

One hundred and fifty ninth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
23 & 25 August 2022
via Zoom

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Ray Grubb (Chair), Dave Harris, Dave Coll, Gerard Karalus, Barrie Barnes, Dean Phibbs, Darryl Reardon, Greg Duley, Richard McIntyre, Linn Koevoet, Cr. Kroos (25 August only)

NZC Staff:

Corina Jordan, Chief Executive, Brian Anderton, Deputy Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch CFO, Jack Kós, Senior Policy & Legal Advisor

Guests:

Jean Willis (Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game Councillor)

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1. Welcome and CE's Introduction

- Meeting started 7:00pm.
- Chair introduced new CE, Corina Jordan, & Jean Willis from Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council.

2. Apologies

- Apologies received from Crs. Oakley & Kroos (23 August).

3. Declaration of Interest & Oath of Office

- Chair added High Country Advisory Group
- Cr. Duley added NZCA
- Cr. Phibbs Whitebait Advisory Group
- Cr. McIntyre Feds Dairy
- Cr. Kroos Company Director Environmental Consultant Wildlife Services Ltd.
- Cr. Barnes owner I Love Fly Fishing, Treasurer North Shore Flyfishers Inc, Foundation Member Alpha Pistol Club

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Note any conflicts*

- Cr. Reardon had technical difficulties and left meeting at 7:05pm.
- New CE introduced herself and spoke to her background and outlined the challenges she sees for Fish and Game – namely, social licence of hunting and fishing and legislative change. Also the need to bring the whole organisation along on this journey.
 - Cr. Barnes: spoke to the positive reaction to meeting CE at AW, and encouraged CE to get around all the regions.

4. Approve Minutes for Meeting 158

- Typo p.2 CE report second bullet point (extra letters).

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Approve minutes for meeting 158 subject to the above amendments.**

Moved: Crs. Harris/McIntyre

Carried unanimous

5. Review Action List

- Chair queried where the non-resident levy consultation is at and staff confirmed that it would be out shortly following the meeting.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Note the action list*

Moved: Crs. Harris/McIntyre

Carried unanimous

6. Health and Safety

- Councillors noted the report.

7. NZC Subcommittee Updates

- NZC congratulated Cr. McIntyre on his appointment as the Dairy Chair of Feds. Chair thanked Cr. McIntyre for his contribution to the Exec.
- Discussion ensued on the role and functions of the executive, and the need for the executive to provide regular reports to NZC of all meetings and decisions.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to retain the exec with Chair, Crs. Oakley & Phibbs.*

Moved: Crs. Harris/Coll

Carried unanimous

8. Approval of NZC Budget 2022/23

- CFO clarified a number of minor points.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Approve the 2022/23 Budget Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 August 2023 with a Deficit of \$120,474 subject to any changes resulting from strategic planning process.*

2. *Approve Capital Expenditure for the year of \$2,600.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Phibbs

Carried unanimous

9. Meeting Timetable

- CE spoke about discussions had with Managers regarding bringing forward budget process to better align with regions. Also suggested there may be need for more face to face meetings, including possibly an all of staff conference.
- **Action:** Include Southland High Country Opening

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Agree to the proposed meetings for the New Zealand Council in 2022/23:*
 - i. *25th & 26th November 2022 in Wellington*
 - ii. *10th to 12th February 2023 in Wellington*

- iii. 21st & 22nd April 2023 in Wellington
 - iv. 15th June 2023 by Zoom 7pm to 9pm
 - v. 15th and 17th August 2023 by Zoom 7pm to 9pm
 - vi. 24th and 25th November 2023 in Wellington
2. Agree to a Governors Forum be held in Wellington on 11th February 2023.
 3. Agree that a Strategic workshop for the New Zealand Council be held 16th and 17th September 2022 in Wellington.
 4. Agree that proposed face to face meeting of the Managers take place in Wellington on 20th April with a Joint meeting on the 21st April 2023.
 5. Agree to consult with Regions on the proposed dates for the NZC, Governors and Managers meetings.
 6. Note that these dates may be subject to change and/or additional meetings/workshops may be required due to the implementation of the Review.

Moved: Crs. Harris/Barnes

Carried unanimous

10. Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management

- Chair sought comment from all Crs individually.
- All Crs. expressed support for the proposal, with some particular comments around:
 - The need for recent data to support recommendation to the Minister.
 - The need for thought to be given to the policing/enforcement of this scheme.
 - **Action:** Communicate to regions suggestion that they use NR levy for monitoring and enforcement.
 - The need to link with the guide's licence proposal.
 - **Action:** Model fiscal implications of the proposal.
 - Clarification of licence fee on p.54.
 - The need for a process by which waters are designated.
 - Chair queried the intent behind allowing NR anglers to reset their allocation of 4 days by shifting regions.
 - Staff confirmed this was the intention to redistribute angling effort.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Approve the attached paper as national policy.
2. Note the next steps of:
 1. Briefing the Minister of Conservation.
 2. Working with regional Fish and Game councils ahead of Anglers Notice process.
 3. Work with Department & PCO on drafting Anglers & Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notices.

Moved: Crs. Harris/Phibbs

Carried unanimous

11. Use of Reserves notification

- Staff clarified that because this is a dedicated reserve this only a note and that no decision is required..

