

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton
on Saturday 20th August 2022 commencing at 10:00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: N. Juby.
Councillors: G. Dickey, C. Sherrard, P. Shaw, B. Barnes, D. Cocks,
G. Annan, E. Williamson, T. Clark.
Staff: B. Wilson, D. Klee, J. Dyer.
Visitors: C. Jordan (NZ F&G), P. Hardy (DOC)

1. APOLOGIES:

M. Barker, R. Grubb, A. Daniel

It was moved;
that apologies be accepted.

Cocks/Annan – CARRIED

The Chairman welcomed the new C.E. of NZF&G, Corina Jordan, to the meeting. He noted that Ray Grubb, Chairman NZF&G had accepted Council's invitation to attend the meeting but unfortunately his flight had been cancelled due to storm conditions in Nelson.

Councillor Barker's written comments on the agenda were distributed to councillors.

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

Nil.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 11th JUNE 2022:

Councillor Williamson noted that he had attended the meeting on the 11th June. Also that the discussion under General Business concerning the Whangamarino Weir was incorrect in that it should state that the weir profile should be flat with a defined V, not the wide "U" shape that it currently has.

It was moved;
that the minutes of the previous meetings of 11th June 2022 as amended be accepted as true and correct records.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The Chairman updated the meeting on his talks with the Chairman of Northland F&G about the potential merging of the two regions. Northland's position was that while they were not enthusiastic about the merger, they recognised the financial advantages of a merger with Auckland/Waikato and accepted that issues such as finding councillors for a small region was a problem. One possible scenario for Northland would be two field officers based north of Auckland covering the area from the Harbour Bridge north. However, concern was expressed by Councillors over the financial implications for Auckland/Waikato resourcing of any merger with Northland. The Chairman in reply noted that there would have to be a firm commitment by the NZ Council to fund the northern field officer positions on an ongoing basis.

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated that he had informed the Franklin Acclimatisation Society about the decision to remove their control over two ponds in the Piggott Wetland. He had received feedback from their president, Grant Mackay that they were disappointed in the decision but would not contest it. Discussion ensued over whether some form of bond should be imposed on newly balloted ponds to fund future maintenance.

Councillors discussed the potential use of social media for promoting Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game. It was agreed that a group be established to discuss social media initiatives. The group to comprise of Mr Dyer and Councillors Barnes, Juby and Dickey. Councillor Dickey recommended the Otago Fish & Game Facebook page as a good example of what could be achieved.

5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had discussed Council's letter on the Wildlife Act with the Chairman NZF&G, Ray Grubb. Mr Grubb had defended the use of committees by the NZF&G Council for such issues. Councillor Barnes supported this stance noting that it was important for individual committee to do in-depth research on issues. Councillor Williamson considered this an example of the NZ Council making critical policy decisions without seeking input from the regions.

Mr Klee observed that staff had input into the Wildlife Act submission but had no opportunity to comment on the final draft. Mr Wilson agreed to send out the national submission on the Wildlife Act to Councillors.

The Chairman tabled Mr Grubb's reply to the letter from Southland F&G suggesting that the implementation of the review was too slow. Ms Jordan clarified that Mr Grubb was replying in his position as Chairman of the Implementation Steering Group (ISG), a committee that reported directly to the Minister and was funded by DOC. The purpose of the ISG was to produce a report to the Minister, after consultation with the regions. The report would be reviewed by DOC, and then the Minister would make a decision as to whether the report would be released for public consultation.

The resignation from Dirk du Preez to the Minister of Conservation was tabled. It was agreed that the Chairman would send a letter to Mr du Preez on behalf of Council thanking him for his contribution as Councillor.

Corina Jordan

The Chairman invited Ms Jordan to address the meeting.

Ms Jordan updated Councillors on her background as both a field officer and RMA officer with Wellington F&G, followed by seven and half years with Beef & Lamb establishing and co-ordinating their RMA efforts. She had previously been the North Island Manager for Beef & Lamb and was very excited to return to Fish & Game.

Ms Jordan noted she had only been in the job for three weeks but saw helping the organisation to work more co-operatively as a priority, especially given all the legislative changes facing F&G.

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1:00pm.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report

In response to a written question from Councillor Barker, as to why the field officers were identified in the CE report differently, Mr Wilson replied that the report was collated from the individual staff reports. Although he amended and added extensively to the reports, he did not change how the officers referred to themselves.

