

One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth meeting of the
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Distinction Whangarei Hotel and Conference Centre
Friday 25 & Sunday 27 November 2016
Commencing 12.30 pm

PRESENT

NZ Councillors

Lindsay Lyons (Chairperson), Noel Birchall, Colin Sherrard, Kevin Williams, Alan Flynn, Andy Harris, John Cumberpatch, Matthew Hall, John Jillett and Paul Stenning.

In Attendance

Chris O'Meara (Wellington Fish and Game Councillor) in attendance due to absence of Andrew Morris) and Jean Willis (Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Councillor) in attendance due to absence of Paul Dixon-Didier.

Bryce Johnson Chief Executive, Alison Lyall Finance & Administration Manager, Robert Sowman Policy & Planning Manager.

Participants

Phil Durham (Chairperson Northland Fish and Game Council), Rudi Hoetjes (Manager Northland Fish and Game Council), Darryl Reardon (Northland Regional Fish and Game Councillor).
Romon Sargeson, (Taranaki Fish and Game Council) present as a member of the public.

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed the NZ Council to this meeting. In particular he acknowledged Jean Willis as an ex NZ Councillor who is standing in for Paul Dixon-Didier. He also noted that Chris O'Meara has been to NZ Council meeting in the past and is here for this meeting standing in for Andrew Morris.

The Chairperson extended a welcome to Romon Sargeson from Taranaki Fish and Game Council who was attending as a member of the public and wished to speak on the item to do with the use of lead shot. Others from Northland Fish and Game Council attending the meeting will be introduced when they arrive to the meeting later in the day.

2. Apologies

Andrew Morris, Paul Dixon-Didier and Don Rood (NZ Council Communications Manager)

Resolved: (Andrew Stenning/John Jillett)

That the apology from Andrew Morris, Paul Dixon-Didier and Don Rood for absence from the November 2016 NZ Council meeting be accepted.

3. Annual Agenda

November annual items requiring NZ Council consideration are the Strategic Planning Session, Chairperson's Annual Report & Financial Statement, Review of Chief Executive's Performance, Game Notice – issues requiring consideration.

An item was raised on hunting ethics for future discussion. This in fact has been a matter discussed by regions and will be reported back to the NZ Council in March or May 2017.

4. Identification of Other Urgent Business and Agreement on Agenda Order

The suggestion made that discussion on the workshop topic follows the Operational Report was accepted as that report contains many relevant aspects.

Other items identified as general business included:

- Fish & Game Website Design Update.

5. Conflicts of Interest Register

The conflict of interest register was made available with councillors asked to identify those topics to be discussed at this meeting where they perceive a potential conflict may arise and to record these during the meeting.

- Paul Stenning identified the Magazine discussion as a potential conflict as he writes for a competing hunting magazine.

6. Confirmation of Minutes from 23 September 2016 Meeting

Nothing was identified in the minutes requiring further discussion.

Resolved: (Alan Flynn/Matthew Hall)

That the minutes of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting of 23 September 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

7. Review of Accumulative Action List from Previous Meetings

Points were clarified with discussion resulting on some items. A request was made for the final submission on the Guide Licence to be circulated to NZ Councillors. Walking Access Commission and Overseas Investment Office updates were also provided.

8. Environmental Scan

This item is intended to last 30 minutes and allows councillors to raise or comment on recent media issues or matters occurring in the regions. Subjects discussed at this November meeting included:

- Healthy Rivers in Waikato. Beef & Lamb NZ is just realising the extent of water issues and what it will mean for its members. Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council are considering joining Beef & Lamb as an ally. This subject is likely to require future legal funding from Fish & Game.
- Environmental Defence Society is challenging MacKenzie District Council over exceeding nitrate levels in the MacKenzie Basin.
- Rangitata Diversion Race and the take of more water from the Rangitata River. CSI Fish and Game Council will be taking a case. Submissions have been called for and ECan will be considering them in March 2017. Meanwhile the RDR Company have taken the unusual step of contacting all submitters asking what they want. It was pointed out that there remains no effective screens on the intake of the race since the day they became operational.
- Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council have advertised for a manager.
- Rod Cullinane (Manager for North Canterbury Fish and Game Council) has been elected to ECan Council.
- Otago local government elections have resulted in some high calibre people being elected.
- Otago Fish & Game Council is dealing with Bullock Creek as an affected party.
- Spread of Lake Snow (also known as lake snot) has spread in Lake Hawea and is a serious issue. Lake snow is also known to exist in Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu and in Lake Coleridge.

