

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Fish and Game NZ, Southland Region council meeting held at the Southland Fish and Game Offices, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on 26th September 2024, commencing at 6.00pm.

Present:

Lindsay Withington (Chair)	Lyndon Norman
Dave Harris	Dave Linklater
Craig Horrell – via zoom	Mike Turner

In attendance: Zane Moss (Manager), Ben Febery, Jacob Smyth, Cohen Stewart, Bill Jarvie, Dwight Grieve

Steve McCartney (Minutes).

Members of the Public: Nil

1 Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.05pm and welcomed those in attendance.

2 Apologies:

Mike Hartstonge.

Moved: D Harris. Seconded: D Linklater. Carried.

3 Declarations of Interest:

The individual member declaration of conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda had been circulated to members before the start of the meeting.
Any conflicts were noted by the Chairman.

4 Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the public meeting held 18th July 2024 were considered.

Resolved D Linklater/ D Harris That the minutes of the public meeting held 18th July 2024 were taken as read and were a true and correct record. Carried.

5 Notices of Motion

Health & Safety Report to 31st August 2024.

The Council Health & Safety report for the period was attached to the agenda for consideration. All known hazards were listed in the Southland Health & Safety Plan.
The Manager advised that should F & G look to undertake work for DOC, they will require our H & S policy to be externally audited.

Resolved L Norman/C Horrell : That the Health and Safety Report to 31st August 2024, be received and accepted. Carried.

NZC - Zero based budgeting approach.

NZC have not requested a response from SFGC on this matter.

C Withington suggested SFGC look to support this move subject to some concerns. Zane outlined that ZBB effectively makes all budgeting contestable and that every project line (both time and expense) will be subject to NZC assessment. Your entire budget will have to compete against all other regions OWP's with NZC deciding (under yet to be detailed criteria) which projects are deemed to be of value. Risks noted were - regions pressed to inflate budget requirements, lack of continuity, time consuming, questionable legal standing of this NZC proposal, increased reliance on regional chairs' capacity to present OWP specifics in detail, which falls outside of their governance role. He suggested Southland support the move, but look to encourage the development of a robust framework to underpin consideration of projects.

Resolved D Harris/ M Turner that SFGC respond to NZC, supporting ZBB but outlining their concerns with the proposed change to a ZBB process in the absence of a suitable framework against which to assess regional budgets' appropriateness with respect to organisational or regional priorities and resource allocation and suggest that such is developed as comprehensive policy. Carried

Aotearoa Gaming Trust.

Resolved D Harris/D Linklater to authorise staff to submit an application to the Aotearoa Gaming Trust for \$10,000 which will be used to partially cover the cost of driving the piles (Monowai Jetty Project), and that Ben Febery and Zane Moss act as contacts/recipient's on behalf of the Council. Carried.

Journal Report

Journal report for the period 1/7/2024 – 31/8/2024 was presented and signed by the Chairman.

Staff Report

SWALP.

Jacob gave an update. Two unresolved matters. Weed and Sediment, subject to High Court appeal and currently on hold. Following constructive meetings, hoping to get appeal withdrawn by end of November. Second matter relates to discharge rules around land use activities subject to a Court of Appeal, appeal by the Regional council. Currently awaiting a reserved decision.

Beat System.

Previous consultation was agreeable however, some social media commentary a bit disagreeable, even though it is voluntary.

Brightwater.

Fencing project now completed with large (4 – 5 metres) set back. Fish & Game will do some preliminary planting. Staff to do fisheries work there before the season starts and promote the project in the media.

Pond/Wetland.

Fish & Game continue to receive requests. We have initiated a Southland Wetland Task Force to develop a research programme to identify 20 - 30 duck pond type wetlands where we can do water quality monitoring in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of duck ponds in reducing

nitrate levels with the view to seeking government funding for development of ponds on private land.

Councillor Information Reports

Aaron Fowle Claim tag dispute still on going.

Letter from Minister Todd McClay clarifying his position on designated waters. In order to progress policy on this matter, we have approached Prof Brent Lovelock at the University of Otago with a view to commissioning work on the likely influence of the 2 month designated waters requirement on the Waikaia would be.

Administration Reports

No matters raised.

NZC update.

Cr Harris update.

Cr Harris expressed concerns in regard to NZC functionality and will step down as the SFGC representative.

Items for next meeting

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Next meeting to be held 14th November 2024.

Chairman _____ Date _____