Councillor Barnes asked whether there was any monitoring of trout in Quarry Lake after each trout liberation. Mr Wilson replied that the only monitoring was angler usage via the National Angler Survey. Councillor Barnes observed that several members of the North Shore Fly Fishers Club regularly fished at the Quarry and could provide useful data.

Councillor Shaw inquired whether there were any updates on the situation with DOC regarding Harrier Hawks. Mr Klee replied that there had been no further communications.

Councillor Williamson reported that Shane Everett had excellent results using double door predator traps, which had outperformed other traps for catching ferrets.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wilson for his effort in co-ordinating the RMA effort in the temporary absence of the RMA officers.

Ms Jordan commented on Council's efforts with Heathy Rivers (Plan Change 1), noting that this plan change set a precedent for other regions in that it was the first regional plan in NZ to set environmental limits based on Te Mana o te Wai. Councillor

Williamson inquired as how this advocacy effort would impact on Lake Waikare; in particular, “*how can we be sure that the targets will be met*”? Mr Wilson replied that the targets under the *Vision and Strategy* were legally enforceable. The overall objective of Plan Change 1 was to set short-term targets towards achieving the 80-year goals in the *Vision and Strategy*. If these targets weren’t met then more restrictive regulations would be imposed in the next round.

Ms Jordan stressed that she was very concerned that the proposed replacement of the RMA could lead to generational delays in achieving resource outcomes.

Councillor Annan reported that pheasants this season were abundant, and they were consuming large quantities of pin oak and shingle oak acorns.

6.2 Financial Statements

The Financial Statement for the period 1st May to 30th June 2022 were tabled.

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive’s Bimonthly Report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

7. NZ COUNCIL MEETING 16TH JUNE 2022:

The minutes of the meeting of NZ Fish & Game Council for the 16th of June 2022 were tabled.

8. RANGER TRAINING:

Mr Wilson’s report on ranger training was tabled.

Discussion ensued on the opportunities of joint ranger operations with the NZ Police.

It was agreed that clubs would be approached first for potential candidates for new rangers.

9. 2022 – 2023 BUDGET:

It was moved;

that the 2022-2023 budget and net expenditure of \$855,684 be approved.

Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED

10. WAIKATO DELTA REPORT:

Mr Dyer’s report on structures on Council’s land in the Waikato Delta was tabled.

Mr Wilson noted that the report was produced in response to a request from Councillors based on the principle that we “can’t manage what we don’t know”. Audits were carried out at irregular intervals on all Council’s wetlands, usually a different wetland each year.

The Chairman asked who owns these structures and are they all on F&G land. Mr Dyer replied that all the structures in the report were on F&G land including those structures some distance into the river as properties boundaries did not always follow land boundaries due to accretion and movement of the islands. Ownership of the majority of structures was unknown.

The contribution of Roslyn Simmonds in formatting the report was acknowledged.

It was moved;

That the report on the Waikato Delta be tabled and Mr Dyer and Ms Simmonds be thanks for their efforts.

Sherrard/Williamson – CARRIED

11. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY:

The draft National Communication Strategy was tabled.

It was agreed that Fish & Game definitely required a strategy.

It was moved;

that the National Communication Strategy be received and that:

- a) It should be a “living document.**
- b) More resources should be put into this process.**
- c) Ongoing consultation should occur as the strategy develops.**

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

12. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr Wilson reminded Councillors that an extensive review of the game regulations would be undertaken for the December Council meeting. He had already received request from members of the public for drift shooting to be banned between Cambridge and Hamilton on the Waikato River due to increased urbanisation and the presence of walking/cycle tracks.

It was moved;

that a report on drift shooting on the Waikato River be prepared for Council.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

The Chairman spoke on his proposal that Fish & Game should have a closer relationship with other organisations representing hunters and gathers, including saltwater fishing groups such as Legasea as well as other hunting agencies such as BGAC and NZDA. The

purpose being to raise the profile and advocacy for sustainable management of wild foods. The Chairman emphasised that we already had a close relationship with Forest & Bird and other environmental agencies but had put little effort into other relationships. He believed that iwi would also favour participating in sustainable management of wild foods.

It was moved;

That NZ Fish & Game Council be asked to consider a strategy for a closer relationship with other agencies that have an interest in the sustainable management of wild foods.

Juby/Annan – CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2:33pm.

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