

Minutes of the Fish & Game NZ, Southland Region Council meeting held at the Southland Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on Thursday 14th February 2019.

Present:

Chris Owen (Chair)	Lyndon Norman
Paul Stenning	Craig Horrell
Dave Harris	Ken Cochrane
Mike Hartstonge	Cyril Gilroy (Te Runanga Ngai Tahu)
David MacGregor	Bevan McNaughton
Corey Carston	

In attendance:

Z Moss (Manager), C Stewart, (F&G Officer) J Smyth (Resource Management Officer), C Mason (Minutes).

Members of the Public:

Maurice Rodway (Southland Conservation Board rep.)

Welcome:

The Manager opened the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed those present with a special welcome to Maurice Rodway, attending on behalf of the Southland Conservation Board.

As Graeme Watson had an apology for the meeting, the Manager called for nominations for Chairman for this meeting.

Stenning/McNaughton nominated Chris Owen.

There were no further nominations and Chris Owen was declared Chairman for the evening.

Apologies:

Resolved Hartstonge/Harris that apologies be received and accepted from Graeme Watson, Lindsay Withington, Bill Jarvie, Erin Garrick, Len Prentice and Gavin Roy.
Carried.

Conflicts of Interest with items on the agenda:

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

Health & Safety:

The Council health & safety report for the period 1st December 18 – 31st January 2019 was attached to the agenda for consideration.

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

Resolved Hartstonge/Cochrane that the Health & Safety Report to 31st January 2019 be received. Carried.

Minutes of the meeting held 13th December 2018.

Resolved Hartstonge/Cochrane that the minutes of the meeting held 13th December 2018 were taken as read and were a true and accurate record. Carried.

Matters arising from Minutes:

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not dealt with in the agenda.

Public Forum:

Southland Conservation Board Representative.

Maurice Rodway introduced himself to the Council explaining that he was here representing the Southland Conservation Board. He said there was an open invitation for staff & Councillors to attend/talk at the meetings of the Conservation Board, as both parties had a lot in common.

He noted that important business of the Conservation Board over the next couple of years was the review of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan. There were many issues with that such as increasing tourism. Submissions would be called for on the Plan in due course.

Administration Reports:

The accounts paid, direct credit/debit payments list & automatic payments since the last meeting, licence sales progress to 8th January 2019, budget to actual expenses to 31/01/2019 & correspondence reports were attached to the agenda for Councillors consideration.

Fish licence sales were down -8.2% on the same time last year. This was presumed to be weather driven with the great summer we had at the start of fishing the previous season compared to this season. New licence categories & prices may have also contributed.

The Manager said that in respect to non-resident licences they were currently 10% of our licence holders, however their usage of the resource was a lot greater than 10%. The letter from Southland Council to other regions and NZC referred to Southland receiving a disproportionate amount of use from non-resident anglers than most regions, and why we were asking for their support to see the development of a potential alternative licensing regime, with a variable pricing structure.

Cr Cochrane noted that the licence numbers for non-residents could increase significantly during the peak season of Jan/Feb & March.

Several Councillors agreed with Dave Witherow's letter in respect to what was published on social media, particularly in respect to pressure sensitive fishery areas. The Manager had some sympathy with these views but replied that sometimes it was important to try and balance out frequently negative publicity from our organisation with some good news stories. Cr Stenning liked the videos that staff were uploading to social media, (minnows to start fishing, how to fish tidal waters, etc) and believed that this was what encouraged new people to buy licences & go fishing, more so than publishing data results on social media. Cr Hartstonge suggested a good news story on the mouse boom would be appropriate. The Manager said that TV1 were very keen to do an article on the mouse plague, which could be profiled to the lakes, e.g. Manapouri or Mavora etc, rather than pressure sensitive river areas.

Council generally agreed they did not want to see sports fish monitoring data, e.g drift five results, published on social media, particularly in the pressure sensitive fishery areas. The Manager noted that there were some positives from the publication, but staff would make the commitment to be more mindful of potential consequences of publishing data of that nature in the future, particularly in sensitive fishery areas.

