

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 13 March 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Present: P Centofanti V May
W Duley Craig McKenzie
L Koevoet Andrew Simpson (Chair)

Absent: Callum McKenzie

In Attendance:

CSI Staff: S McKnight (CE), G Clarke, B Harper, H Stevens, R Adams, J Van Beers.

25-009 APOLOGIES:

J Henry (Ngai Tahu).

25-010 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register; or considered that the business of today's meeting would give rise to any actual or perceived conflict with their interests? None were advised.

25-011 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Councillors were taken to the CSI driveway to observe 2 hazards that have been identified:

- A sinkhole due to a collapsed drain
- A manual handling hazard (pushing the boat into the shed).

Council asked questions pertaining to the system that identified the hazards, the interim steps that stopped the hazards from creating an event and when they could see the final solution to both issues (May meeting).

25-012: 2025 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE CALANDAR:

The Annual Governance calendar is provided to Council to refer to throughout the year to keep track of the main items of work coming up for Council to consider. If Councillors have something they wish to bring to the table, they need to bring it up well ahead of the decision meeting as Council's decisions need to be based in science, with evidence to support them. It follows that staff need to be given the opportunity and time to identify the options and gather the arguments and evidence for and against the options, for Council to consider.

25-013 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

013.1 2024/25 Draft Operational Work Plan (5.1)

CE presented the draft 2024/25 OWP explaining that new projects are highlighted in red. He advised that the .9 projects are listed in blue for consideration/assessment for future projects. These include projects that have recently been suggested by Councillors. CE and staff responded to Councillor queries on various projects within the draft. Chair suggested a note be put on the first page linking the OWP projects with the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan as done for the adopted National objectives.

THAT COUNCIL ADOPT THE DRAFT OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR.

013.2 2024/25 Draft Budget (5.2)

CE spoke to his report to Council explaining that the budget process for 2025/26 remains incomplete due to outstanding guidance and templates from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC). Of particular concern is the uncertainty surrounding the replacement business case process for contestable funding. As a result, the draft budget includes key projects that impact overall financial requirements.

Notable budget drivers include:

- Development of a second spawning area in the Upper Ohau River Controlled Fishery, for which a consent is held, and initial licence holder funds have been invested.
- Further implementation of the CSI Wainono Strategy through wetland fencing.
- Reconsenting requirements for volunteer hatcheries, with nine additional consents needed, as well as reconsenting for maintenance activities at Scott's Creek, Lake Alexandrina, supported by the Lake Alexandrina Conservation Trust.

CE expressed ongoing concern at the current lack of policy and structured financial direction from NZC and advised that the projects below have been incorporated into the Draft Budget, leading to a substantial variance from the previous year. These include:

- Habitat Protection and Management. The additional costs in this space are for 3 key projects. These are, fencing the CSIFGC wetland at Wainono (\$40k), Establishment of the second spawning area at the Upper Ohau Controlled Fishery (\$45k) and 2 consent renewals for Scott's Creek maintenance activity (\$9k).
- Angler/Hunter participation has seen a major increase due to the requirement for 9 consent renewals these will be 3 for McKinnon's \$13k, 6 for WRES \$27.5k. These consents are due in 2026 and 2027, but it does make sense to separate the work as we will incur additional costs. The silver lining is that we get the opportunity to further our partnership with Iwi around these consents.

CE and staff responded to Councillors queries on items within the draft Budget and a full discussion was held on ways CSI Council can ensure its ability to fund its projects, levying of regions, regional and national reserves. From the discussion some Councillors expressed their concerns, and it was felt that key questions need to be asked of NZ Council to assist in building financial policy and maintain transparency at all levels of the organisation. L Koevoet explained that he believed systems were being put in place by NZC and commended S McKnight on a realistic budget for the CSI region.

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2025/26 DRAFT BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,132,753 TO BE PRESENTED TO NZC FOR FINAL APPROVAL BY THE MINISTER.

Staff were commended for the work they had put into the development of the 2025/26 OWP and Budget.

