

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Present: A Brooks M Hall
 P Centofanti D Isbister
 C Fulton (Chairperson) L Koevoet
 S Gerard C McKenzie

In Attendance:

Staff: J Graybill (Chief Executive), B Dolan (Office Administrator), A Christensen (Resource Officer), R Adams (Fish and Game Officer), M Webb (Fish and Game Officer), H Stevens (Fish and Game Officer), and J Couper (Fish and Game Officer).

Members of the Public: 2.

Election of Chairperson

Chief Executive called the meeting to order explaining that D de Joux (Chairperson) was unable to attend and chair the meeting and called for nominations to chair this meeting.

C Fulton - Nominated Isbister/McKenzie

No further nominations for Chairperson were forthcoming. C Fulton was **declared** elected to chair this meeting of Council and assumed the Chair.

19-010 APOLOGIES:

D de Joux, A Simpson, B Growcott, S Bannister, J Henry.

Resolved (Growcott/Simpson)

19-018

THAT THE APOLOGIES OF D DE JOUX, A SIMPSON, B GROWCOTT, S BANNISTER AND J HENRY BE ACCEPTED.

19-012 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chairperson queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register? No additions were notified.

19-013 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and assembly points for evacuation of the premises.

19-014 NOTIFIED GENERAL BUSINESS:

P Centofanti offered a formal apology to previous Councillors on comments he made on social media posts and in the newsletters of the Canterbury Anglers Club (CAC) prior to the 2018 Fish and Game Election. He advised he would be asking the CAC to print his apology in their newsletter.



19-015 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 14 FEBRUARY 2019

Resolved (Koevoet/Gerard)

19-019

THAT THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 14 FEBRUARY 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

Chief Executive indicated that Andrew Simpson had made the request to skype into the meeting to listen to the meeting's proceedings as he was unable attend the meeting in person. He sought Councils view on this approach. It was recognised that a Councillor skyping in cannot be included as part of a quorum and cannot vote.

Resolved (Centofanti/Gerard)

19-020

THAT COUNCIL WERE HAPPY FOR ANDREW SIMPSON TO SKYPE INTO THE MEETING TO LISTEN BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS COULD NOT VOTE.

19-016 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

016.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Resolved (Koevoet/Isbister)

19-021

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE EXPENSE LISTING FOR FEBRUARY 2019 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNT OF \$318,085.56.

19-017 PUBLIC ISSUES FORUM:

017.1 Conflict of Interest

A member of the public, referring to the February 2019 minutes, expressed his concern re Councillors voting on issues where they had a Conflict of Interest. He felt that Councillors should be aware when they have a conflict and should be declaring this and excusing themselves from the discussion and the process where a conflict exists.

Chairperson extended her thanks for this input and advised it would be taken under consideration.

19-018 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

018.1 Draft OWP and Budget (9.1)

Chief Executive presented the draft OWP and Budget explaining the basic principle of bulk funding, how the process of contestable funding worked, and advised that the budget is reported at the bulk fund level. If Council was seeking funding to be approved for new projects over the bulk fund it would need to be submitted as a contestable fund application. If that expenditure is approved, then the dollar amounts would be added to CSI's bulk fund. M Hall added that all 13 councils have a bulk fund which is based on expenditure only and not on income. Chief Executive answered queries on reserves and advised on the areas of specific reserves that CSI currently hold.

Lake Heron Salmon (Objective 1.1.19)

Council supported the staff proposal to identify natal origin and life history type of adult sea-run salmon that spawn at Mellish Stream (Lake Heron). It was stated that the salmon runs are in crisis and more information is needed about how they work.

Tekapo Canal Rainbow Recruitment (Objective 1.1.20)

Council supported the staff proposal to assess Tekapo Canal rainbow trout recruitment, spawning and angler harvest dynamics by using otolith microchemistry to identify the proportion of angler harvested fish that have a natal origin from upstream of the canal. It was stated that CSI's canal fishery has regional and even national importance and needs to be better understood.

M Hall advised he was keen to take a wider look at this fishery and whether we could secure it in another way. It was **AGREED** that this be an agenda item later in the year when M Hall would present a discussion paper to Council for inclusion as a future OWP objective.

Balmacaan Stream Consents (Objective 1.1.21)

Council were provided with four options and asked to advise which option they would like to move forward with on managing the future of the consents that CSI hold at Balmacaan Stream. It was recognised that Council needed to balance two subjects, these being, compliance with consent conditions and sustainability of the Lake Camp rainbow trout fishery. Discussion ensued on the four options and Council felt it was better to concentrate on fixing the habitat rather than spending money on stocking fish. Therefore, Option 2 was the favoured option. It was:

Resolved (Centofanti/Mckenzie)

19-022

- 1. THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT OWP AND BUDGET FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR THAT INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF A GALLERY AT BALMACAAN STREAM THAT WILL RESTRICT THE DIVERSION TO 56 L/S AT ALL TIMES, ENHANCE THE LOWER SECTION OF THE UNNAMED TRIBUTARY, AND INSTALLATION OF A FISH BARRIER TO EXCLUDE SPORTS FISH FROM BALMACAAN STREAM.**

018.2 Annual Agenda (9.2)

S Gerard requested that Governance be listed as a "regular agenda item" at Council meetings. M Hall responded that Council needs to be disciplined with its agenda. Items coming before Council should be part of the pre-circulated agenda with a supporting report. It must be received by the Chief Executive at a time that allows for it to be a part of the preparation of the agenda. It was noted that meeting papers are sent to Councillors a week before a Council meeting.