The Chairman said Council had received an email from Grant Adolph after the last meeting which he tabled and would be added to the Council correspondence. The letter promoted & supported the idea of educating hunters on shooting drakes over hens.

Resolved Hartstonge/ Stenning that the Administration Reports be received. Carried.

Public Forum Cont.

David Boniface – Fiordland Trails Trust: (FTT)

Mr Boniface introduced himself and gave a presentation to Council on the next project that FTT wanted to advance in the Te Anau basin. The project was to construct a trail from the boat harbour at Te Anau to the boat harbour at Te Anau Downs. As a Trust they had not sought government funding before, raising funds for their Lake2Lake trail from the local community, however for this project they were looking at applying for funding from the Government's Provincial Growth Fund. He was here tonight to see if Fish & Game would provide a letter of support for their application to the Fund. A scoping report on the project had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. He said that the project to date had received letters of support from the Dept. of Conservation, NZTA, The Community Trust & others.

He then gave his presentation which included the Objectives of the Fiordland Trails Trust, their achievements to date, including the Lake2Lake trail usage, with installed counters showing the success & increase in the number of people using the trail. Future plans included completing the Lake2Lake trail (within the Fiordland National Park), completing the Te Anau to Te Anau Downs trail (more complex issues than the Lake2Lake). After that there were other projects in mind to provide a network of usable trails in the Te Anau basin. One of these was a proposed mountain bike trail working with TACI (local mountain biking club) to link with the Te Anau-Te Anau Downs trail. The FTT had an MoU with the club and were supporting their application to the Provincial Growth Fund.

He explained the many benefits of a Te Anau-Te Anau Downs trail, mainly as a linking trail to many other things. Economic benefits for businesses & the community for the Lake2Lake & Te Anau Downs trails were listed and the funding requirements of the four legs of the project to Te Anau Downs. Mr Boniface then went over the challenges for the FTT which included the Fiordland National Park review, compliance requirements, maintenance in perpetuity, funding etc and the many benefits of the trails to the local Community & Southland as a whole.

These trails increased recreational opportunity & provided more for tourism and created access to areas not usually easily accessible.

Cr Cochrane queried where Fish & Game fitted in with the project. Mr Boniface replied that the trails gave improved access to anglers fishing the Waiau River and opened up a lot of areas to lake shore fishing that previously was not easily accessible.

Mr Boniface was thanked for his presentation and he left the meeting. (7.16pm)

Public Excluded session of the meeting

Time 7.17 pm Resolved: (McNaughton/Hartstonge)

To move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting
Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to hear:

a) A commercially sensitive rafting application.

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
	Would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.

Time: 7.50pm

Resolved: (Hartstonge/Harris)

To move out of Public Excluded session and back into a Public meeting

Staff Report:

The staff report was attached to the agenda.

Paradise Shelduck counts:

Counts were undertaken by helicopter on the 24th January 2019, around the known moult sites. Ground counts were completed on the 25th & 29th January. Moulting counts were slightly lower than last year, but in line with the long-term average. 8,580 were counted on the coastal lakes and 10,113 inland.

Cr Cochrane queried if the drone was being used for the counts to help alleviate helicopter costs. The Manager replied the drone had been used in the Te Anau basin, but with the Te Anau airport in close proximity to the Kepler Mire, air space usage was limited. However, the helicopter route had been perfected & moulting sites well out & off the beaten track were being counted by drone. Both drone and helicopter were used at this stage and the helicopter charge rate was very good.

Black Swan count:

Ground swan counts were completed on the 15th & 16th January 2019 with 3,165 counted. Numbers were slightly higher than the last few years but in line with long term trends. The increase in the bag limit to 5 swans per day was timely.

The Chairman asked if there would be any adverse effect if the swan & parry counts were done every two years instead of annually, to save costs, as they were not our main species of game bird. The Manager replied that Black Swans were just a ground count and did not have a great cost involved other than a bit of staff time.

Paradise shelduck were our second most significant game bird and the population did not fluctuate dramatically from year to year. It was a possibility to change the count to every two years as long as bag limits didn't change between those counts, as they were vulnerable to harvest. Staff were relatively comfortable to change to every two years if that was what Council wanted.