013.3 Waitaki Lagarosiphon Management Plan (5.3)

CE sought Council's authorisation to finalize the endorsement of the Waitaki Lakes Lagarosiphon Management Plan: 2024-2034. The plan outlines strategies for containing Lagarosiphon in the Waitaki Lakes catchment, reflecting the input of key stakeholders however the CE noted that he has recently been advised that Lagarosiphon has been discovered outside the containment area in the Lakes Waitaki and Aviemore so therefore the plan will become a control plan rather than a containment plan.

Resolved (A Simpson/V May)

25-013

THAT COUNCIL DELEGATES TO IT'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE THE AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH WAITAKI LAKES PARTNERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAITAKI LAKES LAGAROSIPHON MANAGEMENT PLAN: 2024-2034.

013.4 Lake Denny Perch Study (5.4)

Graeme Clarke spoke to his report advising the Department of Conservation (DOC) have approached CSI to collaborate on a project to further understand the impact of Perch populations at Lake Denny. The work includes population assessments and developing a better understanding of food webs. Future work may include manipulating/reducing the perch population to see if there are any water quality changes. It was noted that this comes with the benefit of demonstrating a willingness to engage fully in a project to restore water quality in the catchment.

Resolved (V May/P Centofanti)

25-014

THAT COUNCIL AUTHORISES CSI STAFF TO COLLABORATE ON THE PROJECT WITH DOC TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT PERCH HAVE ON WATER QUALITY IN LAKE DENNY AND UNDERTAKE POPULATION MANAGEMENT.

013.4 Risk Matrix Review-March 2025

CE report that Risks 2, 8, and 10 have been updated. In response to a query, staff provided an update on the status of waterfowl deaths in the CSI region.

013.5 Councillor Resignation and Vacancy

Resolved (A Simpson/V May)

25-015

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE AN EXTRAORDINARY ITEM OF BUSINESS AT THIS MEETING TO DISCUSS THE VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL CREATED WITH THE RESIGNATION OF KYLE FIELD.

Chair explained that with K Field resignation to the Minister of Hunting & Fishing due to family commitments and in accordance with s26ZA(5)(a) of the Conservation Act 1990 and cl 24(1) the Council notified anglers and hunters of the extraordinary vacancy on the Council and that an election would be called to fill this vacancy if requested by

a majority of eligible voters within the CSI Region by March 10th. A majority of anglers and hunters did not request an election.

As a result of no election Council agreed to fill this vacancy under Section 26ZA(5) (b) of Conservation Act which allows CSI Council to seek individual expressions of interests for Council to consider.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/W Duley)

25-016

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES GIVING PUBLIC NOTICE OF IT'S INTENTION TO APPOINT A PERSON TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE CSI COUNCIL.

L Koevoet passed on a request from NZC that CSI notify the dates of the advertisement of the public notice advising of the possibility of an election and also the date advising of the possibility of an appointment so they can be satisfied that proper procedures have been complied with. Chair responded that he is confident CSI is complying with procedure.

25-014 NZFGC MATTERS:

CSI NZC Representative – Verbal Update

L Koevoet reported on the NZ Council meeting held 28 February to 2nd March 2025 in Wellington. Topics included: zero budgeting where NZ Council have acknowledged there are ongoing issues with it; a presentation given by Graham Nahkies on F&G Governance; Alan Strong presented the North Canterbury structure; OIA's requests to NZC, and a summary from NZC CE of NZC meeting to be emailed to Councillors. L Koevoet shared views with the meeting supporting restructuring the Fish and Game organisation and changing the respective roles of NZC and regions.

CSI Chair – Verbal Update

Chair reported on the Regional Chairs meeting noting that his attendance was via zoom. Topics included the presentation given by Graham Nahkies on F&G structure, and a proposal by North Canterbury FGC regarding involvement of NZC in NCFGC regional operation.

25-015 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/L Koevoet)

25-017

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 30 JANUARY 2025 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

25-016 BUDGET & FINANCE:

Resolved (P Centofanti/V May)

25-018

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$190,772.54 AND \$381,979.32.

25-017 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

AGREED that the Operations and Staff reports be received.


25-018: INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

The CE was congratulated for his communications with stakeholders. S McKnight advised that he was pleased to report that CSI have been successful in gaining a consent for a sand wand.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Meeting: Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed: 9 pm.

Signed  Date 22/0/25

