of work for Fish and Game.

20. NZC Finance Report

- CFO opened floor to questions.
- Minor queries around aspects of the finance report.
- Chair noted two significant projects – review of publications and the website redevelopment projects.
- Clarified that rangers is ahead of budget simply because of triennial ranger renewal.
- CFO clarified that Legal/RMA fund is now in finance report to streamline reporting.
- Cr. Barnes: Clarified whether there was scope to revise historic applications?
 - CFO: there is a sunset clause now, but historically was not. But is reviewed by Managers as a working document and some aspects are removed.
- *1. NZC to take up with Ministers compensation for the public good work of fish and game.*

Moved: Crs. Harris/Koevoet

Carried

- Queries around the status of some historic research fund items. Noted that NZC staff do chase up these but often they are in place for publication fees etc.
- Staff noted too that a paper will be brought to council on the future of research
- *1. Accept the NZC Finance Report for October 2021*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Karalus

Carried

21. National Finance Report to 31 August 2021

- CFO noted this report is only to the 31st of august so it can be an annual report against budget rather than just 2 months of the year. Just giving you a brief update. All regions are in a better position than they were at the beginning.
- All regions now on Xero. Confirmed that CFO doesn't have unfettered access – needs permission from regions to access.
- Cr. Oakley: Going forward, is there scope for Carmel to have access without need to get permission? As it will be logged in xero.
 - CFO: No, regions are autonomous and that would not be appropriate.
- CFO: There are some regions that use external accountants, but this really isn't necessary. Think we can do this internally.
 - Chair: Should this be flagged for discussion around strategic budgeting?
 - CE: Will be discussed in February with governors.
- CFO: Ideally would also like to ensure that regional financial reporting to councils is consistent and standardised.
- Cr. Phibbs: Bigger question is when looking at financial systems of NZC we look at how we benefit regions by doing things better organisationally.
 - Chair: Agreed.

1. Accept the National Financial report as at 31 August 2021.

Moved: Crs. Harris/Coll

Carried

Invited member of the public, Bryce Johnson, to speak. Mr. Johnson highlighted a number of points:

- Creeping indigenous fundamentalism that's insidious in law making.
- DOC's absence in freshwater advocacy.
- Importance of long-term briefings paper in State Sector Act.
- Strategic use of quick response PRs.

Chair:

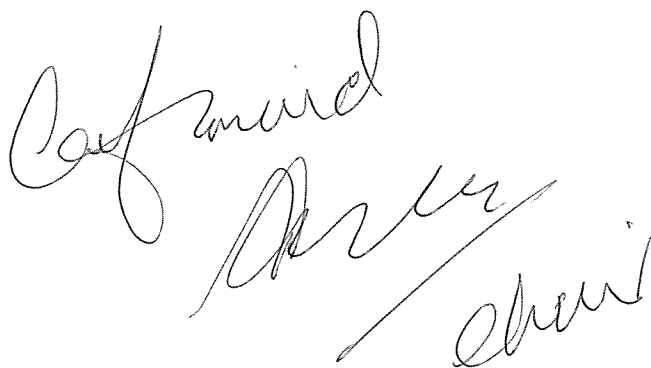
- On PR's we have done recently where we have had a great deal more coverage than EDS did. Commanding space in the media.
- On DOC advocacy, ever since became chair I have been hammering this. Raised twice with Minister. Being raised again with the Minister on the 8th where it is a lead item. Have a formal meeting with the DOC team to go over this.
- Aware of insights program and have been having extensive discussion around planning for the future and this is partly related to the insights briefings. Have also made submission to LINZ and DOC on development of insights briefings.

Meeting broke at 2:20

Meeting resumed 2:30 with presentation from David Hunt on preliminary options for regional amalgamations. This is a summary document of the work to date and is not a final document or recommendation paper. There was board discussion on this presentation. It was noted that this will be sent to all Fish & Game Councils for feedback. Next steps are a report is due in February and final report in March.

Chair thanked those in attendance for their time and contributions to this meeting.

Meeting closed at 3:10



The image shows three handwritten signatures in cursive script, arranged vertically. The top signature is the most legible and appears to read 'C. J. ...'. The middle signature is more stylized and less legible. The bottom signature is also stylized and less legible.