Cr Stenning noted that the cost of the count compared to the overall costs was very minimal for what we gained from the data set. He would like to see more work done on our parries rather than less. Cr Hartstonge noted that parries and swans were the birds most complained about by farmers, so we needed to keep a good count of them.

After discussions Council generally agreed we had a good history of population data and the costs compared to the overall budget were not significant so annual counts should continue.

Media:

Cohen Stewart had been doing some excellent work with 3 more videos released on social media in the lead up to Christmas. (Spinning lures that should be in every tackle box, how to fish with soft bait lures & a simple way to smoke a trout). Videos were all part of the R3 work, to see the influences of people who had fished in the past & if we could re-motivate them back to fishing with tools such as videos.

NZC Chief Executive, Martin Taylor, had used the Otapiri to try & highlight the ongoing inappropriate cultivation and sowing of fodder crops through significant critical source areas, by some farmers. There had been some adverse reaction to that report, led by MP Hamish Walker, as farmers believed they were being blamed again for a seasonal rainfall event. While F&G recognised that many farmers had adjusted their farming practises appropriately, the point they were trying to make was that some were not doing the good things that most were and when they didn't it had significant adverse effects. The Manager had liaised with Mr Walker & other MP's on F&G concerns.

Cyril Gilroy left the meeting 8.00pm

Staff also appeared in a story highlighting the dramatic decline in health of the Invercargill estuary. Staff had contacted MP's prior to the story running to outline the background & explain F&G's position on it.

The Gore District Council appeared to have misjudged the capacity of their Gore Sewage Treatment Plant to treat the additional effluent load from the Mataura Valley Milk factory. This highlighted the fact that F&G did not only target the rural sector over discharges.

Cohen Stewart had an excellent story on TV1 (shown 2nd February World Wetland's Day) which highlighted the good work that duck hunters & farmers were undertaking on private land to create wetland habitat. Not only for our game birds but for native fish and wildlife as well. Positive feedback had been received on that story.

Cr MacGregor referred to Catchment Groups in his local area and extended an open invitation to Councillors to attend their field days to see what the farmers were actually doing. He did see a disconnect between the views of the F&G local organisation and the national office. Zane explained that nationally F&G were trying to get central government to put more pressure on some farming practises. He gave an example of the ES Proposed Water & Land Plan which allowed the cultivation of fodder crop in the bed of an ephemeral stream.

Cr MacGregor noted that while F&G nationally attacked the farmers it was the Regional Council's that set the rules and farmers followed those rules. Now they were being told that was not good enough. The fact that farmers followed the rules set by Regional Councils was glossed over and not mentioned in these attacks on farmers through the media. Nationally Martin's article on the Estuary was a good piece but the footage shown of cows on a hill in the Taieri taken three years ago was very misleading to the general public.

The Manager said that the Industry (Dairy NZ) itself recognised how farmers should better manage their fodder crops in the South Island. F&G should be putting more pressure on Dairy NZ for not ensuring that all of their farmers were complying and farming to good management practises, when they were saying they should be.

The Chairman reported that Graeme Watson was going to put that very question to Martin Taylor at the Governor's Forum held tomorrow.

Monowai Jetty Development:

The Manager reported that Pioneer Generation had offered up to \$10,000 to pay for the engineering and quantity surveying associated with the development of the proposal. It had been made clear that at this stage it was just a scoping exercise to determine if there was support from F&G, Southland District Council & Pioneer to advance the project.

2019/2020 Angler Notice – Pressure Sensitive Fisheries:

At the Southland Council workshop held last year on pressure sensitive fisheries there was agreement that Southland Council should look at implementing a controlled fishery on the Worsley, Clinton & Upper Oreti Rivers.

Council now needed to decide whether they wished to proceed with the development of any controlled fisheries for the next angling season.

Cr Cochrane queried if it needed to be done through the District Angler Notice or was there still the opportunity to do it under the Special Fisheries regulations. He was thinking of timeframes, as other options were now being explored.

The Manager replied that there was still time to call and hear submissions if Council went ahead under the 19/20 Angler Notice. He would prefer it under the Angler Notice as changes could be significant and needed angler input. Special Fishery regulations were a higher bar to get acceptance & support from the Dept. of Conservation & the Minister on.

