

One hundred and thirty-seventh meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Wellington

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June 2019

Commencing 10.45 am

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

Noel Birchall, Lindsay Lyons (Chair), Kevin Williams, Alan Flynn, Paul Shortis, Bill O’Leary, Rob Roney (standing in for Andy Harris), Roy Knight, Dan Isbister, Colin Weatherall, and Chris Owen.

In Attendance

Martin Taylor Chief Executive, Carmel Veitch Finance, Jack Kos Policy Advisor, Brian Anderton Senior Communications Advisor, Richie Cosgrove Senior Communications Advisor and Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed Rob Roney as an observer to the meeting and Brian Anderton as the new Communications Advisor with NZ Council.

The Chairperson went on to outline the agenda programme for the two days.

An extra item to be considered is local body elections

2. Apologies

Nigel Juby and Andy Harris.

Resolved (Alan Flynn/Chris Owen)

That the apologies for Nigel Juby and Andy for the June 2019 New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting be accepted.

3. Conflicts of Interest Register

Councillors now sign the register and identify whether there were any topics to be discussed at this meeting they perceive to be a potential conflict of interest (COI). A COI sheet was passed around at the meeting for people to note any conflicts with the listed June agenda items. This sheet was to cover both days.

4. Confirmation of Minutes from 5 & 6 April 2019 Meeting

No discussion

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Kevin Williams)

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 5 & 6 April 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

Discussion followed on some topics.

Art storage: Hocken Library has agreed to take the collection. The suggestion is a small donation be made to recognise the service being provided.

Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/Roy Knight)

That NZ Council make a donation of \$3,000 to Hocken Library in acknowledgement of the services they provide.

6. Confirm Licence Fee Recommendations

Fish and Game Councils were asked by NZ Council to respond to licence fee recommendations by 29 May 2019 to enable feedback and allow NZ Council to make recommendations at its June 7-8, 2019 meeting for recommending to the Minister of Conservation by mid-June.

Discussion focused on prospect of using email or telephone conference to confirm decisions. It was agreed the NZ Council Chairman will write to regional chairs outlining the preference for meeting dates to confirm dates for setting licence fees for future years.

Wellington raised several points in its response, including a formal review of licence categories to include non-licence holder perceptions.

NZ Council office to draft letters in reply to queries raised by particular councils.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Colin Weatherall)

- 1. That a 2019/20 adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$133 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$98 (inclusive of a \$4 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted.**
- 2. That the Adult Non-resident Whole Season licence become \$180 with all the other non-resident licence prices staying the same.**

7. NZ Council Financial Review

The purpose of this review is to a) look at the process the NZ Council use to set the overall organisational budget, b) five-year budget projections, c) review the 2018/19 budget and d) discuss the 2019/20 budget.

Discussion progressed through each of the headings within this paper.

Initial focus was on allocation of extra revenue from non-resident licence sales and how this is spent. An analysis of non-resident revenue is to be completed by Carmel for consideration at a future meeting.

a) Budget Setting Process

The current bottom up budget and licence setting process does not support a strategic approach to the setting of the organisation's finances

b) Five Year Income and Budget Projections

A proposal was made to set up a budget working group as a sub-committee to explore the issues identified in the paper and the options available to work on this matter.

Resolved: (Paul Shortis/Chris Owen)

That a group be formed consisting of two NZ councillors and two regional appointees as a sub-committee of the NZ Council, serviced by NZ Council staff and called the Financial Strategic Sub-Committee.

That regional Fish and Game Councils be invited to nominate two sub-committee members.

That Terms of Reference be prepared for this sub-committee and reported back to NZ Council .

c) Review the 2018/19 Budget

At the April meeting it was asked if a more detailed line item discussion could be had of the 2018/19 budget. This budget was accepted after a questions and answers session at the meeting.

d) Draft 2019/20 Budget

Council considered the line by line budget. It was noted that until the Minister approved licence fees, the 2019/20 budget can be accepted in draft format only but formally adopted once licence fee recommendations are confirmed.

Resolved: (Dan Isbister/Roy Knight)

- 1. Agree to confirm the proposed 2019/20 budget**
- 2. Agree to adopt the proposed new budget format**

8. NZ Council 2018/19 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 4

The purpose of this paper is to update the NZ Council financial position to the month ended 30 April 2019. To date the Net surplus of \$162,149, against a budget surplus YTD of \$17,202. Monthly bank transactions were also tabled for information.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Colin Weatherall)

That the NZ Council Financial Report as at 30 April 2019 be accepted.