9. Councillors' Self-Appraisal Review

The NZ Council Governance policies include provision for an appraisal of the council's performance. Discussion occurred on what has been used in the past with the length of it putting people off completing the appraisal. It needs to be simplified.

The benefit of completing the exercise reminds people of what their role is meant to be. The two northern Fish and Game councils do this annually. Noel Birchall with help from Robert Sowman will look at merging the two northern appraisal examples and provide this for comment from the Executive Committee. Completion of the questionnaire by Council is to take place before the Christmas break. Robert to see if the questionnaire can be made available to complete electronically rather than having to fill in by hand.

10. NZ Fish and Game Council Annual Performance Report

The Annual Report has been prepared and provided to the Council's auditors. Unfortunately it is still waiting on two external confirmations and with audit staff away it has not been certified in time for this meeting.

The Auditors have asked for comment to be included about the inquiry by Inland Revenue on the tax status of the Council. The Chairperson seeks approval from Council to sign it on its behalf once the document has been received and circulated to Councillors for comment.

Resolved (John Cumberpatch/Andy Harris)

- 1. That subject to the audited annual performance report being circulated to NZ Council members for scanned signed approval, and any queries satisfactorily explained, the Chairperson be authorised to sign the 2015/16 Performance Report on the Council's behalf.**

1.37 pm

Rudi Hoetjes (Northland Fish and Game Manager) was introduced to the council and briefly spoke welcoming Council and apologised for the late arrival of Phil Durham, the Chairperson for Northland, as he has been in Auckland attending a family funeral.

11. Fish & Game Magazine Purchase and Ownership

Following approval by NZ Council to purchase the Fish & Game New Zealand magazine from Fairfax, consideration is now required on how the magazine will operate under Fish and Game's ownership. Options have been presented on how to proceed.

Discussion focused on what type of company Fish & Game is creating to manage this process. More information was sought on this. The Council agreed on Don Rood giving an outline of what he sees as a viable option for operation and logistics for this to be discussed regionally with feedback to NZ Council.

The project needs to be scoped to show a pathway that leads to the desired option. This would include an interim position that can be achieved while repositioning. The Council supports Option 4 as a way forward.

12. Minister's Letter on use of Lead Shot

The NZ Council sent the Minister of Conservation's letter on the use of lead shot out to regions for consultation. All regions have now responded with eight agreeing with the Minister's request to bring forward the review of the sub-gauge exemption for the use of lead shot within 200 metres of open water.

Romon Sargeson spoke to the NZ Council on this topic as a member of the public. Romon is an armourer, initially with the NZ Army and now as a private operator. He opposed any change from the status quo.

There was the suggestion that NZ Council report back to the Minister the results of consultations with the regions.

Further discussion was around the fact that there is research being undertaken (heavy metals project) and potential to engage in further research such as setting terms of reference for someone like Murray Williams to complete further work. The Chairperson explained he is able to ring the Minister and explain the debate that has occurred and explore the direction the Minister is looking to secure.

The following was agreed:

Resolve: (Noel Birchall/Kevin Williams)

- 1. That the NZ Council reply to the Minister of Conservation's letter of 24 May 2016, answering her questions and reporting on the regional feedback and the research being undertaken along with looking into available alternatives to lead shot for sub-gauge users.**
- 2. A draft of this letter is to be circulated to councillors for comment before sending to the Minister.**

Paul Stenning asked to record his opposition to this resolution.