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Note Nelson Marlborough intend to use \$7,826 from Non-resident Reserve for the one-off purchase of a fish tanker.
2. Note Southland intend to use \$102,000 in 2023 and \$52,000 for 2024

and 2025 financial year from the Non-resident Levy for a fixed term contract for staff resource in Te Anau.

Moved: Crs. Karalus/Reardon

Carried

12. Legal/RMA Applications

- CE set out the process NZC staff had taken to review this application and noted that independent lawyer had supported but queried if fees were sufficient. CE spoke to Southland CE and Southland will fund any overspend from reserves.
- Brief discussion on question of adding a contingency to the application.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Receives the information;

And

2 Approve the funding application for \$20,000 from Southland Fish and Game Council from the RMA/Legal Fund.

And

3 Note that any further expenditure would be subject to further independent review.

4 Recommend that Southland staff seek support from MfE and for NZC to facilitate.

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Koevoet

13. Research Applications

- Staff noted the following consultation with regional managers:
 - Support for Fishing for Mental Health
 - Mixed view on HB application and whether the research fund is the right funding avenue.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Agree to fund the Fishing for Mental Health project at a cost of \$32,648+GST;

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Karalus

Carried unanimous

- Crs. expressed some concern around the content of the Hawke's Bay application, specifically:
 - The introduced/indigenous dynamic and the need to reference Valued Introduced Species.
 - The impact of trout hatcheries.
- **Action:** NZC staff to communicate this feedback to Hawke's Bay.

2. Agree to fund the Sustainable Food Harvest proposal at a cost of \$12,000+GST and for NZC staff to communicate feedback from NZC to HB.

Moved: Crs. Barnes/Coll

Carried

14. 2022 Financial Report Process & Sign Off

- Brief explanation of process by CFO.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. That, subject to the draft Performance Report being circulated to the Council members for approval and any queries satisfactorily explained, the Chairperson be authorised to sign the 2021/22 Performance Report on behalf of the Council.

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Phibbs
Carried unanimous

15. Exclusion of the Public

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 158	As per PE motion in Public Minutes 158	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.
Freshwater Litigation	S9(2)(h) OIA Exclusion of the public 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.
Rem Committee Update (oral)	S9(2)(i) OIA Exclusion of the public is necessary to enable the organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or	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. Grubb/Karalus
Carried unanimous

Resolutions brought out of public excluded:
 That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. **Approve** minutes for meeting 158 subject to the above amendments.

Moved: Crs. Reardon/Karalus
Carried

Moved: Crs. Barnes/Phibbs
Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm Tuesday 23rd.

Meeting resumed at 7:00pm Thursday 25th.

19. Advocacy Update

- Chair added a couple of supplementary points, including raising land and water plans with the PM, Ministers Parker & O'Connor. Also recommended system to monitor performance of regional councils against land and water plans but suggest this is not feasible in this term of office. Also comment on reversal of Govt. policy on pine trees.
- Crs. queried the ongoing advocacy and whether Ray or Corina will lead this going forward.
 - Chair confirmed that Corina will be responsible for all advocacy but that the political interface will still remain with this Council through the Chair.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

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

20. CE Report

- Crs. queried the change to job titles actioned by the executive and whether this was in scope of their role.
- Staff left meeting at 7:07pm
- Staff returned to meeting at 7:40pm.
- **Action:** Corina prepare minutes of exec & NZC meetings within a week.
- Discussion on use of lead in fishing tackle following correspondence.
 - Query around recommending to drop lead in fishing tackle?
 - NZC staff clarified that any changes to legal status of lead in fishing tackle would be done through the first schedule, which is both regional and national and regions could opt in earlier or equally out.
 - Crs. agreed there is a need to get our facts and knowledge right before we act.
 - **Action:** Get staff to prepare review of the risks/implications of lead in fishing tackle.

That NZC refer this to staff for review to be brought back to NZC in September

Moved: Crs. Barnes/Harris
Carried unanimous

- Discussion on licence sales:
 - CFO clarified that we are ahead of budget and sales and that this is a result of balancing out across regions, with some regions up and some down.
 - Chair: Request for guide to codes for licence categories.
 - **Action: Licence codes to become part of the list of acronyms.**

21. NZC Finance Report

- Crs. suggested need to keep staff leave and time in lieu accrual low and encourage staff to take leave and not burn out.
- Chair: Other boards receive 6 monthly updates on delegations and use of credit cards etc.
 - CE clarified will have a risk forecast in future agendas.
- Chair queried whether we receive a report on research at an annual basis.
 - **Action:** Staff to report on research progress in more than a financial sense perhaps once a year.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Receive the NZC Finance report for the 10 Months ended 30 June 2022 with a surplus of \$575,996.

Moved: Crs. McIntyre/Duley

Carried unanimous

22. National Finance Report

- CFO clarified that all regions are working within budget and that NZC is underspent in areas but these are committed and become liability going forwards.

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. *Note that national finance report.*

Moved: Crs. Barnes/Harris

Carried unanimous

- **Next meeting dates:**
 - **Workshop 16/17 September (Wellington)**
 - **Meeting 25/26 November (Wellington)**

Meeting concluded 8:16pm

Minutes submitted by:

Corina Jordan

Date:

Minutes approved by:

Ray Grubb

Date: