

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 19 September 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Present: S Bannister L Koevoet (Chair)
P Centofanti C McKenzie
J Henry (Ngai Tahu) D Rattray

In Attendance: S McKnight (CE), P Hodgson.

24-043 DEPUTATION:

P Hodgson advised he was speaking on behalf of NZ Salmon Anglers Association (NZSAA) and informed Council that NSSAA has engaged a third party to collate and publish an Angler Oral History for the Rangitata River. He requested funding of \$16,000 from CSI Fish & Game for this.

Council advised that they were not prepared to spend licence holders' money without seeing a detailed cost analysis of what the \$16,000 would be paying for and documentation of all the income NZSAA have received to date for this. Furthermore, Council would need to be provided with all expenses that have already been incurred to date, including all receipts, and expected income to be received by NZSAA. Once this has been provided further consideration may then be undertaken. P Hodgson committed to providing the requested documentation.

24-044 APOLOGIES:

A Simpson.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

24-029

THAT THE APOLOGY OF ANDREW SIMPSON BE ACCEPTED.

24-045 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register; or considered that the business of today's meeting would give rise to any actual or perceived conflict with their interests? None were advised.

24-046 HEALTH & SAFETY:

CE pointed out exit points of the building and assembly point for evacuation of the premises in case of an emergency.

24-047 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

047.1 Draft NZC Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule (5.1)

CE expressed concern at the initial absence of information of when regional budgets are due to NZC. In the past regions have been required to present their budgets to their respective councils at their March meeting yet there are no dates in this paper that mentions when 2025/26 regional budgets are due. This has now been provided from NZC upon request.

Resolved (McKenzie/Centofanti)

24-030

THAT COUNCIL RESPOND TO NZC, STATING THAT THE ANNUAL BUDGET DATES AS COMMUNICATED BY NZC CE AND CHAIR BE PLACED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND MEETING SCHEDULE.

CE further advised of NZC supposedly intending to change the national budgeting process yet there has been no consultation process with regions nor has there been any clear communication as to how this would be implemented.

047.2 2025 CSI Meeting Dates (5.2)

Resolved (Centofanti/Rattray)

24-031

THAT THE CSI MEETINGS FOR 2025 TO BE HELD ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

- 30 JANUARY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING GAME REGS TO SUBMIT TO NZC BY 3 FEBRUARY.
- 13 MARCH** CSI COUNCIL MEETING (THIS WOULD NORMALLY INCLUDE APPROVE OWP& BUDGET FOR SUBMITTING TO MANAGERS/CES FOR RECOMMENDATION TO NZC BY 20TH MARCH).
- 22 MAY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING APPROVE ANGLING REGS AND LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION TO SUBMIT TO NZC BY 30 MAY.
- 24 JULY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING.
- 25 SEPTEMBER** CSI COUNCIL MEETING
- 27 NOVEMBER** CSI COUNCIL MEETING (THIS DATE COULD CHANGE DEPENDING ON EOY AUDIT REQUIREMENTS).

047.3 NZC SFGMP Consultation Policy (5.3)

Council noted that the 2022 Minister was extremely impressed with CSI's 2022 Sports Fish and Game Management Plan and noted it was approved in record time. It was then used as a benchmark for all Fish & Game's to use. CE advised that since that time, other Fish & Game's using the CSI format have not had the same experience, therefore, it has been recognised that there needs to be some flexibility with SFGMP's.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

24-032

- 1. RESTRUCTURE AS A GUIDELINE:
RECOMMEND THAT THE CONSULTATION POLICY BE REWRITTEN AS A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT. THIS WOULD BETTER ALIGN WITH THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY FOR UPDATES.**
- 2. REVIEW POST-APPROVAL:
RECOMMEND THAT THIS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF SUBSEQUENT SFGMPS TO ENSURE ITS CONTINUED RELEVANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS.**

**3. LOCALISED MANA WHENUA ENGAGEMENT:
THAT THERE BE AN EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCALISED
ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES WITH MANA WHENUA, ENSURING THAT
A PARTNERSHIP PROCESS RESPECTS AND ADHERES TO THE SPECIFIC
NEEDS AND PREFERENCES OF EACH COMMUNITY.**

047.4 Solicitor General's Guidelines for Diversion (5.4)

CE advised that NZ Council are looking at implementing an infringement notice system which would differ from the current diversion process that we use. The guidelines that the Central South Island Fish and Game Council (CSIFGC) must consider involves compliance with the directives above and, more specifically, with section 3.2. This section applies the public interest test to low and moderate offending, which is relevant to all cases, not just those within the CSIFGC jurisdiction.