Following afternoon tea break the meeting recommenced with a welcome to the Northland Chairperson. Phil Durham spoke briefly welcoming the Council to Northland and outlined an exciting day planned for the field trip on Saturday.

13. Fish & Game NZ Financial Review Committee Update

Councillor Matthew Hall as convenor of the Financial Review Committee provided an update on progress with the review. At the time of preparing this report Matthew was not aware of any unresolved issues with audit reporting. However, he acknowledged that there appears to be timing issues (and possibly other issues) but would like to get feedback on this coordinated through Carmel Veitch.

He offered comment and aspirational thoughts on a number of points. Matthew believed that if Council has no specific comments, then the status quo and the way reserves are currently managed will prevail. Matthew outlined the Committee's discussion on Paul Dixon-Didier's paper on reserves. He identified the need to complete further analysis on defining what working capital is. It was agreed by Council that the Committee's discussion points should be referred back to Paul Dixon-Didier for his comment.

Matthew raised questions of Council:

1. Should we be tapping into and making better use of our licence database because within these people lie our keenest supporters?
2. If so – how? And where to from here?

Matthew concluded with a recommendation of a further meeting of the Committee and the need for specialist staff input (someone with marketing ideas) and/or the Comms team to help drive this initiative by scoping some way of utilising the licence database. It was agreed that John Cumberpatch be invited to join the Finance Review Committee to provide another Councillor perspective.

Resolved (Matthew Hall/John Cumberpatch)

That the Council approves funding of a further meeting of the Financial Review Committee – cost estimated under \$2,500.

14. Public Excluded session of the meeting

4.25 pm Resolved (Alan Flynn/Colin Sherrard)

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. Executive Committee report.**
- b. Implementation of NZ Council Office Review**
- c. Confirmation of minutes from public-excluded session 23 September 2016.**

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
	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 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	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

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.”

5.04 pm Resolved (Paul Stenning/Colin Sherrard)

To move out of Public Excluded and back into a Public Session of the Meeting

15. Licence Agreement Extension

The licence administration has been outsourced under an agreement with Eyede Solutions Ltd of Wellington. This three year agreement includes a further two year extension clause subject to achievement of the key performance indicators during the initial term. Consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils on exercising this extension clause has resulted in nine councils agreeing, with two offering no comment or seeking further information.

Resolved (Alan Flynn/John Jillett)

That the NZ Council endorse the recommendation that the Licence Administration Agreement be extended for one further period of two years and run until 2nd December 2018.

16. Health & Safety 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 Council staff.

Resolved (John Cumberpatch/Kevin Williams)

That the Health & Safety report for November 2016 be received.

Sunday 27 November

Meeting recommenced at 8.00 am.

17. Item 12 on the use of Lead Shot

The Chairperson asked for the opportunity to revisit the lead shot item. In accordance with the NZ Council’s Standing Orders (3.9.9), it requires 75% of members present to agree to revisit the item. The vote was put with 8 votes to 2.

Discussion resumed from Friday. It was pointed out that Hawke’s Bay concern was for more research to support a decision. The heavy metal research now being undertaken will not have its results available until later in 2017. It was suggested that unless a clear signal of intent is made the availability of alternative shot by retailers will not occur. It was noted that the notion of lead in the environment is a serious matter for the public and Fish and Game must be seen to be acting responsibly. However, given that New Zealand has relatively high levels of naturally occurring background lead in the environment, the primary issue for Fish and Game is the mortality from birds ingesting level as a substitute for grit, meaning the gauge of the shotgun becomes irrelevant.

Going back to the Minister with indecision will not be a responsible approach. The letter needs to factually state what has occurred saying there is still dissention but the important thing is to answer the questions she raised.

Further consideration of the recommendations in the agenda paper (page 45) resulted in each point discussed in turn resulting in the following amendments:

- 28 gauge not to be exempt.
- Amendment to recommendation 6 (exemptions) by adding the word “for” and deleting “youth”.
- Amendment to recommendation 7 by replacing the word “address” with “reflect on”.

