

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 11 DECEMBER 2019 At 595 Johns Road, Harewood Commencing at 8.15 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Dave Coll, Stu Henderson, Roy Knight, Ken Lee, Richard O'Keefe, Alan Strong (Chair), Bill Southward, Graeme Nahkies (Governance Specialist), Trevor Isitt, Christopher Brankin (Ngai Tahu), Rex Gibson, Phillip Musson

Staff: Rasmus Gabrielsson, Debbie Ambler

In Attendance: Carmel Veitch, Richard Cosgrove plus six members of the public.

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Nil

3. Notification of General Business

Communication – Cr Isitt

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration:

Cr Strong – Trustee of WWHT
Cr Coll – Trustee of WWHT
Cr Musson – Shareholder Fonterra

5. Confirmation of Minutes

a. Council Meeting 16 October 2019

Correction of spelling - Cr Musson name under 9fii.

"That the Minutes from 16 October 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record."

Moved: Cr Musson Seconded: Cr Lee

CARRIED

b. Action Sheet

Items removed due to completion;

- Organise meeting with J McFadden;
- Letter to WWHT on Council decision on windup of the Winnemem Wintu Project

Items to be discussed at the workshop to be held on 22 February 2020;

- Convert recommendations from Governance workplan into a workable workplan;
- Add further explanation to the Performance evaluation in the Council Charter;
- NZC Communications Strategy;
- Plan Change 7 strategy;

Actions discussed;

- Relationships with key strategic allies to be developed – contact required to enable NCF&G to carry out its four key priorities;
- Letter to NZC regarding seasonal bag limits – positive meeting with DoC. Will be considered by Minister in February. Interested stakeholders/parties being asked for input;
- Trustees on the WWHT – Cr Isitt no longer a Trustee, leave current Trustees to co-opt members to the Trust.

6. Health and Safety

No incidents had been reported.

Currently most Fish & Game regions have adopted a regional version of a generic H&S policies are being reviewed. Possibility of outside assistance to do this is being explored. R Gabrielsson stated any larger scale H&S review should ideally be co-ordinated by NZC.

7. Meeting Business

7b For Discussion

7bi. Plan Change 7

Hearings to commence in March 2020. R Gabrielsson stated the region needs to re-employ a dedicated and specialist staff member responsible for the regions resource management / environmental portfolio. The expertise required to achieve positive influences at Plan Change and RMA planning and consent hearings, require a suitably qualified and experienced person able to manage a projected heavy workload.

7c. For Decision

7ci Confirmation of Meeting Dates for 2020

“That NCF&G Council meeting dates are;

19th February

18th March

15th April

17th June

19 August

21st October

9th December – AGM and Council meeting.

All meetings to commence at 6.30pm at 595 Johns Road, Harewood, Christchurch.”

Moved: Cr Knight

Seconded: Cr O’Keefe

CARRIED

7cii WWHT – Support and MOU Negotiations

R Gabrielsson sought support to re-negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding between the WWHT and NCF&G. That a transition phase to separate NCF&G resources from the Trust would go to the end of the Snake Creek Project.

“That this Council authorise R Gabrielsson to complete a Memorandum of Understanding between NCF&G and the WWHT that clarifies accountability and rules of both parties.”

Moved: Cr Musson

Seconded: Cr Gibson

CARRIED

Cr’s Coll and Strong abstained

8. Public Session

Items discussed –

- McIntyre Bequest (raised by J Price) – \$10,000.00 approved for a fencing project in the upper Rakaia, and agreed in conjunction with the NZSAA;
- Toxic algae blooms (raised by M Bate) – grows naturally in rivers. Algae is noticed when river flows are low. Public warnings are sufficient but need to state the causes more clearly.
- River Flow Cut Off – anglers are encouraged to report any incidences of illegal taking of water on the ECan app “Snap, Save, Send” that goes directly to ECan;
- Avon River – Drinkable Rivers Project underway.

9. Reports

9a. Chairman’s Report

Very busy with new CE in preparing for 2020 and the challenges that will be forthcoming.

9b. Finance Report

That aspects of the Financial Report would be discussed in “Public Excluded”. R Gabrielsson explained to the public why some items could not be discussed in a public session.

9c. Manager's Report

Pleased with progress with adaptive salmon management plan in conjunction with CSI and the NSRSC. Need clear direction from the Council on key priority areas in for the councils February 2020 strategic workshop.

9d. Chief Executive Employment Committee Report

G Nahkies elected as Chair at the committees first meeting. They have now reviewed the format and focus of the CE Employment Committee, which will hold four meetings per year.

9e. NZC Report

Cr Knight outlined a summary of the NZC/Governors' meeting held in Christchurch late November 2019.

9f. National Sea Run Salmon Committee (NSRSC) Report

Cr Musson updated on development of season bag limit regulation proposal, efforts to discourage release of commercial salmon into open systems, improvements needed to fish screen policy, along with the NSRSC's aim to develop national hatchery best practice guidelines. The NSRSC intends to invite Dr R Holmes (Cawthron Institute) to attend a stakeholders meeting to discuss salmon enhancement. Proposed time frame for this open night is April 2020.

"That all the Reports presented in Item 9 of the Agenda be accepted".

Moved: Cr Knight

Seconded: Cr Coll

CARRIED

10. General Business

10.1 Communication – NCFGs regional website required to be updated. D Ambler to complete.

10.2 Gamebird – Untapped market - R Gabriellson to work with staff on development of an educational and promotional strategy.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.44pm and moved into Public Excluded.

"That the meeting move into public excluded session at 9.27pm".

Moved: Cr Coll

Seconded: Cr Knight

CARRIED

"That the Council meeting closed at 11.20pm".

Moved: Cr Musson

Seconded: Cr Southward

CARRIED

11. De Stocking of Whiskey Creek

The Council voted on the following motions by return email indicating "Yes" in favour, or "No" opposed.

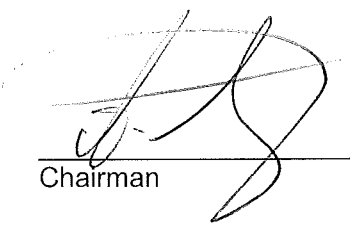
- a. That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council acknowledge and accept the advice provided by the Chief Executive and other expert advisors that all sea-run salmon breeding whether by Council or volunteer-operated hatcheries, and subsequent releases into rivers from any source (including commercial hatcheries), should cease until it can be proven that any future release of hatchery-reared salmon will "do no harm";**
- b. That the Council acknowledges that this will require the imminent closure of the Montrose and Whiskey Creek hatcheries;**
- c. That the Council acknowledges that the Chief Executive has operational responsibility for implementing the above resolutions including decisions about the relocation of hatchery fish stocks in a manner that will ensure there is benefit to anglers from the investment to date in that stock;**

- d. That the Council requests that the Chief Executive develop a communication strategy to inform relevant stakeholders of the issues and, in conjunction with the Council, inform them of the decision”.

All four motions were carried with two councillors, Cr's Knight and O'Keefe, voting against while the remaining eight councillors voted for.

Discussion then turned to the exit strategy of both hatcheries.

Signed:


Chairman

Date

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday 19th February 2020
6.30pm
595 Johns Road, Harewood**