

**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 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.**

**Present:**

Lindsay Withington (Chair)	Mike Turner
Lyndon Norman	Mike Hartstonge
Craig Horrell via zoom	Dave MacGregor
Dave Harris	Bruce Diprose

**In Attendance**

Zane Moss (Manager), Cohen Stewart. Ben Febery, Jacob Smyth, Lucy Hicks (Environment Southland) and Steve McCartney (minutes).

Members of the public: Nil

**1 Welcome:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.08pm and welcomed those in attendance.

**2 Apologies:**

Cyril Gilroy

**Resolved M Turner/D Harris apologies be accepted. 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 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 were considered.

**Resolved D Harris/M Turner that the minutes of the public meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were taken as read and were a true and correct record, subject to correction of a minor spelling error. Carried.**

**Environment Southland Presentation on River Management.**

Lucy Hicks, Group Manager Catchment Management joined the meeting to provide an oversight of her role.

She is responsible for Policy planning, liaison with River Liaison committee's and Chair's, Catchment teams (River maintenance teams, flood banks) Biodiversity, Biosecurity, Emergency Management and large project programmes in conjunction with Nick Perriam.

Work undertaken in respect to managing natural resources with resilience to a vast array of natural hazards and with regard to cultural aspects.

ES is currently undertaking a business wide restructure with the view to positioning for a changing climatic future. New money has been made available to support science modelling for baseline data to assess flood plain management requirements/ works design – mountains to the sea approach. Change in Lucy's group will include – asset management, planning, technical skills training, procurement, health and safety rules and contract management in respect of certified and pre-approved contractors for works.

Cr Hartstonge raised the issue of media attention. Lucy stated that the ES Council doesn't agree with what has been reported and pushback is under consideration.

Cr Harris questioned ES works undertaken without consents in place. Lucy advised some works are actioned under emergency works as a result insufficient advance planning – a matter is to be addressed.

Zane raised the matter if Catchment Liaison Committee's (CLC) role as it is viewed that they have influence outside of evidenced requirements. Lucy advised they are not elected and don't have any control over budget or planned works, but they are helpful eyes on the ground for ES.

Jacob Smyth raised a matter re submission to the LTP by CLC's being of an adversarial tone and in denial of a changing climate.

## **5 Notices of Motion**

### **Health & Safety Report.**

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.

**Resolved M Turner/M Hartstonge: That the Health and Safety Report be received and accepted. Carried.**

### **Waiiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat and Enhancement Trust Representative**

Fish and Game are a party to the trust and nominate two trustees for it and jointly nominate the chair with DOC. Peter Sutton is to step down. We need to identify another two representatives by June. Graeme Watson is interested in the chair's role. Zane to approach DOC in this regard.

Paul Stenning has been approached and has indicated an interest being a representative.

### **Proposed Anglers Notice amendment**

Existing notice states a closed fishing season regulation within 100m of any part of the RealNZ Tourist Centre at Pearl Harbour, Manapouri.

**Resolves M Hartstonge/L Norman to consult with RealNZ regarding the removal of the closed season regulation and seek angler feedback on this proposed change**

### **North Canterbury Organizational model**

Presentation previously circulated.

The model is that NZC employs all staff and the NC council contracts NZC for services in respect of their OWP.

Cr Harris thought this is a step in the wrong direction and a move to takeover regions.  
Cr Withington said NC council don't have the ability to contract out of the risk associated with staff H & S with NZC proposed as becoming the employer.  
Cr Hartstonge said that it looked like an attempt by NZC to run this model as a pilot program to pave the way for change.

**Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge to request staff draft a response to NZC that challenges the proposed advantages of the proposed model. Carried.**

### **Draft 2025-26 OWP**

Zane went through the OWP.

A number of items are rollover projects. Zane covered off some works/projects in general discussion with council.

**Resolved D Harris/L Norman to accept the draft OWP as presented Carried.**

### **Draft 2025-26 Budget**

Main items -

Dwight's position is a 3 year contract and is funded from Nonresident levy and now to move to the main budget with additional funding \$41k required.

Staff salaries to be increased by 3% in line with CPI, additional \$21k.

Factored in making Bill a senior staff member with recognition of remote operation and providing direction to Dwight.

Increases to insurance, vehicle fuel and maintenance bring total budget uplift of \$80k, which is net of some decreases in some project expenses.

Matter raised regarding Councilor's travel reimbursement for attendance at meetings. Councilors advise mileage from home and reimbursement will be made as a fixed amount upon attendance. Previous attendances not claimed for will be reimbursed. Steve to action this.

**Resolved M Hartstonge/M Turner to accept the draft budget as presented and to accept the reimbursement of councilors travel claims. Carried.**

### **Te Anau House windows replacement**

Updated quote is \$44k, originally budgeted for \$26k. We think if we get Dwight to doing the painting/finishing we can do it for \$35k which is to be funded from reserves.

**Resolved D Harris/B Diprose that the council accept the increased cost for Window replacement on the Te Anau house. Carried**

### **Summer Hunting Season**

Zane spoke on this matter in response to Federated Farmers letter regarding the Duck population. Looking to resolve the matter of a summer season so we can reply indicating council are considering it. Staff considered it for fodder crops and unharvested cereal crops. Zane sought Council feedback on young grass paddocks. Comment was it would be difficult

to gauge an effective period for a summer season. Discussion indicated that the uptake would be low and we have other tools (permit to disturb) available now.

**Resolved M Hartstonge/B Diprose to ask staff to investigate options around a summer hunting season for the next council meeting. Carried.**

### **Staff Report**

M Hartstonge advised he had received a comment re macrophyte was encroaching. Staff had cleared the stream shortly afterwards.

### **Monowai Jetty**

The chairman acknowledged and thanked the staff for their work on this project.

### **Correspondence**

Letter received from Jason Herrick. The Chair suggested a reply rebutting his claims.

### **Designated Water Report**

To be moved to next meeting

### **Administration reports**

**Resolved M Hartstonge/L Norman. That the council accept the Administration reports and journal report. Carried**

### **NZC update.**

The chairman advised that Barry Barnes (NZC Chairman) has sent information re last meeting. D Harris advised that there are matters to be consulted on prior to the next NZC meeting, one being in respect of Person Working Alone procedures, binding on all regions. Next Meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April and Lindsay is unable to attend and asks for a replacement councillor to attend in his absence.

**Resolved L Norman/D MacGregor to have D Harris attend the NZC meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April.**

Chairman Lindsay Withington announced that with great regret, he is resigning from all council positions, effective immediately.

**Resolved L Norman/ M Hartstonge to accept Cr Withington's resignation and to nominate Dave MacGregor to replace Lindsay as Chairman. Carried.**

Discussion around the table in regard to appointing further councilor's noted it would only be worthwhile if specific skillsets were considered necessary.

### **Points to note for action:**

- Consult with RealNZ regarding removal of the closed season regulation

- Staff to draft a response to NZC challenging the proposed advantages of the Nth Canterbury model.
- Staff to investigate options around a summer hunting season.
- Staff respond to Jason Herrick's letter re mallards rebutting his claims.

The meeting closed at 9.43pm.

Next meeting scheduled to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_