It was then agreed to amend the resolution made on Friday (see under item 12 above) as follows:

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/John Cumberpatch)

That the NZ Council reply to the Minister of Conservation’s letter of 24 May 2016, answering her questions and reporting on the regional feedback, the research being undertaken along with looking into available alternatives to lead shot for sub-gauge users with the following recommendations proposed for implementation:

That the proposed 2017 review of the sub-gauge exemption for the use of lead shot within 200 metres of open water comprise:

- 1. Resolving a phasing-out over a four year period be introduced immediately for the use of lead shot in guns of a calibre less than 10 or 12 gauge, with the exclusion for .410 shotguns still to apply.**
- 2. Year one (2017) of the phase out period be no change in the 2017 game regulations due to the potential impact on importers and retailers of shotgun ammunition. Year one would be used for educating hunters of the decision and its implications.**
- 3. Year two (2018) would be optional, meaning hunters using sub-gauge shotguns would be encouraged to comply but that this would not be enforced. The existing ban on use of lead for 12 gauge guns would continue to be enforced.**
- 4. Year three (2019) would apply on all open water on public land**
- 5. Year four (2020) would be a complete ban on the use of lead for all waterfowl hunting over water (with the exclusion for .410 shotguns still to apply).**
- 6. Resolving to accept possible exemptions of small gauges for medical conditions.**
- 7. Asking the Minister of Conservation to reflect on the anomaly this will create whereby hunters of other quarry fall outside of these provisions and should be made to also comply when shooting within 200 metres of open water.**

18. Operational Report

The bi-monthly operational report was considered with questions raised mainly for information. Questions raised under various project headings were answered or the point queried was explained. Discussion occurred on the following projects:

Project 1140: Commercial users of the Sports Fish & Game Resource

Commercial use is a strategic issue that needs further debate. Comments were made about fishing lodges located in remote areas solely to target the premium wild trout resource.

Project 1220: Water Conservation Order

A question was asked about the status of the Motueka River upstream of the section protected by the WCO. It was explained that it meant activities cannot take place on the contributing waters that may compromise the outstanding values of the protected section.

Project 1410: Advocacy for the Fish and Game Management System

Pressures on the fish and game resource need to be managed to move the pressure away from sensitive resource points. Further comments focused on the growth in tourism and the challenges and pressures this is presenting on the resource. It was agreed the subject would make a worthy strategic planning discussion for a future meeting.

Project 1420: Public Awareness and Support

Council acknowledged “more good stuff” is happening in this area of communicating Fish and Game interests.

Project 1520: Compliance & Enforcement

There was discussion on the principle and practicality of the decision on the Wildlife (Powers) Amendment Bill that established limitations on enforcement of Fish and Game rangers. The Chief Executive indicated his intention to raise the matter further with relevant Ministers.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Paul Stenning)

That the Operational Report for November 2016 be received.

19. NZ Council 2016/17 Bi-Monthly Financial Report No. 1

Report No 1 records the NZ Council being 16% through the year with expenditure at 14.3% of budget.

Discussion on banking arrangements took place around how optimum investment rates might be obtained. One point was raised about needing to know when project managers expect to draw down funds for research and RM legal. This would give a better indication of the extent of money that might be needed to meet invoices in any given financial year.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/John Jillett)

That the Financial Report No. 1 to 31 October 2016 be accepted.

20. Fish & Game NZ Finance Report

This item provides an update on expenditure by all thirteen Fish and Game Councils as at 31 October 2016 being 16% through the financial year.

This is the coordination of information from the regions, not something the National office can control and requires constant requests to assemble this information in time for the agenda mailout.

Resolved: (Andy Harris/Kevin Williams)

That the National Finance Report to 31 October 2016 be received.

Meeting joined at 9.50 am Sunday by the Chairperson and Manager of Northland Fish and Game Council

21. Legal Funding Applications

Four legal cases have been submitted for NZ Council endorsement at this November meeting. They are:

- a. Northland Fish & Game/Kaipara District Council – Kai Iwi Lakes
- b. West Coast Fish & Game/West Coast Regional Policy Statement Hearing
- c. Otago Fish & Game/Lindis River appeal from irrigators
- d. Wellington Fish & Game/Wairarapa Water project.

