

# NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 15 August 2018 At 595 Johns Road, Harewood Commencing at 6.30 pm

### 1. Present:

**Councillors:** Trevor Isitt (Chair), Peter Robinson, Chris Brankin, Alan Strong, Denis Kelliher, Bruce Kelly, Ken Lee, Daniel Maxwell (new representative for Federated Farmers)

**Staff:** Rod Cullinane, Debbie Ambler, Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson, Steve Terry, Emily Arthur-Moore, Dirk Barr, Ryton Barr

**In Attendance:** Darryn Haffenden, Paul Hodgson, Larry Burke, Phillip Ball, Paul Watts, Bill Southward, Mike Adair, Greg Tarras, Roger Tobin, Steve Burke and one other

### 2. Apologies:

**Councillors:** Ron Stuart, Phil Musson (lateness), Charles Smith

**Staff:** Nil

**“That the apologies be accepted.”**

**Moved: Cr Lee**

**Seconded: Cr Kelliher**

**CARRIED**

Cr Isitt welcomed the new Federated Farmers Representative Daniel Maxwell. D Maxwell spoke on his background to the Council.

### 3. Notification of General Business

Nil.

### 4. Conflict of Interest – Identify Items on This Meeting Agenda

Nil.

### 5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

T Hawker questioned whether the regulation change of one salmon per day was passed. Cr Isitt replied that that motion was not formally put to the meeting even though it had been discussed.

**“That the minutes from 20 June 2018 be accepted”.**

**Moved: Cr Kelly**

**Seconded: Cr Robinson**

**CARRIED**

## **5b. Matters Arising**

1. **Wheelchair Platform – legal advice before adding to Access brochures** - R Cullinane advised he had followed up twice with Ecan but will do so again.
2. **Permission to Capture and Hold Mallard Ducks for Research** – D Barr advised he had followed up on this but was still waiting on a reply.
3. **Letter to Waimakariri District Council Regarding Waste and Water Management Practices** – S Pearson advised the matter was now underway with M Bate.
4. **Change to Gamebird Survey** – completed.
5. **One Fish Graph in the Draft Outline for Restoration of the Salmon Fishery – A Strategic Plan** – S Terry reported there would not be a graph included with this Report.

## **6. Health and Safety Update**

A staff member had slipped on ice at the staff entrance to the Fish and Game building. Mats were repositioned to resolve the issue.

## **7. Public Session**

R Tobin asked why the general public were excluded from Public Excluded meetings. R Cullinane explained there were specific provisions in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 that enabled the Council to hold such meetings if the matter discussed was considered confidential or related to governance issues.

R Tobin then asked if the hatchery would be closing down and why the Bequest money was not being used to assist with running the hatchery. Cr Isitt explained that there was a nationwide hatchery review currently being conducted with part one of the report having been sent to regional managers. It was noted that staff have had little time to comment as it was being presented at the national managers meeting later in the month. He explained that the hatchery was not adequately funded by NZC and stated that under the Conservation Act. Cr Isitt stated that the subject of the Bequest was still under “public excluded”.

R Cullinane stated that he had been and is still continually seeking more funding for the hatchery. Until the hatchery review was completed, NC hatcheries were in a holding position.

S Burke stated that fish were the life force of every fisherman and the hatcheries were needed.

R Cullinane acknowledged and was deeply appreciative of the great work all volunteers do for the hatcheries. L Burke stated that the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association supported the hatcheries.

Cr Isitt said the need for a hatchery budget to be recognised by NZC and the need to get the newly formed NZ Sea Run Salmon Committee to recognise the NC hatchery. Cr Kelliher suggested that NC canvas licence holders to garner support to keep the hatchery going.

## **8. Meeting Business**

### **8a i National Sea Run Salmon Management Committee Appointee**

Due to a NC vacancy on this Committee, nominations were called for from the floor;

P Musson was nominated by A Strong and Cr Lee

T Isitt was nominated by Cr Robinson. There was no seconder, so P Musson as the sole nominee was appointed as the NC representative to the Committee.

#### **8a ii Reserve Funding for NC Hatchery 2018/19 Financial Year**

This would be discussed in the “Public Excluded” meeting at the end of the general meeting.

#### **8a iii Response to the Cawthron Report on Contemporary Salmonid Stocking Practices in NZ**

In summary, staff felt that they had had no time to prepare a detailed response relating to NC in this Report. Aspects of the review regarding data collection and reporting could have been addressed and amended prior to the wider circulation as promised by the reviewer.

General thought of the meeting was the report was very damning and biased of NC hatcheries and that the reported need to be discussed in a different forum rather than at the next Managers meeting in August. The National Sea Run Salmon Management Committee should be involved in discussions.

