

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 17 September 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Present: A Brooks D Isbister
 S Bannister L Koevoet
 S Gerard C McKenzie
 B Growcott A Simpson (Chair)
 M Hall C Fulton

In Attendance:

F&G Staff: J Graybill, B Dolan, A Christensen, J Couper and H Stevens.

Environment Canterbury Representatives: Peter Scott and Elizabeth McKenzie (from 7:30 to 8:00pm).

Public: J deWit.

20-052 APOLOGIES:

J Henry.

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

20-050

THAT THE APOLOGY OF J HENRY BE ACCEPTED.

20-053 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register or any conflicts between their current interests and the business of tonight's meeting?

D Isbister advised that he hadn't been put on the Lower Waitaki River Liaison Group so the possibility of the conflict he had mentioned at the July Council meeting no longer applied. No other interests were notified.

20-055 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and reminded Councillors and public to make use of the hand sanitiser when entering or exiting the boardroom, sign in on the attendance book or use their Covid-app to scan the QR code and be aware of the social distancing requirements.

20-056 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 16 JULY 2020

Resolved (Koevoet/Hall)

20-051

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16 JULY 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

20-057 DEPUTATION:

57.1 J deWit

J deWit addressed the Council on the following items: standing orders, online agendas, audit report of CSI, conflicts of interest, NZ Fish and Game matters, and alleged Federated Farmer interests on NZ Fish and Game Council. Chair thanked Mr deWit for his comments noting it gave Council something to reflect on.

20-058 RECEIVE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

Resolved (McKenzie/Brooks)

20-052

THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 BE RECEIVED.

Chair asked Councillors if they were happy with undertaking the informal discussion on Operations and Staff Reports being held from 6:30 to 7:00 pm now that this process has been in place for the last few Council meetings. Most Councillors indicated they were happy. M Hall noted that staff reports formed part of the formal record of the meeting, once formally received. Members welcomed staff reports being put up on the CSI page of the Fish and Game website. Chair asked CE to discuss with staff how they saw the process working from their perspective.

20-059 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

059.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing (7.1)

Chief Executive gave Council an update on the CSI financial situation. It was noted that income over July and August showed an increase which is mainly attributed to the popularity of the canals.

Resolved (McKenzie/Koevoet)

20-053

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2020 AND AUGUST 2020 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$95,044.68, AND \$342,019.12, RESPECTIVELY.

20-060 CHAIR'S REPORT:

060.1 CSI Finances (9.1)

Chair advised that NZFGC has requested that Fish and Game regional councils make savings of 15%, made up of 5% reduction in expenditure and a further 10% to come from reserves. CSI resolved at its July 2020 meeting to make a 3.2% reduction in expenditure. An additional 11.8% of budget will be funded from CSIFGC's reserves. He noted that this will continue to be a difficult year financially for CSIFGC.

060.2 Meeting with ECan (9.2)

Chair advised that the meeting between CSIFGC members, NCFGC members and ECan council members has now taken place. Several matters of concern to CSI anglers and hunters were discussed, including: fish screen compliance; agreed communications protocols for instream works; explicit recognition of valued introduced species; Ashburton Lakes degradation; Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Programme and ECan to have regard to the CSI Sports Fish and Gamebird Management Plan.

060.3 CSI Strategic Plan (9.3)

Chair reported that CSIFGC adopted its first Strategic Plan at its July 2020 meeting. He noted the resulting Goals, Outcomes, and Priority Factors were negotiated and agreed by Council Members without (as Members' preferred) the direct participation of the CE or staff. This means the Strategic Plan is wholly the product of Council Members' vision but also meant Council had overlooked some operational activities and functions that should be included among the Outcomes that CSI pursue. Those included: promoting access to angling and hunting areas; researching fish and gamebird harvests; licensing and enforcement; promoting participation; and maintaining physical assets. Chair provided councillors with suggested edits to cover these matters.

