

**Unconfirmed Minutes of the Fish & Game NZ, Southland Region Council meeting held at the Southland Fish and Game Offices, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on 27th March 2024, commencing at 6.00pm.**

**Present:**

Lindsay Withington (Chair)	
Dave Harris	Lyndon Norman via Zoom
Craig Horrell	Stevie-Rae Blair
David Linklater	

**In attendance:** Zane Moss (Manager)

Steve McCartney (Minutes).

**Members of the Public:** Rebecca Munro

**1 Welcome:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.10pm and welcomed those in attendance.

**2 Apologies:**

Mike Hartstonge and Mike Turner.

***Moved: D Harris. Seconded: C Horrell. 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.

***Moved: L Withington. Seconded: D Harris. Carried.***

**4 Confirmation of Minutes.**

The minutes of the public meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 were considered.

***Resolved L Withington/D Linklater That the minutes of the public meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 were taken as read and were a true and correct record, subject to amendment to Game Bird discussion notations. Carried.***

**5 Notices of Motion**

**Health & Safety Report to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

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 robust.

The Manager advised that a staff first aid course is to be conducted on 9 April 2024. An audit of the F & G Health and safety plan is to be undertaken by DOC in support of contract work.

Resolved C Horrell/D Harris: *That the Health and Safety Report to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, be received and accepted. Carried.*

### **Operational Strategy**

Discussion regarding council member numbers with D Harris advising that the Future Structures Working Party have indicated they will recommend a lower number than what currently exists. Further discussed a possible council structure may consist of 6 elected members and 2 co-opted (F & G cannot currently appoint councillors). The manager discussed the strategy document and highlighted this region's input points that have been added to it. Some discussion regarding staff attending an annual meeting of the South Island regions, which doesn't currently happen. The manager commented that national conferences were of limited value in respect of cost/benefit and that a South Island conference would be a better prospect in that respect.

Resolved D Harris/C Horrell to accept the implementation of the Organisational Strategy as presented for implementation through the operational work plan. Carried.

### **Proposed Budgetary changes**

NZC have requested regions make a 3% saving in the 2024/25 budget round in support of the Contestable bidding fund. Also, Managers will no longer feature in the funding allocation process as has previously occurred with NZC taking over this function. The SFGC have found net savings of \$22,263 and will submit CF bids for REM \$10,427 and Paradise Shelduck monitoring \$9,000 (helicopter transects costs). SFGC will also use \$61,000 from reserves to re-roof, replace windows and install a new fire in the Te Anau property. The existing tenants have terminated the tenancy stating that the house is too cold during the winter months. If a permanent tenancy is secured at the current rental of \$400/week, then payback would be just over 3 years.

Resolved C Horrell/D Harris to accept the proposed budget changes. Carried.

### **Staff Report**

Pressure Sensitive Fisheries data presented indicates that the designated waters licence requirement appears to be having the desired effect of spreading fishing effort to other rivers. The Upper Oreti data recorded a peak period Jan – Feb 2024 = 64% NR anglers, 36% resident. Same data for period Jan 2019 – April 2019 = 79% NR, 21% Resident.

Discussion raised around the idea of making the requirement to acquire a designated waters licence to be only applicable to Non Resident anglers.

Monowai Jetty project. Timber and fixings have been purchased and stored at a ITM hardware fenced/locked storage yard. The price point reached for this purchase has given us some headroom to look to replace the boat ramp as well as it is broken with gravel washed out.

Brightwater project. QE2 covenant has been signed to support fencing and mowing strip.

Waituna Ramp. Project on hold on account of the landowner who's property it was proposed to deposit spill on, is requiring extensive testing for the possible presence toxins in the excavated matter.

Mahinga Kai Wetland. Wetland development now completed.

#### **Council's Information reports.**

Donations, Legacies & Collaborative Projects – website wording. The proposal is to add this to our website. The purpose being to make it easier for people who may have an interest in making a bequest to F & G to support our work eg Brightwater project.

#### **Administration Reports**

No matters raised.

#### **Correspondence**

Following contact from a trout angler concerned at the works undertaken on the Waimea Steam, the manager has written to Environment Southland (Compliance Division) seeking clarification of the scope of the works, confirmation of authorisation and resources consents/permitted rule activity (SWALP) and requesting ES engage with the relevant parties (Mana Whenua, DOC and Fish & Game to develop a programme to restore the lost habitat.

#### **NZC items.**

Draft NZC policies.

- Health and Safety policy for Rangers
- Protected disclosures policy
- Research Fund Application Project.

Resolved C Horrell/D Linklater to accept the proposed policies as presented except for the ranging policy where L Withington and The Manager to provide feedback on. Carried.

D Harris outlined matters discussed – Contestable Funding Bids (Corina), licence Working party group who forecast licence sales, legal fund application from Wellington region, the economic contribution from Angling – looking at a project to show how important it is to the NZ economy. Application from Ian Hadland to attend a symposium in Alabama in May. Audit reports were good, but the process was poor.

**Elections**

Resolved to maintain the positions of Council Chair, Deputy Chair and NZ Council representative unchanged. Moved L Norman/ C Horrell. Carried.

**Council Executive**

Nominations – D Linklater, D Harris, L Withington

Resolved to accept the nominations to the executive L Withington/ C Horrell in respect of D Linklater, C Horrell/ L Withington in respect of D Harris. L Withington remain as Chair.

**Mandeville Pond**

Hokanui Runanga declined to purchase or accept as a gift. Still trying to sell it the adjoining landowner who has complained re numbers of hunters using it. His residence is close and subject to pellet strike (including his children and children walking on the adjacent road) along with hunters parking vehicles on his driveway. The regular hunters have been previously advised of these issues and asked to advise F & G if they want to hunt there next year. Not heard from them but upon approach from Jacob Smyth, they thought it was available because they had not heard from F & G, contrary to the previously agreed arrangement.

Sufficient public safety risks have been identified to warrant cessation of hunting activities on this pond.

**Items for next meeting**

Elections – number of elected and co-opted members.

.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_