

# NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
Held on Wednesday 21 February 2018  
At 595 Johns Road, Harewood  
Commencing at 6.30 pm

1. Present:

**Councillors:** Trevor Isitt (Chair), John Cumberpatch, Peter Robinson, Chris Brankin, Ron Stuart, Phillip Musson, Alan Strong, Malcolm Gilbert, Denis Kelliher, Bruce Kelly, Ken Lee  
**Staff:** Rod Cullinane, Debbie Ambler, Dirk Barr, Richard Cosgrove, Steve Terry, Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson  
**In Attendance:** Martin Taylor (CEO Fish and Game)

2. Apologies:

**Councillors:** Charles Smith  
**Staff:** Emily Arthur-Moore, R Barr

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

Cr Isitt introduced M Taylor, CEO Fish and Game New Zealand. M Taylor outlined his vision on what it would take to bring Fish and Game NZ into the modern era.

3. Notification of General Business

Nil.

4a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 13 December 2017 be accepted".

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

4b. Matters Arising

1. **Research Cost of Computerised Microscope** – D Barr reported fish samples been collected but was now waiting on Cawthron Institute to further.
2. **Register to Shoot on Farmland Database** – deleted off Action Sheet.
3. **Permission to Capture and Hold Mallard Ducks for Research** – D Barr, C Brankin, P Musson and possibly Cr Maylam to form delegation to discuss this matter with Landcare in late March 2018. Subject to be on agenda for Advisory Committee meeting. Possibility of using caged birds at Isaacs for this research.
4. **Change to Gamebird Survey** - Hold over until next Council meeting.
5. **Wheelchair Platform** – R Cullinane to follow up with ECAN regarding legal position as to who is liable under the Health and Safety Act, F&G or ECan.

6. **Update on ECan Staff Training on Fish Screens** – T Hawker advised ECan staff had had a training day on fish screens, but F&G had not been involved. A meeting with the newly appointed ECan Compliance Manager was held, with a draft Compliance Plan which would be ready by mid-March was discussed along with prioritising 600 consents to be visited in the forthcoming year.

Other points noted were;

- that the higher level of checking on the process by the Fish Screen Committee was required;
- educate water take users for best practice;
- dual training on fish screens was required with testing being undertaken by both parties;
- ECan do not have the appropriate tools to accurately measure/test fish screens.

Cr Cumberpatch stated that Regional Councils were not meeting their obligations regarding fish screens and asked M Taylor to raise this subject with the appropriate Ministers. M Taylor responded it would be difficult to make a case on salmon and trout alone and suggested the inclusion of native fish in any submission.

R Cullinane to raise F&G concerns with ECan.

## 5. Health and Safety Update

The North Canterbury Health and Safety Plan was presented to Council with the view to sign off by Councillors and staff. Sign off of the Health and Safety Policy was confirmed.

Cr Cumberpatch advised the Safety Plan template was required to be included in this Policy. D Ambler to action. That a copy of the Health and Safety Policy be included in each Councillor's portfolio.

## 6. Public Session

No matters were raised.

## 7. Meeting Business

### 7a i Land Based Fish Farms – List of Species That Can Be Farmed

Councillors were concerned at the late notice from MPI (with little consultation from F&G) regarding the addition of 2 species of fish (Red Belly Pacu and Black Pacu (Pacu, Tambaqui) to the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 Gazette. NZC had asked MPI for a professional opinion on the matter. North Canterbury F&G request that if any applications are received by MPI, NZC to make a submission on the matter. D Ambler to advise NZC.

### 7a ii Farm Resilience Assessment – Hurunui Waiau Catchments

S Pearson presented a farm systems analysis report on two dairy farms (one on the Hurunui and one on the Waiau catchments). The purpose was to determine the impacts of potential irrigation restrictions on existing, and alternative dairy farm systems resulting from increasing minimum flows.

The Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC) had avoided a review of its water take consents over the past five years. While they had made water efficiency improvements, most of the gains that were meant for rivers have been re-invested in generating more intensification.

The analysis for this report was sourced over several years from actual farm data. The results showed that both farms could minimise their losses by importing feed during the critical dry years where the financial risk to farms was reasonable, given the significant environmental benefits and that full implementation of minimum flows was well overdue. The findings were not able to show that lowering the stocking rate and the use of more drought tolerant feed crops would offset the dry year losses. With access to more accurate plant growth data, the result could show a more favourable outcome in terms of the environment and the farm's performance.

S Pearson stated he had already presented this Report to the Hurunui/Waiiau Zone Committee and that there needed to be more work carried out to gather further data. He was also hoping to talk to Dairy NZ to see if more trial farms could be incorporated in the analysis.

**"That NCF&G endorse the Report with a view to present to other NZ F&G Councils."**

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

#### 7a iii Applications to Hold a Fishing Competition

**" That NCF&G support the following fishing competitions;**

**Rakaia River Fishing Promotions 23-25 February 2018, the Rangers Fishing Competition 19 March 2018 and the NZSAA fishing competition 17-18 March 2018."**

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Cumberpatch

CARRIED

D Ambler to advise the organisations concerned of outcome.

#### 7a iv Assisting with Mallard/Grey Duck Collection

A request was received to obtain samples of mallards and grey ducks in NZ to enable testing for population structure to determine the extent of hybridisation, hybrid loads and purity across NZ on the 6/7 May 2018. Staff availability and budget constraints were discussed. The matter of gamebird competitions being held without approval from F&G was discussed.