THAT COUNCIL AMENDS ITS STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES AS SET OUT IN THE ANNEXED STRATEGIC PLAN.

060.4 Operational Work Plan (9.4)

Chair reported that following Council's adoption of Goals, Outcomes and Priority Factors at its July 16 meeting, Jay and Angela put a substantial amount of work into revising CSIFGC's Operation Work Plan to reflect Goals and Outcomes defined by Council. By relating our work to goals set by Council, and by defining performance measures in advance, CSI will be in a strong position to deliver an Annual Report for 2020/2021 that meets modern Government reporting standards, as required by the Office of the Auditor General.

060.5 Ministerial Review (9.5)

Chair reported that the Review Panel (Ms Belinda Clark and Mr John Mills) met with Northern-CSI Members in Ashburton on 12 August. Due to the covid-19 alert level being raised, Ms Clark and Mr Mills returned to Wellington immediately after the meeting, rather than proceeding to Temuka for a further meeting with Southern-CSI Members on the 13th. The Southern-CSI members will now meet with the Review Panel on 30 September 2020.

060.6 NZC "Resource Allocation Project" (9.6)

Chair reported that the "Ministerial Review" was first mooted as an NZC review of the regions. After representations made directly to the Minister by CSI and other regions, the outcome was a Ministerial Review, by an independent panel, under TOR that ensured it was not managed by NZC, encompassed review of NZC as well as the regional Fish and Game councils, and directed that "the principle of a regional structure is to be maintained." He advised that NZC has now determined "to appoint independent external assistance" to support a resource allocation project, and "to make this project a priority." He noted the project seems intended to ascertain each region's natural resources, levels of angling and hunting activity, licence sales, funding requirement to meet statutory obligations, and balance between regionally based resources and nationally available resources.

060.7 Extraordinary Vacancy (9.7)

Chair advised the extraordinary vacancy on Council has been advertised and the office received only one request for an election so therefore no election would be held.

060.8 Upper Tekapo Canal Closure (9.8)

Chair noted that the response to Council's decision to close the Upper Tekapo canal to fishing during the winter 2021 season was predominantly positive.

060.9 Council Performance Review (9.9)

Chair advised he had received a request to look at undertaking a Council performance review. He welcomed the suggestion noting that a structured self-assessment is a good idea. He asked for suggestions from Councillors on criteria. Councillors indicated they wished to look at examples that other Fish and Game regions use. Chair requested that the CE obtain examples from other regions and have this topic on the agenda for the next Council meeting for discussion.

20-061 DOC LIAISON:

No representative from Department of Conservation attended the meeting.

20-062 ECAN LIAISON:

Chair thanked Peter Scott and Elizabeth McKenzie for making themselves available to come to the meeting. P Scott gave Council an update on the following:

062.1 Lower Waitaki Irrigation Scheme Fish Screen

P Scott advised no screen has been installed at the LWIS and a letter has been sent from ECan about non-compliance. North Otago Irrigation Company will be asked to have compliant fish screen.

062.2 Waitaki Allocation Plan

P Scott advised that a lot of plans are coming up for ECan and encouraged CSI to give a push for the values they have on the Waitaki River for the Waitaki Allocation Plan. E McKenzie noted there is now a new CEO and new Chair on ECan so CSI may get a better response.

062.3 Plan Change 3, Wainono

P Scott advised that Waimate DC has taken an interest in the Waihao Box and need to have a conversation with DOC also. Some think the water level should be higher and some wish it to stay 'natural'. He wondered if there was a need to have a co-governance arrangement that all parties sign onto. J Graybill responded CSI would clearly have an interest in Wainono management.

20-063 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

063.1 Risk Register (10.1)

CE advised that a collaborative pilot study has been proposed involving ECan, DOC, CSI & NC Fish and Game to survey the hapua fish communities in the Rangitata, Ashburton/Hakaterere and Rakaia rivers. Smelt populations are the primary focus of the study to assess their sustainability as a food resource for resident and sea-run trout with the assistance of CSI staff. The results of the study should inform on issues that affect sea-run trout.

