

CONFIRMED MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING - 17 FEBRUARY 2021

At the NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING on 21 Apr 2021 these minutes were confirmed as presented.

Name: NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING
Date: Wednesday, 17 February 2021
Time: 6:34 pm to 9:46 pm
Location: NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members: ALAN STRONG (Chair), BILL SOUTHWARD, DAVE COLL, KEN LEE, PHILLIP MUSSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, STUART HENDERSON, TREVOR ISITT, CHRIS BRANKIN, DANIEL MAXWELL, GRAEME NAHKIES
Attendees: RASMUS GABRIELSSON
Apologies: REX GIBSON, DEBBIE AMBLER
Guests: Richard Cosgrove (Minute Taker in Absence of D Ambler) , Greg Tarras, Larry Burke, Michael Bate
Notes: Cr Coll may have to leave early

1. MEETING BUSINESS

1.1 NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Isitt - High Country Protection Proposal
C Brankin - Timing of 2022 summer duck season
D Maxwell - Rural community engagement
Cr Musson - Access Issue Lower Selwyn River

1.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING



Council Minutes - 9 December 2020

That the Council Minutes dated 9 December 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: KEN LEE
Outcome: Approved

1.4 ACTION SHEET



Report On Otaukaikino Enhancement Currently Being Scoped

This action is carried over from the old Action Sheet List.

Emily Arthur-Moore is the person responsible.

Due Date: 16 Jun 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Development of a NCFG Media Plan

This action is carried over from old Action Sheet.

Due Date: 16 Jun 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Development of an Educational and Promotional Strategy for Gamebird

This action is carried over from the old Action List.

Present at the 2021 workshops.

Due Date: 20 Feb 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Co-ordination with Landcare Group & RRF on the Glenariffe Stream Protection & Rehabilitation Project

These actions are carried over from the old Action List.

Daniel Maxwell to assist with possible funding investigations.

Due Date: 20 Feb 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Possible Council Meetings to be Held in the Hurunui

This action is carried over from the old Action List.

Liaise to arrange meetings with Daniel Maxwell.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Evaluate Legitimate Releases of Pheasants and Game

This action is carried over from the old Action List.

For staff prior to Gamebird season.

Currently on hold.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Weed Spraying Around Selwyn Rivers

This action is carried over from the old Action List.

On hold.

Outside of regional responsibility. Work at a national level than catchment level.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Ranger Activity Report



Ranging Activity

Staff in conjunction with Cr's Isitt, Lee and B Loasby initiate a review of ranging activity in recent times to identify gaps and future needs.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: STUART HENDERSON
Outcome: Approved



Ranging Activity

Staff in conjunction with Cr's Isitt, Lee and B Loasby initiate a review of ranging activity to identify gaps and future needs.

Due Date: 17 Mar 2021
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Currently the ranging team has diminished, which is having an impact on the amount of compliance activity carried out by the volunteer Rangers. Council needs to set a clear direction and come up with a plan for how to resource the recruitment, training and retention of new volunteer Rangers. R Gabrielsson explained the pool vehicle was currently being made available for Rangers to help incentivize compliance work in both near and remote locations. However there has been a low uptake to date.

2.2 Game Bird Guide's Licence

Noted in general discussion that a game bird guide's licence allows for registration with the ability to control what they do but needs to be under NCFG control.

C Brankin stated that from an iwi perspective any opportunity to have a better understanding should be undertaken and can't see why a good management tool be thrown away.



Game Bid Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

That R Gabrielsson write to NZC stating that the NCFG region manages game birds on the assumption they are being hunted by recreational hunters. In certain circumstances and areas, professional guiding could create sustained pressure on populations that our current data collection methods are not attuned for. Licencing would be a simple way to allow to quickly understand any new impacts that may arise by giving a clear picture of what guiding activity is occurring, and how many birds are being harvested as a result.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: KEN LEE
Outcome: Approved



Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

Write to NZC outlining NCFG position on game bird guide's licence.
Circulate all NZC letters received on this subject to NCFG Councillors.

Due Date: 17 Mar 2021
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

3. FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Count

R Gabrielson stated he would explore ways to better understand what influences the amount and success of breeding of black swans around Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere, including discussions with Iwi and T Lassen. Possible cause that may reduce the breeding effort and success could be land owner control operations at certain times of the year.

Based on trend counts, staff currently have no concerns regarding black swan or paradise shelduck regulations, or the hunter harvest numbers. Consultation with Ngai Tahu Advisory Committee for Waterfowl and local iwi groups undertaking cultural harvest of native game birds in North Canterbury region, along with guidance from researchers, will be sought before staff make any formal recommendations to Council on changes to the 2022/23 game bird regulations.



Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan on Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora

Based on trend counts, staff currently have no concerns regarding black swan or paradise shelduck regulations, or the hunter harvest numbers. Consultation with Ngai Tahu Advisory Committee for Waterfowl and local iwi groups undertaking cultural harvest of native game birds in NC, along with guidance from researchers, will be sought before staff make any formal recommendations to Council on changes to the 2022/23 game bird regulations.

Due Date: 20 Oct 2021
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

3.2 The Otukaikino Healthy Waterways and Catchment Collaborative Partnership

The Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust are applying for funding over a period five years for improvements to habitat on the Otukaikino and has asked NCFG to be a partner in this venture. NCFG involvement could be supplying "in-kind" staff time on the project.

R Gabrielson suggested that consideration be given in partnering in the application only at this stage, and if successful, then at that stage Council would reassess involvement.

The future project would need to deliver substantial tangible benefits to licence holders.

3.3 Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7.33pm for a 15 minute break.