**" That NCF&G support the project but have no staff hours to assist."**

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded:

CARRIED

D Barr to advise Mr Lavretsky. This matter be referred to the Gamebird Advisory Committee to seek volunteers.

#### 7bii Release of Captive Reared Mallards

A submission was received from J Niblett outlining the risks and benefits of captive reared mallards asking for recommendations from each Council so a standard operating procedure could be formulated to deal with requests for releases. The following questions were posed by NZC;

1. Is F&G supportive of releasing CRM's as a tool to augment wild populations? **NO**

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

2. Is F&G supportive of releasing CRM's as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting? **NO**  
**Moved: Cr Cumberpatch**                      **Seconded: Cr Kelliher**                      **CARRIED**
3. Does F&G support the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity? **NO**  
**Moved: Cr Kelly**                      **Seconded: Cr Kelliher**                      **CARRIED**
4. If the latter is something F&G wishes to facilitate, support or promote, would we accept the development of commercial enterprises run along the lines of many upland game operations, or would we require 'put and take' operations to be of a non-commercial nature only? (An argument to consider is if F&G allows commercial pheasant/quail/partridge hunting, should it not also allow commercial exploitation of mallards or other gamebirds and change the law to enable this if necessary?). **NO**  
**Moved: Cr Isitt**                      **Seconded:**                      **CARRIED**
5. If F&G allows release of 'put and take' operations, would we wish to see the birds hunted in a similar way to how wild mallards are hunted now, or would we be accepting of the upland game equivalent of 'driven hunts', where birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from point A to point B, or some other approach?  
**NO**  
**Moved: Cr Kelliher**                      **Seconded: Cr Isitt**                      **CARRIED**  
D Ambler to advise NZC.

**7b i Winnemem Wintu Collection of Genetic Tissue Sampling from NZ Chinook Salmon**

D Barr explained the background to the Winnemem Wintu Chinook Salmon project. Representatives from the Winnemem Wintu Tribe would be coming to NZ in April 2018 to discuss how the project that would run from 1 June to 30 September 2018. This would involve staff for approximately two days per week during this period. Discussion followed on CSI F&G involvement, as the Waitaki River was the original release site for Chinook Salmon. D Barr to contact CSI one last time to seek their involvement.

**7b ii Governance, Management and Strategic Priorities**

Cr Cumberpatch to arrange a meeting for Councillors and staff on governance, management and strategic priorities planning meeting.

**7b ii National Salmon Committee**

A paper was tabled outlining suggested Terms of Reference and how the Committee would operate was tabled from NZC.

" That NCF&G support in principal the establishment of a National Salmon Committee".

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Kelliher

CARRIED

## 7b iv-vi Papers on Salmon Symposium Discussion, Salmon Recovery Plan and Ellesmere Brown Trout Augmentation Program

These papers be referred to the Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee to be held on 19 March 2018

### 8. Reports

**8a Chairman's Report** - Cr Isitt reported he had had a meeting with the Selwyn District Council regarding camping around Lake Coleridge. Three landowners were approached regarding availability of land around the edge of the Lake for use by fishermen. One farmer has given a positive response which would be furthered. Cr Isitt advised that fundraising options for the WWHT we still being explored.

### 8b Staff Report

**1115 Gamebird** – D Barr advised the annual aerial trend counts for Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan were down by half in north North Canterbury and stated avian botulism was of concern to population numbers.

**1141 Hatcheries** – D Barr reported the recent fin-clipping event held at Montrose Hatchery was a great success with good turnout of volunteers on both days. The total number of fish fin-clipped was 180,000.

### 8c Financial Report

Savings on budgeted expenditure relating to fish food and fish releases was discussed. Possibility of Rakaia River Fishing Promotions to sponsor/fund Bully Creek releases this year.

### 8d NZC Report

Cr Cumberpatch advised NZC were to hold a Strategic Planning session in mid-March at their Council meeting. He stated the National Salmon Committee had unanimous support for and funding from NZC.

### 8e Fresh Waters Programme

Cr Robinson reported the weed at the Groynes would not be dealt with until closer to the next fishing season, that chlorination of the Christchurch water supply would impact on approximately 20 tanks currently in use within the Fish In Schools programme. Cr Robinson advised the new fishing trailer for the Youth Programme was now in use; that Ryman Healthcare would be using Lake Woodley at Isaacs for a fish out day. That Lake Lyndon Family Fishing Day was to be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### 8f Building Report

R Cullinane advised the Code of Compliance sign off should be in the near future, with tradesmen completing jobs throughout the proceeding week.

**8g Advisory Committee**

Cr Stuart advised that an urgent meeting was required to be held with D Heffenden (Regional Park Ranger) regarding pheasant rearing in the lower Waimakariri River. Funds had been allocated, but to date no input had been received by F&G. Cr Stuart to arrange a meeting between F&G and D Heffenden as soon as possible.

**9. General Business**

**9a. Anglers Rest**

Cr Stuart's paper outlined a proposal to develop an area of flat river bank on the Waimakariri and Kaiapoi Rivers at McIntosh's to accommodate a place to deposit ashes of deceased anglers. The removal of willows and non-native trees and shrubs, retention of flaxes, and the development of a mowable area. This could be developed on all major river mouth proximities.

" That NCF&G support the recommendation to explore the development of an "Anglers Rest" in areas for the purpose outlined in the tabled document. That this recommendation be presented to ECan".

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.17.pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_