063.2 2020/21 Operational Work Plan (OWP) (10.2)

CE reported that that the Office of the Auditor General has requested that Fish and Game nationally, change the form of their end-of-reporting to "output reporting". CSI has taken the first step by aligning its OWP to the Strategic Plan that will lead to output reporting for the 2020/21 end-of-year Performance Report. He provided Council with the revised 2020/21 OWP including a table of performance measures. He advised that projects have been assigned to the relevant Strategic Goal and that all goals have an assigned project. Overall, the projects make up a full allocation of staff time for the 2020/21 financial year.

Resolved (Fulton/Growcott)

20-055

THAT COUNCIL ADOPT THE REVISED OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN FOR 2020/21.

Councillors had a general discussion on the Operational Work Plan including salmon management (Willis Report), CSI Salmon Management Plan, and the National Sea-Run

Salmon Committee. M Hall requested that the significant work of J Graybill and A Christensen be noted. It was queried if it was worthwhile to provide CSI's new format to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) seeking feedback on whether this was the format they were seeking from Fish and Game for its reporting standards.

063.3 Balmacaan Report (10.3)

A Christensen reported that CSI holds three resource consents related to:

- the diversion of water from Balmacaan Stream; and
- the discharge of water from Balmacaan Stream into Lake Camp; and
- to use a structure in the bed of an unnamed tributary to Lake Camp and to disturb the bed of the unnamed tributary for fisheries purposes.

Currently, the consent related to the diversion of water (CRC980301) is non-compliant and has been since 2018. To address this Council decided to install a gallery at Balmacaan Stream that will restrict the diversion to 56 l/s at all times, enhance the lower section of the unnamed tributary, and install a fish barrier to exclude sports fish from Balmacaan Stream. The project had multiple work streams and was to be rolled out in two phases. The Year 1 workstream had an estimated cost of \$5,600 and the Year 2 workstream had an estimated cost of \$32,000.

Given the required reduction to the CSI budget in response to Covid19 and Council's resolution to adopt the recast 2020/21 budget at the June 2020 Council meeting, the project has been cut from the OWP and is without funding. Staff consider that the project is no longer feasible to carry out given the substantial budget that is required for this project in the future. The inability to undertake this work also means that we continue to be non-compliant with our current consent and cannot be compliant in the future without significant investment. Additionally, water metering and a fish screen would likely be required.

Given the options currently available to CSI with a reduced budget and decreased revenue from licence sales forecasted, as well as considering this work against Council's Strategic Plan 2020 and related Priority Factors, staff felt that the resource consents held at Balmacaan Stream by CSI should be relinquished and other options explored.

Resolved (Hall/McKenzie)

20-056

THAT THE MATTER LIE ON THE TABLE UNTIL THE DECEMBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING.

063.4 Wainono Reserve Management Strategy (10.4)

H Stevens spoke to the updated Wainono Wetland Reserve Management Strategy. H Stevens advised that since 2012 changes have occurred at the reserve such as the lowering of the stopbanks in 2018 resulting in increased surface water and construction of permanent mai mais to increase hunter use and success.

It was noted that the ballot conditions in the report also included ballot conditions for other CSI owned or managed wetlands and felt it would be better to have the generic ballot conditions as an appendix to the plan.

Resolved (Isbister/Growcott)

20-057

THAT THE UPDATED 2020 WAINONO WETLAND RESERVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY BE ADOPTED SUBJECT TO MOVING THE GENERIC BALLOT CONDITIONS TO AN APPENDIX.

063.5 Sockeye Salmon Report (10.5)

J Couper reported that the sockeye salmon fishery was now becoming a significant fishery with an increase of fishermen targeting sockeye.