Resolved (Gerard/Hall)

19-023

THAT A GOVERNANCE SECTION BE ADDED TO THE ANNUAL AGENDA AS A REGULAR AGENDA ITEM AND ANY ITEMS UP FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SUPPORTING PAPER AND RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE PRIOR TO THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA.

018.3 National Salmon Committee Suggestions (9.3)

Council discussed M Webb's report that reviewed regulation changes proposed by the National Salmon Committee.

M Hall stressed the importance of CSI and NC having consistent regulations. He felt the first question to ask is "Is it the CSI Council's view that the salmon fishery is in crisis?" He explained that the main thrust of the Salmon Committee is to protect, and significantly increase, the wild run and to consider what steps need to be taken to increase spawning numbers. Chief Executive drew Council's attention to the staff paper that provided background and recommendations for each suggested regulation change. The Chairperson asked Councillors to indicate whether they supported or not supported each of the regulation changes proposed by the Salmon Committee.

1. Close October and November

Council supported the closure of salmon fishing in October and November. (5 for and 2 against).

Rationale:

Council felt that there are other factors affecting the fishery and the real issues are wider and bigger than simply reducing the bag limit.

2. Reduce bag to 1

Council supported reducing the bag limit to 1 salmon per day. (7 for, 0 against).

Rationale:

Council felt that a daily limit of one salmon will reduce season harvest by up to 10% in poor seasons (current level) and by about 15% in better run years.

3. Close salmon fishing above SH1 Bridges

Council did not support closing salmon fishing above SH1 bridges. (3 for, 1 against).

Rationale:

Council felt that this would be unfair in some salmon rivers, and supported an equal sharing of burden. Closing a section of a salmon river to salmon fishing would have a significant impact on the anglers who fish that reach and very little impact on those who fish any other reach. In this situation one part of the angling community feel all the pain and the remainder lose nothing.

4. Close April for salmon fishing

Council supported continuation of the April closure for salmon fishing in the Waitaki and would further support a March closure for salmon fishing for the Rangitata, Ashburton, Orari and Opihi rivers. (7 for, 0 against).

Rationale:

CSI salmon rivers have had an April closure for the past 12 seasons already. The most significant impact has been on the Waitaki. To match the Waitaki harvest reduction, closure of the Rangitata salmon fishing season in March as well as April would generate an approximate 27% reduction in harvest. If there is to be additional reduction in harvest for the Rangitata, then the closure of the Ashburton, Orari, and Opihi in March would also be a priority option.



5. CSI to close the winter season for salmon and prohibit night fishing

Council supported closing the winter season for salmon and prohibiting night fishing. (7 for, 0 against).

Rationale:

Council recognised this would bring CSI in to line with NC. For a number of years anglers have provided anecdotal evidence of illicit activity at night supported by changed fish behaviour for early morning anglers. Closing of the winter season for salmon is a minor issue and the winter trout season will be retained.

6. Season Bag Limit

Council further recommended that the National Salmon Committee investigate introduction of a season bag limit.

Rationale:

Introduction of a season bag limit would promote a good conservation message to anglers even though administration and enforcement may be difficult.

7. Put and Take

M Webb advised that CSI and North Canterbury staff have discussed the option of a 'put and take' salmon fishery. They plan to prepare a discussion paper on the feasibility.

Resolved (Gerard/Brooks)

19-024

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1. RECEIVE THE REPORT,**
- 2. CONSIDER AND INDICATE SUPPORT OR NOT SUPPORT FOR EACH SALMON FISHING REGULATION TOPIC,**
- 3. PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR EACH DECISION, AND**
- 4. AGREES THAT THESE DECISIONS BE CONVEYED TO THE NSRSC BY MARK WEBB.**

018.4 Consultation on National Policy (9.4)

Setting National Policy

NZ Council requested feedback from Regions on draft national policy on Setting National Policy. Concern was expressed at the word 'direction' being used as part of the policy as NZ Council's role is one of 'co-ordination' under the Conservation Act 1987 and not to 'direct' the regions. The stated role under the Conservation Act is to "*provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game*".

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet) (4 for, 3 against)

19-025

THAT CSI FISH AND GAME SUPPORTS PREPARATION OF NATIONAL POLICY ON SETTING NATIONAL POLICY BUT THAT THE POLICY SHOULD STATE THAT IT PROVIDES "GUIDANCE" AND "COHESION" FOR ALL 13 FISH AND GAME COUNCILS BUT REMOVE THE WORD "DIRECTION".



