

One hundred and fifty sixth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
18th February 2022
Via Zoom

PRESENT

NZ Councillors:

Ray Grubb (Chair), Debbie Oakley, Dave Harris, Richard McIntyre (from 3pm), Dave Coll, Gerard Karalus, Greg Duley, Linn Koevoet, Barrie Barnes, Dean Phibbs, Tom Kroos

NZC Staff:

Di Taylor, Acting Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch CFO, Brian Anderton GM, Jack Kós Senior Policy Advisor, Beck Reed Senior Environmental Officer (present 9:00-11:15am)

Guests:

Nadeine Dommissie & Brian Smith, MfE (present 10:00-10:30am)

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1. Welcome and Chair's Introduction

- Meeting started at 9:00am.
- Chair outlined some minor amendments to the order of agenda so that councillors with particular interest can be present.

2. Apologies

- Cr. Reardon apologised for absence and Cr. McIntyre apologised for inability to attend first session.
 1. *Agree that apologies from Crs. Reardon & McIntyre for late attendance be received.*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Kroos

Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest

- Chair added HCAG to his interest register.
- Cr. Karalus explained that the Dairy Trust Taranaki is embarking on research on mitigating the impacts of dairy on environment. Because he is an independent contractor feels slightly compromised in discussions. Whether this should be recorded as a conflict or not I'm not sure but wanted to raise.
- Cr. Kroos noted he is the director of a consultancy business called Fish & Wildlife Services and is the owner. Do sometimes work with F&G, not for financial reward, but do share resources and assisted where we can just like we do with DOC & RCs. Did not from previous meeting councillors names & interests were mentioned. Would like to declare this as a
 1. *Note the above conflicts.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Harris

Carried

3a. Extraordinary Business

- Chair moved that the following items are added to the agenda as extraordinary business.

1. *That the following items are added to the agenda as extraordinary business:*

- a. Ngāi Tahu Statement of Claim – Public Excluded.
- b. Remuneration Review – Public Excluded.
- c. ESL – Public Excluded.

4. **Health and Safety Report**

- Paper taken as read.

5. **Approve Minutes 155**

- P9. First bullet point there is a word missing – she/doc? – wanted to see F&G missing. Last bullet point remove take.
- P11. Bottom bullet point include SSP as full.
 1. *That the Minutes be approved subject to above amendments.*

Moved: Crs. Karalus/Koevoet

Carried

6. **Subcommittee minutes and ratification of email decisions**

- Chair outlined that notes from minutes of exec form part of information to councillors & sought questions from councillors. Chair provided some minor clarifications around specifics and noted that the Lindis case is now fully settled with costs claimed by litigants. Chair noted that follow constructive feedback he will do new paper setting out requirements of a modern organisation.

1. *That the decision on vaccination status be confirmed.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Kroos

Carried unanimously

1. *That Dean Phibbs be added as the fourth member of the executive committee.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Oakley

Carried

7. **Election Review**

- Crs. undertook robust discussion around the requirements for a modern and fit for purpose electoral process. In particular discussion centred on out of region nominations and verification of election bios. It was clarified that two processes would run separately and be combined at the end; those recommendations made in the review and other recommendations made by Electionz.com and NZC staff.

1. *Receive the returning officer's report for the 2021 Fish & Game elections and support recommendations for change.*

2. *Agree for NZC staff to commence a workstream reviewing Fish & Game's electoral processes and regulations and for this project to report back to the NZ Council for decisions in August 2022;*

a) *and for NZC staff to consider in their workstream out of region nominations and the verification of election bios.*

Moved: Crs. Harris/Kroos

Carried unanimous

8. Future of Research

- Chair outlined this is a restructure of our research system to include governance in our research. Cr. Phibbs recommended an amendment to the terms of reference to link substrategies (i.e. research strategy) to wider NZC strategies and policies. Cr. Kroos appointed chair of Research Strategy Sub-Committee.
 1. **Approve** the outlined Research Fund process.
 2. **Agree** to establish a Research Strategy Sub-Committee with one NZC councillor as Chair, one NZC staff member and two regional representatives.
 - a. **Agree** to appoint Cr. Kroos as the NZ Councillor to Chair the Research Strategy Sub-Committee.
 - b. **Agree** to seek nominations from regions for two regional representative positions.
 - c. **Agree** to amend terms of reference to include reference to overall NZC strategies and approve as amended.

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Duley

Carried unanimous

- Cr. Oakley introduced prepared TOR for project management and sought feedback from rest of council. Discussion around specific wording & how this links to regional work. Chair noted this would only be major projects requiring consultation and coordination.
 1. *That all research and projects of national significance that are undertaken by both regions and NZC be approved by NZ Council to better coordinate and understand the wider activities of NZ Fish and Game.*
 2. *That the concept is approved and that these are prepared by the executive with NZC staff for approval by NZC at the April meeting.*

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Barnes

Carried unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10am for presentation by Nadeine Dommissie at MfE.

Meeting recommenced at 10:40am

9. Contestable Funding Application for 2022/23

- Carmel Veitch explained the process for CF applications. NZC have reviewed budget and for the last few years we have not submitted a CF app for NZC budget. Minor discussion around each proposal, particularly around maritime position and the licencing costs when sales either exceed or do not meet projected sales. Confirmed that the reason co-funded research was not coming out of the research fund was to keep it as a discrete project akin to the NAS that can run in perpetuity. First year funding may be sought from research fund to allow project to commence this financial year. Ultimately broad support was expressed for all CF applications proceeding to the April meeting.