Cohen Stewart gave the meeting a power point presentation on preliminary data collected to date on pressure sensitive fishery areas and summarised the preliminary results.

The Manager said that the data collected so far was to try and identify whether crowding was a perception or reality & whether or not a controlled fishery was required. That decision needed to be made now for the coming angler season. If Council wanted changes they would be advertised and submissions called for. Those submissions would be heard at the next meeting and the final decision made at the meeting after that.

Cr Hartstonge said at the last meeting staff were asked to gain support from other regions for a regional licence that could control non-resident numbers. The Manager replied that other regions had been written to asking for their support. However, it appeared that Otago has not given support to the concept, but we had not heard from other regions yet. Most regions did not see it as an issue, so support for a regional licence was unlikely in his view.

After discussions staff were congratulated on the information obtained to date and Council looked forward to seeing the final results. The general consensus from preliminary results so far was there was no indication that an urgent booking system was needed this coming season, so we had more time to consider options. Council did not want to make the situation worse or put more pressure on the fisheries with a controlled system at this stage.

However, Cr Cochrane said that the peak of the season was still to come, late January, February & March would see increasing numbers of non-resident anglers, so it was a timing issue at this point. He would still like to see a controlled fishery for the peak of the season put in place. But he was pleased that Council were looking at a more long-term result.

Some Councillors were sitting on the fence but were prepared to wait for the data results February /March and agreed that there was time to consider more options.

The Manager referred to the OWP and project 1612. This project goal was to provide a licensing regime, based on a hierarchical classification of waters, with variable licensing structure & potential restrictions on access for non-resident anglers. He said we could fund this project from the non-resident levy along with contributions from other SI Regions, to contract an external person to produce a product that would work across the board & provide a better mechanism to deal with the issue.

After discussions:

Resolved Cochrane/Hartstonge that the Southland F&G Council continues with data collection on pressure sensitive fisheries for this season with the view to continuing to look for better mechanisms to control long term non-resident licence anglers and revisit the issue again at the end of the current angling season. Carried with Dave Harris against.

New Zealand Council Issues:

Setting National Policy:

At the NZ Council meeting held 23rd November 2018 a paper on setting national policy to provide guidance, cohesion and direction for all F&G Councils was approved to be sent out to Regions to

seek their agreement on the process for setting national policy. Once approved by Regions it would become National Policy at the June 2019 NZC meeting.

Cr Owen said that the Policy was only a framework for the process of setting national policy. Jacob Smyth reported that traditionally any national policy could only be adopted with the full consensus of Regions. However, a legal opinion sought provided that it was the capacity of NZ Council to make policy without the uniform agreement of Regional F&G Councils.

Fish & Game NZ Bequests Policy:

At the NZ Council meeting held 23rd November 2018 a paper to establish a uniform policy relating to the acceptance & utilisation of bequests to provide guidance & consistency for all F&G Regions was approved for consultation with Regions to seek their feedback with the intention of it becoming national policy at the June 2019 NZC meeting.

Resolved Hartstonge/McNaughton that the Southland Council approved both the Setting National Policy & the Fish & Game NZ Bequests Policy. Carried.

Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions:

At the NZC meeting held 23rd November 2018 it was agreed to send a letter to Upland Game Preserve owners setting out the situation & also to F&G Regions for comment.

A set of five questions had been asked to assist Regions with their feedback. The issue would be addressed by NZC at its April 2019 meeting.

A completed report on Pheasant Reserves operating in the Hawkes Bay was circulated to Councillors with the agenda for their information.

A suggested remedy for preserves was to move pheasant & red-legged partridge to Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for three years.

Cr Harris opened discussions and said the whole thing was undesirable in his view, releasing birds to shoot in any circumstances would attract the wrong attention. There was general agreement from the meeting.

After discussion:

Resolved Harris/Norman that the Southland Council did not support any of the five questions asked on Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions Carried.

Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting:

Otago F&G Council adopted a revised Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting at its October meeting. It was agreed at the NZC meeting that the new code be referred to Regions for feedback with the view of it becoming National Policy and included in the 2020 Game Bird Hunting regulation book. The Code of Practice was attached to the agenda.