All regional managers have shown support for these applications. Details of the applications are provided with the exception of Wellington Fish and Game's which was not received for distribution in the agenda but handed out at the November meeting.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/Kevin Williams)

That the application for Kai Iwi Lakes Judicial review by Northland Fish and Game Council be approved for funding from the National Legal Fund of legal costs of \$61,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.

Resolved: (Colin Sherrard/Matthew Hall)

That the application for the West Coast Regional Policy Statement hearing by West Coast Fish and Game Council be approved for funding from the National Legal Fund of legal costs of \$17,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.

Resolved: (John Cumberpatch/Matthew Hall)

That the application for defending the proposed plan change 5 (Lindis River minimum flow) in the Environment Court by Otago Fish and Game Council be approved for funding from the National Legal Fund of legal costs of \$95,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/John Jillett)

That the application for the Wairarapa Water project by Wellington Fish and Game Council be approved for funding from the National Legal Fund of legal costs of \$20,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.

22. RM/Legal updates report

The RM/Legal updates report provides details on the project manager, approved sums and spending to date of RM legal projects from around the country. There were discussion and verbal updates provided on some cases.

Paul Stenning spoke on the outcome of the Oreti cycleway decision. The Council is looking at claiming costs. Southland District Council can only appeal on points of law. The decision is seen as precedent setting.

Horizons Regional Council is trying to challenge how Fish and Game built its case by applying under the Official Information Act for material held by Fish and Game. This case has been budgeted at \$90,000 but with HRC "playing for time" there could be need to seek further funding approval. The case has been referred back to the original Judge to seek clarification of points made.

Alison was complimented on introducing the numerical reference system introduced in the report to match the financial spreadsheet.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/Alan Flynn)

That the November 2016 RM/legal update report be received.

23. Research Programme Update

An update was provided on research projects currently in progress. There was general debate on some projects but no issues were raised.

Resolved: (Alan Flynn/Noel Birchall)

That this November 2016 Research Programme update report be received.

Afternoon tea break 10.10 am

The Chairperson reconvened the meeting following tea break with an invitation to Phil Durham the Chairperson of the Northland Fish and Game Council to speak to the NZ Council.

Phil Durham spoke hoping Council enjoyed its Saturday fieldtrip seeing a small portion of the Northland Region. He is concerned Fish and Game does not adequately represent licence holders across the region, especially in the Far North. His Council does not have sufficient staff to do this. Phil acknowledged this is not unique to Northland. He made a case for this need to be made by the NZ Council and not left to managers.

Fish and Game needs to be looking at tapping into the resource it has and getting licence sales up. How to address this is something that Fish and Game should focus on and needs ongoing discussion. Fish and Game should prepare its material in other languages, including Maori.

Northland's wetlands are a showcase to what Fish and Game is about. To maintain that the Council needs more manpower. Discussion that followed agreed that no matter how small a Fish and Game region might be it is beholden on the total organisation to support all of its councils. The tyranny of distance is a real issue for regions like Northland and West Coast.

24. National Licence Sales & Licence Systems Update

An update on licence sales was provided for both the financial year just commenced and the full financial year just completed. The new financial year is the second season with the four new fishing licence categories on offer. This will allow for true comparison of like with like, as the previous season (2014/15) did not include these new categories and the discounted licence pricing mix.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/John Cumberpatch)

That the November 2016 national licence sales table and licence systems update report be received for information.

25. Analysis of Licence Sales and Income

An evaluation of the fish licence categories compared to actual income and the need to monitor trends was requested at the September NZ council meeting. This analysis was undertaken by the Licence Working Party. It concluded with the Licence Working Party seeking to resist the urge to review licence categories and fee pricing mix, arguing for retention of the original resolution to retain the current mix for three seasons. This would allow two completed seasons with the new categories and proper comparison between like and like over those two periods and an assessment of how the third season is developing before recommending any changes.