1. *That the NZC approve that the above contestable funding applications be put forward to the Contestable funding round for 2022 23.*
2. *Ask CE to come back on whether Maritime position can be done by F&G staff member.*

Moved: Crs. Karalus/Harris
Carried unanimous

10. Southland RMA/Legal Application

- Chair outlined the significance of this application and its relevance to recent amendments to regulations under the RMA.

1. *Approve the application for Legal/RMA Funding from Southland Regional Council.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Coll
Carried (Cr. Harris abstained)

- Chair: Working for 18 months to get DOC to change its freshwater advocacy and have finally achieved this. Expect that in the future we will have more support from DOC on this.

11. Staff Development Grant – RMA

- Chair outlined the functions of the RMA team and how they meet. NZC staff communicated the feedback from regional managers that there was complete support across managers group for this proposal.

1. *Approve the application to the Staff Development Grant for \$5,000 for training and professional development for Fish and Game's RMA team.*

Moved: Crs. Kroos/Harris
Carried unanimously

12. Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Options Paper

- To be dealt with at end of meeting.

13. Controlling Sensitive Expenditure Policy

- Carmel Veitch noted a couple of typos that needed to be fixed. Discussion amongst councillors on means to strengthen policy, and agreed to delegate finalisation of policy to NZC exec.

1. *New Zealand Council approve in principle the Controlling Sensitive Expenditure Policy February 2022 and delegate power to act to the executive to finalise the policy.*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Coll
Carried unanimous

Meeting adjourned 11:15am.

Meeting recommenced at 3:00pm

14. Motion for Public Excluded

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 155	As per PE motion in Public Minutes 155	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.
Chief Executive Recruitment	Section 9(2)(i) '...the withholding of the information is necessary to enable...any public service agency or organization 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.
Ngāi Tahu Statement of Claim	Section 9(2)(h) '...the withholding of the 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.
Remuneration Review	Section 9(2)(i) '...the withholding of the information is necessary to enable...any public service agency 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

	organization holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities’	information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
ESL	Section 9(2)(i) ‘...the withholding of the information is necessary to enable...any public service agency or organization 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.

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

Moved: Crs. Duley/Coll

Carried unanimous

1. Move out of PE

Moved: Duley/Barnes

Carried unanimous

Motions to be brought out of PE

1. All motions to be brought out of PE.

Moved: Kroos/Harris

Carried unanimous

1. That the executive has the support of NZC regarding the appointment process for the new Chief Executive and will report back to NZC.

Moved: Crs. Barnes/Duley

Carried unanimous

1. That the public excluded minutes be approved.

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/McIntyre

Carried unanimous

15. CEOs Report

- Chair asked CE to prepare analysis of comms/marketing needs, in light of Steve Doughty’s departure, and to bring this to the next exec meeting. NZC expressed their support for Steve’s summer marketing campaign and expressed their regrets at his departure. There was substantial discussion on the Cawthron Fish Futures Fund,

wherein it was outlined what involvement NZC and regional managers have had to date. Cr. McIntyre expressed concerns about the risks resulting from this project and whether an adequate risk assessment had been undertaken. Resultantly it was agreed that the NZC exec will undertake a risk analysis and offer advice to NZC in April. There was, however, broad support for Fish & Game to engage with Cawthron in this project as the risk from not being involved was considered higher.

1. *That the exec is provided with all information available on the Cawthron research.*
2. *The Exec will consider the risks to F&G and offer advice to NZC at the April meeting*

Moved: Crs. Grubb/Koevoet

3. *That this report be received.*

Moved: Crs. Phibbs/Barnes

Carried

16. NZC Finance Report

- Carmel Veitch sought approval for the removal of two projects (51 and 67.2) from the research fund. Confirmed we are in the process of working through with EDS on the funds committed at December NZC meeting.

1. *That research projects 51 and 67.2 are removed from the research fund.*

Moved: Crs. Coll/Koevoet

Carried unanimous

17. National Finance Report

- Carmel Veitch outlined difficulty in analysis after four months of the financial year and clarified reasons for regional variations.

18. Variance Reports for the year ended 31 August 2021

- Report taken as read.

19. Reserves as at 31 August 2021

- Paper taken as read.
- Carmel Veitch noted that it is forecast that no region will fall below 20% at end of financial year.

1. *That the NZC & National finance reports, reserves report and variance report be received.*

Moved: Crs. Oakley/Phibbs

Carried unanimous

12. Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Options Paper

- Chair took paper as read and sought comment from councillors individually. Substantial discussion followed, with a number of key themes evident:
 - Fish & Game need to take action to address the displacement of resident anglers resulting from the pressure on sensitive rivers from non-resident anglers.

- There may be alternate options that can be actioned ahead of this year's angling season, such as increasing licence fees or limiting the numbers of licences issued. NZC staff noted that we are bound by BORA and the HRA, and need to be mindful of these in discriminating against NR anglers. A working group comprised of Crs. Barnes, Kroos, Phibbs, Coll, Koevoet, Grubb and Harris was formed to consider these options.
 - The need to allocate sufficient resources to the enforcement of the proposed system.
 - The significant financial contribution NR anglers make to Fish & Game's licence sales as a whole.
 - Agreed to circulate paper for consultation and for this process to run concurrent with the NZC working group considering short term options.
 1. *That options paper is approved as draft and circulated to regions for formal consultation on long term approach.*
 2. *And that a NZ Council working party is established to consider options in time for the 2022/23 angling season.*
- Moved: Crs. Barnes/Koevoet**
Carried unanimously.

General Business

- Cr. Harris highlighted the need for a reserves policy. Chair responded that this should be incorporated into modernisation of F&G and factored into review.
- Chair noted that next big thing to come in will be David Hunt report on regions.

Chair thanked NZC & staff for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 5:02 pm.

Cofer

Mr

Chair