Council were generally in agreement with the new code except for #2 under *Care for the Environment*. and #9 – 2nd bullet point, Council would like to see the words “*where required*” removed in relation to non-toxic shot.

Resolved Stenning /Hartstonge that with the words “where required” removed from #2 & #9 as above, the Council approves the new Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting. Carried.

Rationale:

Council considered best practice was to always use non-toxic shot.

General Business:

Operational Work Plan & Budget 2019/2020:

The draft OWP & Budget for 2019/2020 was attached to the agenda for Council's consideration. The budget consisted of \$668,131 being our bulk funding, plus 1.9% CPI increase of salaries from the national contestable fund, \$9,447, plus \$65,000 from dedicated reserves (for 5 x projects as per the OWP) & \$17,000 from our asset replacement reserve (McLay boat motor changeover). Bringing the total budget to \$759,578.

New projects included:

1118: Predator control influence on mallard nests. \$5,000 of external costs would be applied for to the national research fund. If successful, it would be removed from the budget.

The Manager explained that the project was to determine whether small farm-scale predator control affected mallard nest survival and predator disturbance.

Cr Cochrane referred to the predator control and asked when the mallard research project was going to end. How many more years were we going to continue a project that had cost over \$400,000 so far and had only resulted in a shortened game season. The Manager replied that this project was to build on informing whether predator control could realistically be done by hunters and farmers on a local scale giving a meaningful influence on mallard numbers & their survival, which we did not currently know. It was credible science. Cohen Stewart commented that it was also a statutory responsibility under the Wildlife Act, that we do research into game birds.

Project 1313: Monowai jetty development.

To work with Southland District Council & Pioneer Generation to install a jetty at Lake Monowai to improve access for boat-based anglers. This would only proceed once full costings were known and Council approved the project at the time. \$17,000 was marked from the dedicated reserve for that.

Project 1428 F&G NZ Website: The small number of hours allocated to this project were commented on and the frustrations noted about the website by Staff and Councillors. Few hours of staff time was allocated for it, as the whole website was needed to be revisited, hopefully the new NZC Communications person would look into the website further.

Project 1334: The new R3 programme would be looking at lapsed licence holders and reactivation tools for them. E.g. videos, emails, tips etc.

Cr Cochrane referred to **Project 1612: Pressure sensitive fisheries** and queried where the money for the project would come from. The Manager explained that it would come from our non-resident levy dedicated reserve and he had budgeted \$10,000 for that. Otago & Nelson Marlborough have intimated they would also contribute to that project.

Project 1120: Biodiversity values of waterfowl habitat. Cr Cochrane queried the high staff hours for the Eel abundance in wetland habitat project. Cohen explained why the hours had increased this year for that project. However, the Manager agreed that those hours could be cut by 300hrs and added to the pressure sensitive fisheries project.

Cr Cochrane noted that eels were an indigenous species & under the control of DoC and wanted to know why F&G were spending money on them at all.

The Manager replied that the main purpose of the project was to help champion the cause of duck hunting per se and to maintain the respect of the non-hunting community for our sport.

We needed to highlight the benefits of water fowl habitat for not only our game bird species but other species as well e.g. eels & other native fish & wildlife. Eels were a threatened species and by showing how our wetland habitats contributed to their survival was important for better recognition in the community. The monitoring of eel abundance in the pond habitats had to be done robustly to be credible to get a true estimate of the abundance of eels. This work would be fed into further wetlands we created and with ES Land Sustainability to provide multiple benefits. F&G spent a lot of time & effort advocating for wetlands, which were sometimes a hard sell in the community. There was no current protection for these wetlands, and many were being drained with many hunter opportunities & habitat lost. If we could get better recognition of the values of the habitat eventually it might lead to better protection of them, particularly if we can show they provide critical habitat for long finned eel in Southland.

The Council generally agreed with the project if the staff hours were pruned so the cost was not as high, how else were we going to get more wetlands built? To create wetlands to just shoot ducks was not as acceptable as having other values e.g. sediment and nutrient traps, habitat for native species etc, to get these wetlands built, maintained & protected.