D Barr cautioned about the need for a considered response in respect to the Cawthron Institute. He also stated that as their statutory obligation, NC needed to make sure they are doing the right thing for the fishery. If the hatcheries need fixing then fix the problem. He recommended that all enhancement work throughout the South Island required input into a response and not just NC. Cr Robinson asked for the Report to be put into the public arena for comment.

#### **8a iv Environmental Award Nominations 2018**

S Pearson recommended three nominations for this year’s award.

- a. **Manuka Point Station and Hunting Lodge** – set at the headwaters of the Rakaia River, this farm’s main source of income is from a commercial deer park operation and offers hunters a chance to shoot a stag or fish in pristine waters. There are some sheep and presently not cattle on the property. The existence of healthy tussock drylands and wetland plant species is a testament of their desire to keep things as natural as possible. Their desire to work with the environment has delivered significant benefits for our spawning areas and helped to maintain a wider diversity of plant and animal species in the area.
- b. **The Gates Station** – Just a short drive from the Waiiau township, it is a dryland farming operation and has the Mason river running through its property. The property was damaged in the Kaikoura earthquakes and the farmer has worked to stabilise and replant areas where slips have occurred. His plans to fully fence off the Mason river and observe best management practices on his property are ongoing.
- c. **Middle Rock Station** – is in the upper Selwyn catchment and has purpose built tourism accommodation attracting visitors from all over. The property runs entirely sheep. Today a lot of the

indigenous vegetation remain intact with excellent examples of tussock grasslands, tall matagouri stands and wetlands in relatively unspoiled condition. This gives stock good shelter all year round.

**“That Council approve Manuka Point Station and Middle Rock for this year’s Working With Nature Environmental Awards”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Kelly**

**CARRIED**

Council thought the Working With Nature Awards was a positive initiative to recognise efforts of the farming community. The winner will be announced in October with a media release around the award, with the presentation of the Award at the Annual General Meeting in December 2018.

**8a v Application to the Mai Mai Fund**

Funding is sought from the Mai Mai Reserve to assist in supporting a Masters student who is conducting research in the Greenpark Sands area to measure the vehicular impacts and suggest ways to mitigate them commencing February 2019.

**“That \$8,000.00 from the Mai Mai Reserve be used to assist in supporting a study in the Greenpark Sands area to measure vehicle impacts and suggest ways to mitigate them”.**

**Moved: Cr Kelly**

**Seconded: Cr Isitt**

**CARRIED**

**8a vi Reserve Funding for the Nitrogen Data Logger**

**“That the Back Country Reserve be used to fund NCF&G’s contribution (\$8,500.00 incl GST) to purchase the Nitrogen Data Logger”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Lee**

**CARRIED**

**8a vii National Sea Run Salmon Committee – Strategic Outcomes**

A letter from the Committee outlining five strategic outcomes to enable restoration of the sea run salmon fishery were;

1. Stop the decline in the number of salmon making it to the spawning grounds;
2. Improve the habitat;
3. Restore to acceptable levels self-sustaining wild fish spawning numbers;
4. Establish an acceptable level of hatchery fish harvest;
5. Restore the numbers of juvenile salmon reaching the sea.

Councils have been asked to undertake the following actions:

1. **Fill in tables on wild salmon numbers and hatchery salmon numbers - D Barr / S Terry to provide data by end of August 2018.**
2. **Agree that the decline in spawning numbers has to stop as a matter of priority and we ask you to support the action below;**

**“It was agreed by the NSRSC that if the spawning (escapement) returns for the 2018/19 season are equal to or less than the average of the last two season (2016/17 and 2017/18) then the wild salmon fishery be closed.”**

General discussion that this motion not be supported in its current form, with more supporting information needing to be provided and that NZC need to commit to funding before this resolution was supported. The resolution needs to go out to stakeholders for discussion (possibly at the regulations review in 2019).

- 3. Councils to adopt some or all of the following options when setting the next angling regulations;**
- a. Close middle and upper rivers (leave councils to decide start point on river);**
  - b. Reduce salmon season;**
  - c. Have open and closed stages in the salmon season;**
  - d. Stop night fishing;**
  - e. Single barbless hook;**
  - f. One fish per day;**
  - g. Maximum four fish per year;**
  - h. No/stop hand retrieve;**
  - i. Not jet boat fishing.**

S Terry commented that the salmon cycle is different each year with no real trend being noted, but the decline is continuing. Question was raised as to closing the fishery which in turn will cause lost revenue?

- 4. Support amending the 2018/19 anglers' notice to reduce salmon catch rates to halt the decline in spawning numbers.**

Cr Isitt stated that the next move for NC would be to change the current regulations and if this is done now then consultation with stake holders would need be sought. It was thought that there be urgency in reducing the bag limit and education of stake holders be undertaken.