9. National Financial Report to 30 April 2019

This provides an update on the YTD expenditure by Council against the 13 budgets through the financial year. It is a snapshot of where councils are at. Overall the combined Councils are sitting at 67% of total budget spent with 8 months of the year completed.

RMA expenditure is proposed to be added to this table.

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Kevin Williams)

That the National Financial Report as at 30 April 2019 be accepted.

10. Alternative Sources of Revenue

At the April NZ Council meeting it was Fish & Game NZ needed to look into bringing in advertising revenue from whatever it does. Following general discussion in April, it was agreed the CEO look into scoping out a position for the NZC office focused on generating alternative sources of revenue. This was provided in the June agenda paper with the identification of two main revenue groupings: commercial and non-commercial. The challenge is to invest in activities that grow a customer base and diversify income sources.

The position is to be advertised through an open market process.

Resolved: (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Williams)

- 1. Agree in principle to establish a Business Development position based in the NZ Council office for an initial period of three years.**
- 2. Agree to consider a detailed proposal in the August meeting.**

11. Bequest and Donation Policy

The subject of a bequest and donation policy has been long outstanding. Its purpose to establish a uniform policy relating to the acceptance and utilisation of bequests and donations. A draft policy was considered and agreed to be circulated for consultation with Fish and Game Councils, with feedback to be considered in arriving at a final policy to be approved as national policy.

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Kevin Williams)

- 1. That the Bequest and Donation Policy be approved as National Policy.**
- 2. Agree to circulate the Bequest and Donation Policy to all Fish and Game Councils, recording the date it was approved as National Policy.**

12. Setting National Policy

National policy when applied consistently provides guidance, cohesion and direction across all councils. A draft policy was considered and agreed to be circulated for consultation with Fish and Game Councils, with feedback to be considered in arriving at a final policy to be approved as national policy.

Spelling correction on page 55 of the June Agenda paper in the right-hand column under the Otago entry that should read “levy”, not “level”.

Seek advice from Otago on where improvements can be made to the consultation policy.

Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/Chris Owen)

- 1. Note: Supported feedback has been included in the draft policy document.**
- 2. Agree that the document be adopted as national policy.**
- 3. Agree to circulate the Setting National Policy document to all Fish and Game Councils, recording the date it was approved as National Policy.**
- 4. Note the Otago Fish and Game Council comment on the need to review Fish & Game’s Consultation Policy and propose this be the subject of separate consideration at a future date.**

13. Website Donations Tab

At the April 2019 meeting it was suggested a donations tab be added to the website and NZ Council asked for this to be scoped and costed. This is now live on the F&G website.

14. Black Powder Policy

The purpose of this paper was to respond to a licence-holder request for the use of black powder type shotguns to be exempt in the ban on the use of lead shot for waterfowl.

Resolved: (Roy Knight/Alan Flynn)

- 1. Note content of the report.**
- 2. Receive the email.**

15. Fish and Game Chairs Meeting

The purpose of this item is to discuss the NZ Council meeting with Fish and Game Council Chairman in November 2019. Such a gathering was last held in February 2019.

Agreed to send a letter to chairs outlining the topics that could feature to identify the support for such a meeting.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Colin Weatherall)

That the NZ Council meet in Wellington with Fish and Game Council Chairman on the Saturday of its three-day November 22nd – 24th 2019 meeting.

16. Correspondence to be considered

Three letters were presented for discussion, all from Otago Fish and Game Council

- a) Response to National Sea-run Salmon Committee report.
- b) Transition from Mining Privileges
- c) The Economic value of NZ's sports fisheries.

Resolved: (Roy Knight/Bill O'Leary)

- 1. That the letters from Otago Fish and Game Council be received.**
- 2. That matters will be considered as appropriate.**
- 3. That a scoping exercise be prepared to assess the economic value of New Zealand's sport fisheries.**

17. Application for Legal/RM Funding – Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council

An application for legal/RM funding support has been received from Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council to provide \$30,000 for Environment Court and potentially High Court action to get Tasman District Council to address water management issues in the Upper Motueka catchment. Nelson/Marlborough are to be congratulated on a good application.

Resolved: (Kevin Williams/Paul Shortis)

- 1. That Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council encourage Department of Conservation participation in this process to ensure the protection of freshwater habitat.**
- 2. That Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council adopt a two-phase approach and access the process again after the outcome of the Environment Court hearing is known before applying for further funding to pursue any High Court action.**
- 3. That the application by Nelson/Marlborough for funding from the National Legal Fund for legal costs, of \$7,000, to appeal Tasman District Council's renewal of existing water permits and gain commitment to a future plan change process, be approved.**

18. Central South Island Fish and Game Council Audit

The Audit has been completed and from a NZ Council point of view and the matter is now closed.

