

FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND NELSON MARLBOROUGH REGION

MINUTES OF THE NELSON-MARLBOROUGH FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT 10AM ON 21 JULY, AT FISH & GAME HEADQUARTERS, 66 CHAMPION ROAD, RICHMOND.

Present: Owen Baigent (Chair) left meeting 11.30 returned 1pm
Guy Gardiner
Bill O'Leary
Nev Gane
Wayne McDonald
Darran Kerei-Keepa (Ngai Tahu Representative)

In Attendance

Rhys Barrier	Manager
Karen Crook	Secretary
Adrieane Murray	NZC HR & HS Advisor

1. APOLOGIES Nick King, Kylie Sargeant.

C1/07/25 MOVE THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.
W McDonald/N Gane CARRIED

2. IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS AND AGREEMENT ON AGENDA ORDER

No urgent business was tabled.

The Chair advised the Council that he would have to leave the meeting at 11.30 for 1 hour to do some urgent business, it was agreed that Councillor Bill O'Leary would take the chair for that time.

The Chair welcomed Adrieane Murray NZC HR and HS Advisor to the meeting. Adrieane explained what her role as Human Resources and Health Safety and Wellbeing Advisor consisted of. Adrieane outlined to Council what being a good employer looks like, and the role Councillors must play in ensuring a safe working environment for employees in the workplace, and the steps NZC is taking in trying to coordinate national standards to help regions achieve their obligations. Adrieane also talked about what governance looks like at a regional level.

3. ANNUAL AGENDA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Annual Agenda was presented and agreed on.

Councillor Nev Gane advised there has been no update on his proposed appointment as a Director of the Lower Waihopai Irrigation Company, and he will keep Council informed.

Councillors were asked to identify any topics to be discussed at this meeting that they perceive to be a potential conflict of interest. No conflicts were identified.

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**C6/07/25 MOVE THAT THE MAY AND JUNE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT
TOTALLING \$139,516.20 BE CONFIRMED FOR PAYMENT**
G Gardiner/N Gane CARRIED

The Financial reports to 30 June 2025 were tabled and accepted.

DOC Liaison – Apologies from Chris Golding.

8. *COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK SESSION*

Nil to report.

9. *FISH & GAME REFORM UPDATE – MINISTER’S PRPOSALS & SELECT COMMITTEE PROCESS*

General discussion was held, it was agreed that when the draft bill is out for public submissions Council will discuss again. The Chair noted that the majority of regional chairs were not supportive of NZC being made up of regional chairs and that the Minister was advised of this when he briefed Councils.

10. *OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN REPORT*

The Manager expanded on items in the report when asked.

11. *NZ COUNCIL MEETING REPORT*

Bill O’Leary (NZ Council Representative) reported on the 28-29 June meeting of the NZ Council main topics discussed

- An increase in Licence fees for 25/26 was agreed to and submitted to the Minister.
- Approved changes to the Family Licence will be submitted to the Minister.
- The Angler’s notice was agreed on and submitted to the Minister.
- Managers Accord to be replaced with a Chairs Accord.
- Consolidated Annual Reporting.

12. *CHAIR REPORT*

The Chair reported he had attended a Chairs meeting and has been very busy assisting other farmers around the region effected by the recent floods.

13. *CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORTING*

This Council agree in principle, noting that all regions currently use the same financial and Statement of Service templates.

14. *GENERAL BUSINESS.*

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Councillor Wayne McDonald raised the topic of access restrictions to the Wairau bermlands. It was suggested the manager and Marlborough Councillors seek a meeting with MDC river services staff around improving future recreational access to the Wairau bermlands, once the Grovetown Lagoons management plan hearing process has run its course.

Bill O'Leary suggested that this Council reaches out and makes contact with the local Conservation Board, and the Animal Game Council which have links in many respects with Fish and Game. It is noted that the Manager and Councillors do receive the local Conservation Board agendas, and if there is anything of interest the Manager and any Councillor are welcome to attend the public forum part of the Boards meeting and speak, the Manager does make the time to attend at least 1 meeting a year.

MEETING CLOSED 2.20 pm

CHAIRMAN *D. J. Bageri* DATED *22 July* 2025.