Resolved (Hall/Bannister)

20-058

THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO CSIFGC REGULATIONS BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT ANGLER NOTICE REVIEW:

- 1.1. THE BAG LIMIT IN LAKES PUKAKI, OHAU, BENMORE, AVIEMORE AND WAITAKI ARE CHANGED FROM “4 TROUT AND 2 SALMON” TO “4 SPORTS FISH”.**
- 1.2. THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR SALMON IN CSIFGC LAKES IS REDUCED FROM 300MM TO 250MM.**
- 1.3. THE OPEN SEASON FOR TROUT FISHING IN LARCH STREAM IS CHANGED FROM “1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER TO 31ST JANUARY” TO “1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER TO 30TH APRIL”.**

Resolved (Hall/Bannister)

20-059

THAT STAFF ARE AUTHORISED TO DISCUSS A FIVE-YEARLY HELICOPTER SURVEY WITH MERIDIAN IN THE UPCOMING MERIDIAN RECONSENTING PROCESS.

063.6 Rangitata MAR (10.6)

A Christensen advised that the Hinds Hekeao Water Enhancement Trust applied for a consent to use water originally granted as ADC stockwater/drinking water taken from the Rangitata River for MAR projects. The water would be taken through the RDR intake at Klondyke.

A Christensen reported that the Rangitata River is a significant nationally important sea-run salmon fishery and noted the consent is likely to generate public interest. CSI traditionally opposes new takes of water and particularly those that change of use of the water. CSI believes that unused stockwater be returned to the river where it is of higher value to the fishery resource.

Resolved (Hall/Growcott)

20-060

THAT CSI COUNCIL LOBBY ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY TO NOTIFY THE CONSENT GIVEN THAT IT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND WOULD CHANGE THE USE OF WATER FROM STOCKWATER.

Resolved (Brooks/Gerard)

20-061

THAT GIVEN CSI COUNCIL’S POSITION IN THE PAST IN REGARD TO CHANGE OF USE OF WATER AND THE SIGNIFICANT VALUE OF THE

RANGITATA FISHERY, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CSIFGC OPPOSE THE CONSENT.

20-064 NZFGC REPORT:

D Isbister gave an update on the NZC meeting held in Wellington in August 2020. Topics discussed were the resource allocation project, national communications policy, pheasant preserves, trout farming, and non-resident levy. He advised there was a lot of misreporting on the following two issues and he wished to provide the facts on these decisions.

064.1 Pheasant Preserves

D Isbister clarified that NZ Council agreed to advise the Minister that they wish to carry on with the current position that has pheasant and partridge on preserves on Schedule 3, so the preserves can carry on as they have for the past 20 years.

064.2 Trout Farming

D Isbister advised that NZ Council was presented with two options. The first was to reassess our opposition to trout farming based on further independent research establishing the risk profile of different types of trout farming systems. There was a feeling that it would be better to be involved to try and have some form of control over the process. The second was to confirm our position opposing all forms of trout farming. In a split vote (10-1) the first option was adopted.

20-065 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:

Resolved (Fulton/Brooks)

20-062

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING, NAMELY—

065.1 APPROVAL OF 16 JULY PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES

065.2 STREAM WORK PROTECTION (12.1)

065.3 NZC RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROJECT (12.2)

THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED, THE REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH 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 [i.e. OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Approval of Public Excluded Minutes.	OIA section 9(2)(g)	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.
Stream work protection	OIA section 9(2)(ba)	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.

NZC Resource Allocation Project	OIA section 9(2)(j)	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.
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20-065 PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:

Resolved (Fulton/Brooks)

20-062

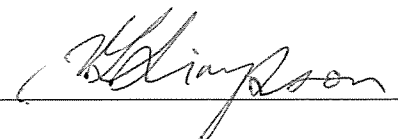
THAT COUNCIL RESUME ITS MEETING IN PUBLIC

Council resumed in open session at 10.29 pm.

Meeting closed: 10:29 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 3 December 2020 (time to be advised)

Council Annual Public Meeting: Thursday 3 December 2020 (7:30 pm)

Signed  Date 3/12/2020