NZ Councillors were asked to reread the audit report and consider formulating thoughts at the next meeting for discussion.

19. Staff Activities Report

Council staff presented their report of activities since last reporting to the NZ Council. Questions were asked and discussion held on points raised, but no issues or actions resulted.

Obligation were discussed and supported for Councils to liaise with conservation boards and the NZ Council with the Conservation Authority.

Resolved: (Paul Shortis/Chris Owen)

That the CEO and staff activities report for June 2019 be noted and received.

Saturday session.
Commenced at 8.30 am

Chairman introduced the practices of public excluded meetings and the need for confidentiality.

20. Public Excluded Meeting

8.30 am Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/Dan Isbister)

To move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting

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

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

- a. **Minutes from the last meeting taken in public excluded.**
- b. **Licence Administration System replacement**
- c. **CE Advocacy Report**
- d. **Hawke's Bay Audit update**
- e. **Communications language**
- f. **Fish and Game Remuneration Policy Project proposal**
- g. **Supporting Candidates running in local body elections**

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 the passing of this resolution are as follows:

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
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on 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:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
XX.	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the	Sec 9(2)(be)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

	supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied		supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	
	Maintain legal professional Privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.
	Enable a Minister of the Crown or any Department or organisation holding information to carry out without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	Sec.9(2)(j)	To enable the Council to discuss the information without improper gain or advantage being given to third parties.	Once agreement has been reached or contract signed.

Note

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.”

Time: 12.06 pm .

Resolved: (/)

To move out of Public Excluded and back into a Public meeting.

21. Resolutions from public excluded session

It was agreed in the public excluded session of the meeting that the following resolutions were to be brought forward into the public record.

Resolved ((Paul Shortis/Chris Owen)

Agree to move to the public minute that two subcommittees are to be established with their own terms of reference for:

- a. **Licensing administration**
- b. **Remuneration policy**

22. Membership of sub-committees

With the resolutions to establish sub-committees to assist with finance, licensing and remuneration it was agreed to propose a structure and NZ Council membership with other appointments and terms of reference still to be finalised.

Resolved (Kevin Williams/ Chris Owen)

That the membership to the following subcommittees be:

i. Strategic Finance

NZ Council membership to be Dan Isbister, Paul Shortis plus two regional Fish and Game Council appointees.

ii. Licensing Committee

NZ Council membership to be Noel Birchall, Chris Owen, plus three regional Fish and Game Council appointees.

iii. Remuneration Policy

NZ Council membership to be Bill O'Leary, Colin Weatherall, plus two regional Fish and Game Council appointees.

Council then returned to the public agenda.

23. Marketing R3 Report

The R3 consultant has presented a progress report for the March – May 2019 period on achievements and progress in the R3 project.

It was agreed to accept the June Bi-monthly report be received.

24. National Salmon Committee update

An oral update was provided by NZ Councillor Roy Knight the Chairman of the National salmon Committee. The Committee seek NZ Council support for the creation of a season bag limit for salmon. Compliance for such conditions is likely to be supported by a tag per fish caught system with the introduction of a season bag limit for salmon.

Resolved: (Roy Knight/Colin Weatherall)

That NZ Council supports in principle the National Salmon Committee's proposal to create a season bag limit for salmon.

25. RM/Legal update

This item provides an update for those legal projects already approved and where there has been some action since reported at the last meeting.

Resolved: (Dan Isbister/Colin Weatherall)

That the Legal/RMA Fund report be accepted.

26. Research Programme Update Report

This item provides an update for those research projects already approved and where there has been some action since reported at the last NZ Council meeting. There is still a need to see action in completing some of these projects. A great deal of work is going into developing a future research programme.

Resolved (Noel Birchall/Paul Shortis)

That the June 2019 Research Programme update report be received.

27. National Licence Sales Update.

An update on licence sales was provided with a comparison of YTD figures to 10 May 2019 for the 2018/19 seasons.

Resolved: (Chris Owen/Paul Shortis)

That the June 2019 licence sales update be received.

28. Health & Safety Bi-monthly Report

A NZ Council health and safety policy was approved in July 2016. This policy is now supported by bi-monthly reporting to Council on health & safety action as recorded by NZ Council staff. Best practice standards mean this item should be immediately after confirmation of minutes.

Resolved: (Colin Weatherall/Chris Owen)

That the Bi-monthly Health & Safety Report for June 2019 be received.

29. Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their participation and acknowledged the team spirit evident for this meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 1:18 pm Saturday 8th June 2019.

Confirmed:

Date:/...../2019