Bequests Policy

Council were provided with a draft Bequests Policy from the NZC with the request for feedback. Council recognised that NZC should have a function of advice and guidance on Bequests and therefore supported preparation of this policy but considered that the NZC should engage a person in the capacity of an advisor on bequests.

Code of Practice for Gamebird Hunting

Council were provided with a draft Code of Practice for Game Bird hunting from the NZC with the request for feedback. Council expressed its support but noted it was quite long and would like to see the final version condensed.

018.5 Arrangements for Designated Upland Game Properties

Council were asked to review the paper provided by NZC and provide feedback on five questions posed by NZC.

Resolved (McKenzie/Hall)

19-026

1. THAT COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE OPERATION OF UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES WITH SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE PRINCIPLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A GUARANTEED HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR A FEE,
2. THAT COUNCIL SUPPORTS NON-COMMERCIAL UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES OPERATED BY FAMILIES, PRIVATE SYNDICATES OR FRIENDS TO PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE AND GUARANTEED HUNTING OPPORTUNITY,
3. THAT COUNCIL DOES NOT SUPPORT ALLOWING HUNTING OF MALLARDS OR OTHER GAMEBIRDS ON THAT PROPERTY FOR A FEE,
4. THAT COUNCIL SUPPORTS ALLOWING HUNTING OF MALLARDS OR OTHER GAMEBIRDS ON THAT PROPERTY WITHOUT A FEE, BUT ONLY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS CURRENTLY ALLOWED TO SHOOT ON PROPERTY THEY OWN – A MAXIMUM OF 3 HUNTERS BEING THE LANDOWNER, HIS/HER SPOUSE, AND ONE SON OR DAUGHTER.
5. THAT COUNCIL DOES NOT TO SUPPORT SALE OF HUNTING RIGHTS ON PRESERVES.

018.6 Follow-up Information on Sediment Study Proposed by SAA

S Gerard declared his conflict of interest as a Trustee of Future Rivers Trust.

Chair asked S Gerard if he was prepared to leave the room. S Gerard responded he didn't see why he should leave.

D Isbister stated that at the previous meeting Mr Gerard had stated that if CSI Fish and Game wouldn't contribute \$10,000 to the Salmon Anglers Assn sediment study then he might have to pay it to them personally. D Isbister believed that indicated a financial conflict.

Chief Executive advised that he had sought clarification on the issue of conflicts of interest both legally and in terms of governance. From a legal point of view, he was advised that appellants to an Environment Court appeal would have a financial conflict if they were seeking funding from the CSI Council. Also, appellants have a stated position in their appeal that may differ from the position taken by CSI as a s274 party. Both of these would indicate a conflict.



He had also raised the subject of the RDR appeal with G Nhakies of Boardwalks International and posed the question "if a Councillor is an appellant on the RDR appeal does that Councillor have a conflict of interest when that subject comes before Council?" G Nhakies responded that he believed they did for both pecuniary and "stated position" reasons.

S Gerard stated that it is Future Rivers that is the appellant, not him as a Trustee. Chairperson clarified that with Future Rivers being an appellant to the appeal and S Gerard being a Trustee then S Gerard is acting with a controlling interest and therefore has a conflict of interest.

S Gerard queried the status of a s274 party? It was clarified that a s274 party's interest is usually that of a watching brief and without a stated position.

At 10:15 pm and upon request of the Chairperson S Gerard and A Brooks left the boardroom. P Centofanti voluntarily left the boardroom. All three returned at 10:40 pm.

Resolved (Fulton/Koevoet)

19-027

THAT BEING 10:40 PM COUNCIL CONTINUE WITH THE AGENDA AND CONCLUDE THE MEETING AT 11 PM.

19-019 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

No discussion.

19-020 NZFGC MATTERS:

D Isbister provided a verbal update on NZC matters from the February 2019 meeting of the NZ Council. Topics included:

- L Lyons appointed at the NZC Chairman
- Contestable funds
- Audit of CSI Region
- R3 programme
- Trout farming back in headlines
- National Sea-Run Salmon Committee – NZ Chief Executive to step down as Chair of committee.

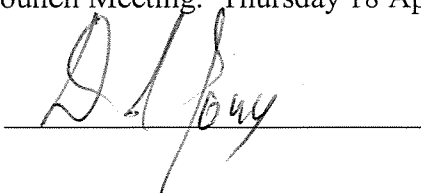
19-021 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Chief Executive noted N Stone's written request to take fish out of season to be tested for toxins and provided 4 background reports related to the studies that have already been undertaken on testing of fish at Lake Opuha. He advised that a report with recommendations will be provided at a future meeting. It was noted that Council needed to be mindful of its statutory responsibilities under the Conservation Act and that ECan has responsibility for water quality and presence of toxins and that Medical Officer of Health, DHB, has responsibility for human health.

Meeting closed: 10:54 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 18 April 2019.

Signed



Date