Resolved Harris/MacGregor that with the staff hours reduced & amended for Project 1120 the Operational Work Plan and Budget for 2019/2020 as presented to the meeting for \$759,578 was approved. Carried.

Hunter Education 2019:

Cr Owen said that after the last meeting on game regulations he noted that Councillors preferred education to regulation on the issue of shooting drakes over hens. He wanted to pursue that further to see if that could become an educational tool for the next hunting season. He added that in the last hunter surveys, hunters were open to the concept of a mixed sex bag.

Cr Cochrane said that the last meeting brought home to him that we needed to revisit the process of the game regulations. Any important changes needed a wider view and a submission process, the same as the Angler Notice.

Cr Stenning agreed and suggested that as the game regs were based on sociological decisions the process should be a three yearly review the same as the Angler Notice, unless a biological reason emerged in the meantime.

Cr Hartstonge suggested that staff prepare a literature review of what has been done internationally to present to the next meeting on the issue of a mixed sex bag. It was agreed that staff would do that.

Angler Notice 2019/2020

Council were asked if there were any fishing regulations that they would like to put forward for the next 2019/2020 Angler Notice. The reply was no, as Council had decided not to implement any new controlled fisheries for the coming season.

The next three yearly Angler Notice review was scheduled for the 2020/2021 season, beginning 1st October 2020.

Executive Committee Formation:

It had been drawn to Council attention that due to the last appointments of the Executive Committee not being an agenda item and Councillors not prepared for a vote on it at the time, the appointments should be revisited.

It had now been put on the agenda to be revisited tonight.

Resolved McNaughton/Hartstonge that the current Executive Committee be dissolved, due to incorrect procedure. Carried.

Cr Carston suggested that there only be three members of the Executive Committee including the Chairman. Councillors generally agreed.

Resolved Carston /Cochrane that the Executive Committee only comprise 3 members including the Chairman. Carried.

Cr Owen then called for nominations for the Executive Committee:

Stenning / Carston – nominated Lyndon Norman.

Harris / McNaughton – nominated Chris Owen

Stenning/ Horrell – nominated Michael Hartstonge

Owen/Hartstonge – nominated Ken Cochrane.

An anonymous paper vote was then taken, and Maurice Rodway, being an independent person present at the meeting, was asked to count the votes.

After the voting count it was declared that Chris Owen & Mike Hartstonge were the Executive Committee members, along with the Chairman, Graeme Watson.

Internet banking/ cheque signatories:

The current bank signatories were all very handy to the Office and worked out well.

They were Paul Stenning, Dave Harris, Mike Hartstonge and Zane Moss.

Council saw no need for a change.

Resolved Cochrane/Horrell that the current bank signatories remain the same. Carried.

Fiordland Trails Trust - Te Anau to Te Anau Downs Trail:

Resolved Harris/Stenning that a letter of support be given to the Fiordland Trails Trust for their application to the Government's Provincial Growth Fund for the Te Anau to Te Anau Downs trail as presented to the meeting. Carried.

Council were happy to provide a letter of support for the FTT application as presented to the meeting as the trail increased access for anglers & hunters to the Waiau River and the lake foreshore.

Rafting Application:

Council considered the application as presented earlier in the meeting. The application required written approval from Fish & Game, as an affected party to the consent required for a commercial activity.

Discussion followed with the general consensus being that in certain areas there could be recreational conflict with intrusion on riverbank anglers & hunters. There were also safety concerns during the duck hunting season. The opening of the fishing season was another area where conflict could arise. Council generally agreed that it was a passive mode of transport & disturbance to the river would be minimal but could have consequences to the river during summer months and low flows, if pushing of rafts occurred, which would disturb the bed of the river. The lower reaches were of no concern to the Council however the Upper Mataura and the Waikaia were two areas of huge concern as they were very popular with licence holders and they believed that conflict could arise.

After discussions:

Resolved Cochrane / Harris that the Council supported the rafting application in principle with the exclusion of the Upper Mataura (Nokomai beat) & the Waikaia. Carried with Dave MacGregor & Chris Owen against.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.50pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____