CE advised he is confident that the current processes in place within the CSI region are robust and generally align with the Solicitor General's guidelines. However, given the importance of these guidelines, it is prudent to take a critical look at our practices to ensure full compliance with the prescribed standards.

Resolved (Rattray/McKenzie)

24-033

**THAT THE CSI COUNCIL RECOMMEND AN INTERNAL REVIEW OF IT'S
DIVERSION SYSTEM AND FUNDING TO ENSURE IT IS MEETING THE
SOLICITOR GENERAL'S GUIDELINES AND SEEK AN INDEPENDANT
LEGAL OPINION.**

047.5 Fish and Game Levy System (5.5)

CE explained that NZC received legal advice on situations where licence sales exceed the budget. The essence of the advice is that funds held in reserves, which are derived from licence sales, could be subject to levies. Additionally, licence sales that exceed the budget and have not been previously levied are also eligible to be levied. The potential risk it poses for CSI is that it holds substantial reserves for justified reasons and while there is currently no indication that NZC intends to levy past income, it is crucial for the Council to be aware of this possibility. CE further advised on potential discrepancies in NZC's legal advice that he believed warrant further consideration:

CE explained how the methodology used to administer the current levy system where previous 2-3 years licence sales are considered which adjusts the budget accordingly, however the advice NZC received does not address the scenario where licence sales fall below budget. In such cases, a region might theoretically seek compensation for the revenue shortfall in the form of a grant from NZC. The advice is also silent on where the additional cost that would be incurred for forensic accounting would come from. Forensic accounting is necessary to determine what portion of reserves could be attributable to licence sales.

CE noted that the legal advice recommends a cautious and measured approach should NZC decide to explore this path further, as the potential disruption to the organization could be severe.

047.6 Risk Register (5.6)

CE provided Council with updates on clauses 1, 2, 9, and 10 of CSI's Risk Register.

Resolved (Centofanti/Bannister)

24-034

THAT THE RISK REGISTER BE RECEIVED.

24-048 CHAIRS REPORT:

048.1 CE Performance Review (6.1)

Council was advised that the CE's performance review has been completed in accordance with Councils 2019 Governance policy.

24-049 BUDGET & FINANCE:

CE responded to general queries around the budget and finance.

Resolved (Rattray/Bannister)

24-035

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2024 AND AUGUST 2024 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$54,967.04 AND \$408,887.31, RESPECTIVELY.

24-050 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Resolved (McKenzie/Rattray)

24-036

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18 JULY 2024 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

24-051 NZFGC MATTERS:

051.1 Update from NZC Meeting (L Koevoet)

L Koevoet updated the Council on matters relating to NZC advising that if Councillors have any queries or concerns, he encouraged them to make contact with him.

24-052 NOTICE OF MOTION:

052.1 Confidential Matters (9)

Resolved (Rattray/Centofanti) at 8:51 pm

24-037

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING, NAMELY -

Confidential Matters

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter [i.e., OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Confidential Matters	OIA section 9(2)(a)	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 under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.
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PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:

Council resumed in open session at 9:35 pm where the following resolution was passed with Council agreeing for resolution 24-040 to be put into the public section of the minutes. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved (Koevoet/Rattray) (Unanimous) 24-040

THAT CSI COUNCIL FINDS COUNCILLOR JOHN DE WIT IN CONTEMPT OF COUNCIL.

24-053 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

CE advised that he would be co-ordinating a workshop for Councillors before the next Council meeting to onboard them and give them some exposure to what is involved in being a Councillor for CSI Fish & Game.

Council extended its appreciation to the CE at being successful in gaining a full contingent of staff for CSI.

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

24-038

THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS BE RECEIVED.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Meeting: Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed: 9:50 pm.

Signed *AL Koevoet*
Chairman

Date *2-11-24.*