

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 5th February 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.

Present:

Lindsay Withington (Chair)	Mike Turner
Lyndon Norman	Mike Hartstonge
Craig Horrell	David MacGregor
Dave Harris	

In attendance: Zane Moss (Manager), Cohen Stewart. Ben Febery, and Steve McCartney (minutes).

Members of the public: Nigel Juby (Auckland/Waikato F&G Chair), Leo Juby

1 Welcome:

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

2 Apologies:

Bruce Diprose, Cyril Gilroy

Resolved M Hartstonge/L Norman 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 12th of December 2024 were considered.

Resolved L Withington/L Norman that the minutes of the public meeting held 12th December 2024 were taken as read and were a true and correct record. Carried.

Appointment of Councillors.

Cr Withington advised that the process undertaken by Council to appoint Dave MacGregor and Craig Horrell to the Council was incorrect. We were required to give notice in the daily newspaper that the council intended to appoint. Notice to appoint was subsequently made. Only one request for an election, so given costs, will proceed with appointments.

Resolved M Hartstonge/ M Turner to appoint Craig Horrell and Dave MacGregor to the Council. Carried.

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. Cohen Stewart advised that new report format has been used to aid clarity.

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

Gamebird Regulations for 2025 Season

Council required to reaffirm the regulations passed at the previous meeting o/a of the council appointment process as previously noted was undertaken incorrectly.

Mallards

The council has received hunter feedback regarding mallard bag limit and season length. Discussion around the table re effect on crops including seasonal crop timing variations regarding dispersal permits, introduction of a summer hunting season, effect on opening hunting weekend, perception that SFGC reacting to the effects of increased bird numbers present this season, avoidance if large changes in bag limits between seasons.

Resolved L Norman/M Hartstonge to investigate the introduction of a summer hunting season. Carried.

Resolved L Norman/M Hartstonge to increase bag limit to 25 per day all season with a season length of 2.5 Months. In favor 6, against 1, carried.

Paradise shelduck

Resolved Horrell/MacGregor That the council accept the staff recommendation with respect to season length and bag limits for Paradise shelduck for the 2025 season. Carried

Australasian Shoveler

Resolved MacGregor/Horrell That the council accept the staff recommendation with respect to season length and bag limits for Australasian shoveler for the 2025 season. Carried

Black Swan

Resolved Norman/MacGregor That the council accept the staff recommendation with respect to season length and bag limits for Black Swan for the 2025 season. Carried

Pukeko

Resolved Norman/Horrell That the council accept the staff recommendation with respect to season length and bag limits for Pukeko for the 2025 season. Carried

Upland Game

Resolved MacGregor/Norman That the council accept the staff recommendation with respect to season length and bag limits for Upland Game for the 2025 season. Carried

Regional Priorities

The council discussed Southland's Implementation of the Organisational Strategy, which was adopted over the previous term of council. Council reviewed our priorities for continued relevance and appropriateness –

- Unified & enduring organisation
- Attract & retain licence-holders
- Mana Whenua connected
- Public Perception & legitimacy
- Healthy species, habitats & ecosystems

Cr Hartstonge asked for clarification on the Canterbury canals. The Manager advised that it was Southland angler's 6th most popular fishery and we could assist in project work in support. However, he conceded that work of SFGC staff had initiated the economic impact study, so council could consider us stepping back from this now.

Cr Hartstonge stated he would like to see more advertising of our meetings with the view to attracting more people and to enhance our visibility and interest in F & G activities.

Resolved M Hartstonge/L Norman that the council reaffirm acceptance of the organisational strategy. Carried.

Staff Report

Staff have been undertaking drift dives. Results to be put on social media shortly.

Black swans – counts above 3000 and stable.

Wetlands – Ben and Zane have been working with a farmer (Murray Wards) on 3 wetlands, 2.5 ha of open water. Game Habitat Trust gave \$15k, Westpac \$5k.

Ben has 3 more wetlands to attend to.

Brightwater.

The manager advised that there is growth of macrophyte. Have consulted with an expert (from the UK) who said it would find its own level. It is showing benefits of being fenced from stock. Looking to mow it in the short term.

Monowai Jetty

Ben advised contractors are booked in to drive piles late February – depending on lake level. Building materials in storage. Will redo the boat ramp so will need to advertise ramp closure to allow for those works to proceed.

Resolved D Harris/C Horrell. That the council accept the staff report as presented. Carried

Correspondence

The Chair led discussions on the correspondence.

Email received from Phil Meek applauding F & G on its advocacy and governance in respect of the Worsley/Clinton controlled fisheries.

Email received from Rob McLay regarding the current access issues and F & G's response.
No matters raised.

Administration Reports

Council discussed licence sales to date, noting we were down slightly possibly due to weather and the Feds situation. P & L presented. Tracking to budget. Accounts paid listing presented.
No matters raised.

The Chair approved the Journal.

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

Te Anau Wildlife Park.

DOC issuing a media statement acknowledging they are moving away from managing this facility on the back of a previous review.

The manager advised we may be able to source funding to develop this facility to retain an important attraction for the Te Anau community.

NZC update.

The chairman to attend the NZC meeting at end of February.

Cost optimisation project - not released yet.

The manger has asked for a copy of the Crawford report for the Managers meeting next week.

Cr MacGregor asked if the new Minister would meet NZC. The Chairman advised they will get a chance to meet him at the end of month meeting.

Items for the next meeting

Update on Te Anau Wildlife Park

Public excluded

Cr Withington moved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely;

- former councillor's letter of complaint,
- fishing access signage theft.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Former Councillor's letter	Potentially defamatory	9 (2) (a)
Fishing access	Damage Public interest	9 (2) (ba) (ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on [section 48\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Resolved L Withington/D MacGregor to move the meeting to public excluded. Carried

Resolved M Hartstonge/L Norman to move meeting out of Public excluded. Carried.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Next meeting scheduled to be held on 27th March

Chairman _____ Date _____