The meeting recommenced at 7.48pm.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

4.1 Chairman's Report



Chairman's Report

That the Chairman's Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Outcome: Approved

General discussion on the state of NCFG fishery suggested a number of waterways; for example the Eyrewell area is in decline. However NC has one of the best sports fishery that makes it very popular to fish.

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Cr Isitt asked that a special vote of thanks be noted to the fishing club members who attended the small kids fishing event in late January.

R Gabriellsson spoke on the decline of some waterways (e.g. water quantity and quality in many lowland streams, and water quality trends in some high-country lakes) in parts of the North Canterbury region, but also acknowledged that other parts of the region offer some of the best backcountry and wilderness trout fishing opportunities available in New Zealand.

D Maxwell raised question about the Farm Environment Plan information day attended by staff. Discussion followed on the implementation of farm environment plans. Those wanting to learn more about farm environmental plans were encouraged to visit the Beef & Lamb website where there are information videos available about FEPs from their environmental teams.



Chief Executive Officer's Report

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved

4.3 Finance Report



Finance Report

That the Financial Report's for November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 be accepted.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

4.4 Health and Safety Report

Discussion on procedures and reporting. G Nahakies stated Governor's need due diligence over health and safety and the whole system requires a review and a then a presentation to Council. R Gabriellsson state that NZC is currently reviewing health and safety on a national basis.



Health and Safety Report

That the Health and Safety Report be accepted.

Decision Date: 17 Feb 2021
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

4.5 New Zealand Council Report

Points to note:

- resignation of CEO December 20 with P Shortis acting as interim CEO for a two month period

- appointment of new CEO will occur after the Ministerial review which is due mid March 2021
- Otago FG submitted an application regarding Farm Environment Plans
- Cr Coll on the Organisational and Strategic sub-committee
- Investigating to reduce costs the upcoming F&G elections will not be notified via newspaper advertising

4.6 Chief Executive Officer Employment Committee

Points to note

- committee not met since December 2020
- getting a better match between the strategic plan, CEO performance review and finances

5. PUBLIC SESSION

5.1 Botulism Update

M Bate gave an update from the Waimakariri District Council regarding botulism in waterways. He stated he was disappointed in the letter from NCFG to ECan regarding the LII weed spraying.

5.2 Seals at McIntoshs

L Burke advised there were seals at McIntoshs eating salmon and kahawai and advised a formal report from NZSAA would be forthcoming.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Lake Coleridge Camping

T Isitt explained that under the previous Council an offer had been made by a landowner to collaborate and try to establish a small camping area for anglers at the head of Lake Coleridge. T Isitt offered to help make contact with the landowner to explore if this offer still stands, and if so where such public camping sites might be located.

R Gabrielsson suggested to also raise the lack of public camping opportunities with Selwyn District Council representatives to investigate possible sites for camping, and with view to possibly find ways to put in more toilets if required.



Lake Coleridge Camping

To re-engage with landowner and invite SDC representatives to visit possible camping sites at the head of Lake Coleridge with a view to also put in public toilets.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021

Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

6.2 High Country Land Protection

The CEO provided an update on the Canterbury High Country Land Protection project, which includes a proposal to use the McIntyre Bequest to purchase land to improve the protection and habitat quality of sensitive chinook salmon spawning and rearing areas across key locations in North Canterbury.

At the time of the meeting discussions with (1) the Ministry of Environment representatives responsible for Stage 2 applications to the Freshwater Improvement Fund, and (2) a number of landowners, and (3) representatives from the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association are progressing well.

Questions were raised about if any formal land evaluations had been conducted yet of the land most likely to be purchased? The CEO explained that if the project was successful in securing funding formal land purchase preparations, including valuations of the land in question, would be done under phase 1 of the project. At this stage it was still too early to seek a opinion from a registered land valuer, but staff will be investigating how this could be done.

6.3 Timing of the 2021 Summer Duck Hunting Season

C Brankin asked the question that should NCFG align with CSIFG as they may have an earlier grain harvest than NC or should NC timing be pushed back.



Timing for the 2021 Summer Duck Hunting Season

That NCFG stakeholders be surveyed regarding timing for a summer duck season with feedback to Council for a decision for the 2023 season.

Due Date: 20 Oct 2021
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Timing of the 2021 Summer Duck Hunting Season

To provide grain growing contacts to R Gabrielsson.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021
Owner: KEN LEE

6.4 Rural Community Engagement

Dialogue to be had between Hurunui community leaders and NCFG to assist in building good relationships with the farming community. Requires a good solid agenda and have a group of Councillors and R Gabrielsson in attendance.



Rural Community Engagement

Along with D Maxwell and R Gabrielsson work on a proposal to hold a meeting with Hurunui community leaders.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021
Owner: ALAN STRONG

6.5 Access Issue at Lower Selwyn River

Cr Musson advised there have been issues with the new owners of McBeans below the Selwyn Huts. R Gabrielsson stated NCFG is obligated to advocate for public access and that SDC and Iwi be approached to try and resolve these problems.



Access Issues at Lower Selwyn River

In conjunction with the SDC and Iwi, approach new land owners regarding public access for fishing.

Due Date: 21 Apr 2021
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

7. FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Final Report on Snake Creek

7.2 Hapua Study Update

7.3 Letter to NZC - Reserve Restoration

7.4 Selwyn Times Article - The One That Didn't Get Away

7.5 North Canterbury News Article - Lake Sumner Toilet

8. MEETING CLOSED

8.1 MEETING CLOSED

Next meeting: NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING - 21 Apr 2021,
6:35 pm

Signature: _____

Date: _____