

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Fish & Game NZ, Southland Region Council meeting held at the Council Office at 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on Thursday 5th April 2023.

Present: Lindsay Withington (Chair) Michael Hartstonge
David MacGregor Lyndon Norman
Mike Turner
David Linklater
Dave Harris

In attendance: Zane Moss, Ben Febery, Dwight Grieve, Bill Jarvie

Steve McCartney (Minutes).

Members of the Public: Nil

1 Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6. 30pm and welcomed those in attendance and introduced Dwight and Ben.

2 Apologies:

Craig Horrell, Corey Carston, Stevie-Rae Blair

Moved: M Hartstonge. Seconded: D MacGregor. Carried.

3 Declarations of Interest:

The individual member declaration of conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda had been circulated to members before the start of the meeting.

Any conflicts were noted by the Chairman.

4 Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the public meeting held 2nd February 2023 were considered.

Resolved M Turner/L Norman: That the minutes of the public meeting held 2nd February 2023 were taken as read and were a true and correct record. Carried.

5 Notices of Motion

a) Health & Safety Report to 28th February 2023.

The Council Health & Safety report for the period was attached to the agenda for consideration.

All known hazards were listed in the Southland Health & Safety Plan.

The meeting was advised that the health and safety plan had been reviewed and that the H & S Plan is provided to external contract providers, feedback from whom indicates our plan is satisfactory for their purposes.

Resolved Cr Withington/Cr MacGregor: *That the Health and Safety Report to 28th February 2023, be received and accepted. Carried.*

6 Staff Report

Staff Report:

Zane gave a brief re activity –

We have a High Court fixture date of October 23rd for SWALP appeal.

Almost got resource consents for two wetlands on the Mahinga Kai Pa site.

Approaching the end of periphyton/CCD work staff have been undertaking in Te Anau.

Continue to work on access signage.

Cr Withington asked if access information on the website will be shared with WAMS. Zane advised that the intention is to have an App.

Cr Hartstonge asked if there was any update re opening/closing at Waituna. Zane advised that we have a judicial review in the High Court to recognise that ES have behaved inappropriately in accepting a consent application in the first instance, as in our view it was a prohibited activity. Waituna Lake control group have dropped their consent application. We are seeking costs from ES and the Waituna group.

DOC & Iwi have applied for consent (with ES involvement) to open at 2.3 level during winter for 5 years – detail yet to confirmed.

7 Designated Waters

Designated Waters proposal was provided at the meeting. Feedback from the survey was mostly in support of the proposal.

Council recommends the following fisheries be defined as designated waters for the upcoming season.

Upper Oreti, above the Mossburn bridge.

Moved Cr Linklater. Seconded Cr Turner. Carried.

Upper Mataura – above the Waikaia confluence.

Moved Cr Harris. Seconded Cr Linklater. Carried

Clinton and Worsley Rivers – ballot system working effectively and to remain unchanged.

Moved Cr Hartstonge. Seconded Cr Harris. Carried.

Other Southland rivers.

Waikaia/Riversdale/Cattle flat. A summer student is to be employed to action compliance work and collect data re angler pressure in these areas.

Upper Hamilton Burn – have budgeted \$10k for selective willow extraction in conjunction with the landowner.

Motion to define the Waikaia river a designated water fishery above Waikaia.

Moved Cr Linklater. Seconded Cr Turner.

Discussion by Cr Hartstonge re fishing pressure information currently held is anecdotal and lacks concrete data. Suggested that the above motion be deferred until next season when data collection by summer student is available to examine. Cr Turner withdrew his support for the motion. Motion failed.

New motion – Council instructs staff to monitor angler usage and origins on the Waikaia river, Hamilton Burn, Aparima river from Etal Creek and the Upper Mararoa river in the 2023/24 season.

Moved Cr Harris. Seconded Cr Linklater. Carried.

Resolved Cr Harris/Cr Linklater that the Southland Fish and Game Council recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council that the number of Designated Waters day licence's a non-resident angler can purchase be 4 per fish and game region. Carried.

8 Anglers Notice

Resolved Cr Harris/Cr Hartstonge to accept the Anglers Notice review recommendations as written. Carried.

9. 2023/24 Budget confirmation

Contestable funding bids and notifications have been submitted in respect of –

- a. The response to the national project regarding market alignment of staff salaries.
- b. Pressure sensitive fisheries officers' position in Te Anau being funded from non resident levy reserve and designated waters income.
- c. Summer student compliance position on the Waikaia river.
- d. Hamilton Burn willow extraction project.

Resolved Cr Hartstonge/Cr Macgregor to accept the budget. Carried

10 Administration Reports

No matters raised.

11 NZ Council update

Cr Harris attended a NZC meeting on 10/2/23 where a new chair was elected – Barry Barnes. Matters raised during the meeting –

1. NR Levy to go into general licence income.
2. Budgets – Licence price indications are – FWA \$149 and GWA \$109 (incl Habitat stamp)
3. 410 shot – NZC to ask Minister for a 1 year phase out period.
4. NZC to fund from reserves an effort to amend to the Natural and Built Environments act to be more favorable to F&G.
5. NZC to fund a social licence campaign.
6. Two working parties established. Future Finance and Future Structure.
7. Cr Withington advised that NZC have contracted a HR specialist (Jane) to provide a consistent HR structure across the organisation.

8. North Canterbury have been utilizing a data analyst to assess the outcome value of their programs. To date the results indicate that their programs are not producing the desired outcomes.
9. Online governance training is coming for governors. Dates to be advised.

Items for next agenda

Brightwater Stream fencing project

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Next meeting to be held June 1st, 2023.

Chairman _____ Date _____