In general discussion on all four points it was decided the public was required to be on board with any changes and a possible way of doing this was though a survey using Survey Monkey.

**“That staff draft a response to NZC.”**

**Moved: Cr Kelliher**

**Seconded: Cr Kelly**

**CARRIED**

**8b i Formalisation of Licence Fee Increase**

**“That NC support NZC recommendation to increase the 2018/19 adult whole season sports fish licence fee to \$130.00 and an adult whole season game licence fee to \$96.00 (inclusive of the \$3.00 fee for the Gamebird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Kelliher**

**CARRIED**

**8b ii Letter of Concern in Response to Council Endorsed Changes to the 2018/19 Sports Fishing Regulations**

D Barr outlined his concerns with Council not fully consulting staff on proposed regulation changes and with the haste decisions were made. After discussion it was agreed that deadline decisions should not

be made without the appropriate data to make informed decisions and that more public consultation was required. Consistency between salmon regulations and trout regulations was required.

**8b iii Release of Game Bird Harvest Survey Data**

A request was made from the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management to release gamebird harvest data relevant to Te Waihora. Privacy concerns we raised as each hunter is named in the survey.

**“That the game bird harvest survey data be released with names of hunters removed”.**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Kelliher**

**CARRIED**

**9. REPORTS**

**9a Chairman’s Report** – Cr Isitt reported on the Braided Rivers Action Group. He stated he was continuing advocating for a lake in the red zone and continuing to develop fishing opportunities at Lake Rotokahatu. He had also been involved with the resolution of the Groynes Lakes regarding the weed problem. P Watts announced there was funds available for tree planting by rivers. E Arthur-Moore to discuss with P Watts.

**9b Staff Report**

Report taken as read.

**9c i Financial Report**

R Cullinane reported the hatchery was showing its usual overspend which was now in a holding pattern. He reported the requirement to release fish stocks early to save on fish food costs due as due to the bio-security scare late 2017 where fish were held back at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00 per month. The financial report was as expected.

Cr Kelliher was updated on the possible revised financial reporting process that would be available at the October Council meeting.

**9c iii Eyede Report**

Licence sales down again for period. New licence categories affecting income.

**9d Fresh Waters Programme**

Cr Robinson reported the TAKF day would be held on 14 October 2018 with the Lagrosiphon weed being treated to enable the day to go ahead. After discussion it was stated the willows around the Lakes should be removed as well.

Cr Robinson reported the fish tanks put into three retirement homes were being well received. Cr Isitt again stressed the need for ideas in raising funds and getting sponsors on board with the Fresh Waters programme.

**9e. Snake Creek Restoration Update**

E Arthur-Moore reported the first year of the project had gone well with reforming banks 1km along the main stem on both sides with a further 100m upstream of Chamberlains Road and also reforming over-steepened areas of two springs. Four sediment traps had been installed. 35-40 major instream features were installed along a 1km stretch with planting over 1100 lineal metres of stream bank.

Stage two will begin mid September which will involve re-battering a steepened section of bank along 750m of waterway and the planting of approximately 1k of waterway. The project has been completed within budget.

**9f. Advisory Committees**

**Salmon** - Committee meeting required early September

**Game** - Required to evaluate competitions held this season

**10. General Business**

Cr Kelliher requested council minutes be available within 3-4 working days after meeting. After discussion it was moved:

**“That the minutes be distributed seven working days after the Council meeting being held”.**

**Moved: Cr Kelliher**

**Seconded: Cr Kelly**

**Carried**

**Cr Isitt voted against motion**

Cr Isitt advised that the meeting will now proceed into public excluded.

That the public and staff (other than may be necessary to assist and advise Council) be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

1. NCF&G Short Term Funding;
2. Winnemem Wintu Project.

**“To move into Public Excluded session of the meeting at 9am”**

**Moved:Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Robinson**

**CARRIED**

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

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 passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General Subject of Each Matter to be Considered</b>	<b>Reason for Passing this Resolution in Relation to Each Matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) Under Section 48(1) for the Passing of this Resolution</b>
NCF&G Short Term Funding	Matter is confidential and relates to governance issues	S48(1)(d)
Winnemem Wintu Project		

This resolution is made in reliance of 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:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Reason Under the Official Information Act 1982</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Plain English Reason</b>	<b>When Report Can Be Released</b>
	Internal Funding	S9(2)	Commercial Sensitivity	No intention to release

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- a. Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- b. Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

**“That the meeting move out of public excluded session at 11.25pm.”**

**Moved: Cr Isitt**

**Seconded: Cr Robinson**

**CARRIED**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.30 pm.**

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

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

**Next Meeting:**

**17 October 2018**

**595 Johns Road, Harewood**

**6.30pm**