

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Fish and Game NZ, Southland Region council meeting held at the Southland Fish and Game Offices, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on 18th July 2024, commencing at 6.00pm.

Present:

Lindsay Withington (Chair) Mike Hartstonge
Dave Harris Dave Linklater
Craig Horrell – via zoom Mike Turner – via zoom

In attendance: Zane Moss (Manager), Ben Febery

Steve McCartney (Minutes).

Members of the Public: Nil

1 Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.05pm and welcomed those in attendance.

2 Apologies:

Lyndon Norman, Stevie-Rae Blair.

Moved: D Harris. Seconded: M Hartstonge. 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 30th May 2024 were considered.

Resolved M Hartstonge/D Linklater That the minutes of the public meeting held 30th May 2024 were taken as read and were a true and correct record. Carried.

5 Notices of Motion

Health & Safety Report to 30th June 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.

Dwight and Bill to undertake chainsaw operation training.

The Manager advised that should F & G look to undertake work for DOC, they will require our H & S policy to be externally audited.

Resolved M Turner/D Harris : That the Health and Safety Report to 30th June 2024, be received and accepted. Carried.

Compliance Policy Ranger

Compliance Policy Prosecutions

Infringement Notice Compliance and enforcement Policy

The manager introduced these three topics, for which NZC had sought feedback from regions. The length of each document detracted from their effectiveness. General discussion over the content, was considered to be largely operationally focused, rather than policy matters that governors should have to consider.

Resolved M Hartstonge/D Linklater that the Chairman write to the NZC requesting that these policies be redrafted to simplify and better reflect the intent of the policy rather than operational matters. Carried.

Smoking Policy.

Resolved D Harris/D Linklater to accept the Smoking policy as presented. Carried.

Journal Report

Steve presented a journal report for the current financial year to date. This is the first instance a report has been presented to Council. Our last audit report made comment that the Council should view and sign the journal report in acknowledgement of the manual journal entries that have been actioned. An explanation was given in respect to the nature of the entries contained therein and their purpose.

Resolved M Hartstonge/M Turner to accept the journal report as presented. Carried.

Staff Report

Designated waters decision. Minister McLay has declined our request in respect of the Matura and Waikaka rivers. Given the calibre of the supporting material we provided, this is disappointing.

A letter of explanation or the legal opinion has not been released at this stage and we are unsure when it may come to hand.

Resolved D Linklater/D Harris that the council write to the Minister seeking to view the information and advice he was provided with in respect of his decision to decline the council's request.

Brightwater Stream – fencing to commence next week. 5m set back to allow for mowing and planting. Hopefully this will allow the stream to improve as the banks are badly affected by stock. Intending to do trout abundance and electrofishing work.

Wakatipu Fishing Club – Cohen and Dwight presented to the club on Pressure Sensitive fisheries monitoring results and DW angler consultation. Well received.

Waituna – Cr Linklater asked about Waituna measurement regarding fish numbers. Zane advised that because we have had access denied to properties we previously conducted spawning surveys on, we now focus on assessing length of fish. However, our observations suggest there are good

numbers of trout, and the length shows that individual fish are healthy, which suggests the population should remain healthy.

SWALP – HC appeal on Section 70 – farming not a permitted activity. We have written to HC asking to progress this matter. Section 130 – a parallel case ongoing in canterbury.

Wetland Developments – Staff have surveyed a large wetland site near Te Tipua which will contain three wetlands. A co-funding arrangement is being sought with GBHT and Westpac with SFGC funding the lower site, being the cheaper development.

Also preliminarily surveyed 2 large sites in the Edendale area – 2ha and 5ha.

Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge to accept the Staff report. Carried.

Administration Reports

No matters raised.

Mandeville Pond Property

Property now sold - \$20,000. Title transfer documents yet to be executed. Jacob to attend to this. Zane suggested the sale proceeds be held in Habitat creation.

Resolved M Hartstonge/D Linklater to hold the sale proceeds for Habitat creation. Carried

NZC update.

Cr Harris advised no new matters to report.

The manager enquired of Cr Harris re licence fee setting process regarding regions being advised by NZC that they couldn't raise licence fees and to reduce expenses by 3%, leaving regions to call on their reserves to meet budget. It is understood that a legal opinion emerged from a region indicating that NZC couldn't act in this manner, then a last-minute decision indicated regions could have applied a licence increase. The whole process has been unfortunate. Cr Harris stated the budgeting system needs improvement in order to provide funding where it is needed.

Items for next meeting

Items for Otago/Southland meeting in Tapanui on 25th July – NZC update.

Communications re upcoming elections.

Future Finance working group.

Future Structure working group.

Fishing regulation simplification.

Cultural harvest - Black Swan.

Communication with licence holders

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Next meeting to be held 26th September 2024.

Chairman _____ Date _____