Nevertheless, the NZ Council noted it needs to look prior to setting the licence fee next year at what the fee options are and to make a decision on whether changes are needed. Further work could be done on why some regions are selling more (eg Southland) and others less so (eg. Nth Canterbury).

It was pointed out that little discussion is occurring on other options to promote the resource beyond the provision of licence categories and the fee mix. This is needed to take the pressure off the more sensitive resource locations.

Further promotion needs to be done on Philippine, Indonesian, Indian and sub-continent angler communities. There has been a change in numbers in some regions due to employment in the dairy industry. A number of these people are targeting kahawai. This group presents an opportunity to actively recruit into it. There could be an opportunity to work with the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers. It was accepted that this debate would be best held in a strategic planning session on tourism and the resource as noted earlier in the meeting.

Resolved: (Noel Birchall/Colin Sherrard)

That the Licence Working Party analysis is noted and received.

26. Land Occupier Licence to Fish or Hunt

Consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils on a proposed free Fish & Game licence for land occupiers when fishing or hunting on their own property was generally favourably received. Eight Councils agreed, two disagreed and two sought further options/information.

It was noted there is a lack of publicity and application by Fish and Game on what the legislation already specifies. Fish and Game needs to be more pro-active on this issue. While there is likely to be push back from some within the farming community, the fact remains the present law is not being adequately applied. This is an issue that is likely to grow in number/importance in future years as the cultural balance changes.

It was suggested compliance teams could provide a pamphlet setting out the existing legal requirements and encourage land occupiers they meet to provide the required agreement on their right to fish or hunt without a licence. It was agreed that greater education was required.

Finally it was agreed the need is to discuss the issues and how to take this further, through magazines, utilising the Comms Team, approaching particular regions etc.

Resolved: (Matthew Hall/Paul Stenning)

That the item on Land Occupier Licence to Fish or Hunt lie on the table with the view of developing options to implement the present legal requirement.

27. Correspondence

A correspondence schedule of mail received during the period was received. No correspondence for NZ Council was tabled.

28. Urgent General Business

Website design update

Material was circulated for the Council's information. This material had been prepared by HotHouse and was discussed without input from the Comms Manager who is managing this project due to his absence from this meeting. It would come back as a further update at the next meeting.

No further urgent general business was discussed.

The meeting paused at this point (12.25 pm Sunday) for a break before commencing a Workshop on the RM strategy.

The meeting was reconvened at 1.40 pm.

29. Actions from the Workshop brought into the minutes of the meeting:

Bryce's identified priorities:

1. Keystone documents – to help short-circuit time spent on case preparation
– to be used as a source document
2. Winter grazing and beef feedlots as a source of sedimentation
3. Stock exclusion from waterways
4. Standardised definition of “affected party status” and “less than minor effects”
5. Implementation of s 5.2.(a) of the RMA

Utilise external experts to correlate current approaches and provide standardised positions.

Matthew's identified priorities:

1. Repetition in material being put into cases.
2. Build themes in public awareness
3. Science & stream health – Fish and Game function to assess & monitor ecosystems
4. Set strategies within Fish and Game's own resources
5. Build photographic database on Fish and Game website of degradation examples
6. Revisit staff's strategy document to advance aspects not dependent on Govt RMA amendments

Recommendation:

Pick out key actions that can be done within work programmes (BJ + PT) and report back to NZ Council.

Resolved: (Paul Stenning/John Jillett)

That staff advance topics identified and report back to the Council in March 2017 on progress.

Closing Remarks

The Chairperson thanked Council and staff for their support.

Discussion was held on the location for the March 2017 meeting with a view to visiting inland South Canterbury. It was agreed staff would circulate possible options.

There being no further business, the Chairperson thanked Northland Fish and Game Council and complimented their wetland management programme. All present were thanked for their attendance and contribution.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.10 pm Sunday 27 November 2016.

Confirmed:

Date:/...../2017