

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 153<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND  
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE VISTA MOTOR LODGE, WAIROA  
ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2015 AT 12.00PM**

**Present**

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Michael Little, Terry Sutton, Terry Wood, Neal Hawes, and Laurence Allingham

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson (Eastern Fish & Game); Sandy Bull (Gisborne Anglers Club), Alan Robinson, Ron Zeilstra (Wairoa Angling Club), Thomas Walker, Mike Metz, Norrie Day, Dave Withers, Ken Ross, James Brownlie and David Dods.

**1.0 WELCOME**

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.00pm and thanked the Wairoa community hosts and the licence holders who had taken the time to attend the Wairoa meeting.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Peter Storey, Steve Luscombe, Annaka Davis, and Steve Scragg; Kim Turia and Helen Neale (Department of Conservation); Colin Paton (T/T Conservation Board); Paul Badger, Ray Bushell, John McPherson, Bruce Ross.

2.2 *Agreed (Terry Sutton/Terry Wood) that the apologies for the 153rd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [15/08/2.2]*

**3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (10 JUNE 2015)**

3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Barry Roderick) that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2015 are confirmed as true and correct. [15/08/3.1]*

3.2 Identification of resolutions for inclusion in Council Policy.

3.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Luscombe) that there were no resolutions from the previous meeting warranting inclusion as Council Policy, but the title of Item 8.1 relating to Enhancing Habitat for Waterfowl should be amended to Enhancing Habitat for Greylards. [15/08/3.3]*

**4.0 MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Cr Mike Little requested an update on the Ruakituri following some earlier conflicting angling reports. Cr Murray Ferris confirmed that he was on the Ruakituri the weekend prior to closing with four other anglers, and said that the fishing was brilliant.

4.2 Cr Terry Sutton queried Andy Garrick as to whether he had anything further to report following his meetings with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council regarding the installation of a fish passage into the Ohau Channel diversion wall. Andy Garrick advised that the purpose of the first meeting he had, had been to confirm who should be approached to be part of the Ohau Channel Fishery Liaison Group and to discuss its terms of reference, while the second meeting that Matt Osborne attended also, was to welcome members and confirm the terms of reference. An agreed action arising from the second meeting was that Fish & Game would review what was currently known in relation to smelt and trout passage, and investigate/approach New Zealand fisheries biologists who might be able to assist with the design of such. Cr Terry Wood queried

whether water could be spilled into Rotoiti without compromising water quality gains that have been made there. Andy advised that the consent for the wall allowed for a specified quantity of water (cumulative total of 375 l/s) to pass through the wall and that this figure had, presumably, been identified on the basis that it would not have an impact on Rotoiti.

- 4.3 Thomas Walker queried Council as to why the Game Bird licence fee was increasing again despite hunters within the Eastern Region being restricted to a short season this year. He felt that game bird hunters from other Fish & Game regions, e.g. Hawke's Bay, were getting more for their money. Andy Garrick responded advising that significant work is being undertaken to research the decline in mallards within the Eastern Region and elsewhere in the country, and that the costs associated with game bird monitoring, habitat management, statutory advocacy and various other activities continue to increase and are not linked to mallard season length, bag limits or other game season conditions. Thomas asked what work was currently being undertaken by Fish & Game in the Wairoa area? Andy advised that Fish & Game continues to monitor populations in the area through its aerial trend count and banding programmes, and was likely to be expanding its aerial transect count programme. Cr Barry Roderick noted that Matt McDougall's work suggests we are at the bottom of the mallard population cycle, but with numbers still low Council must be responsible when setting season regulations to ensure birds are not over harvested. Cr Murray Ferris advised that banding is currently undertaken at Ohuia but suggested that if there were other suitable sites within the area Fish & Game would be keen to hear about them. Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that Thomas may wish to assist staff when banding takes place in the area, and Andy advised Thomas that staff would contact him ahead of time.

## **5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Terry Wood - Winter shoreline fishing
- Barry Roderick - Hawke's Bay Fish & Game
- Lindsay Lyons - Tagged trout competition

## **6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

- 6.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons registered his potential conflict of interest over items within the agenda relating to fishing licences due to his being an online agent for fishing licences himself.

## **7.0 COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 *Angler and Hunter Access:* Cr Terry Wood asked for an update on the removal of row boats at Lake Waikareiti. Andy Garrick advised that he has had very favourable meetings with the various tiers of Te Urewera management and has not encountered anyone who was opposed to the reinstatement of the boats. He confirmed that Tuhoe had no input to their removal, rather the Director General of Conservation had made the decision on the basis of health and safety concerns. Andy reiterated that both Te Uru Taumatua and the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority were very preoccupied at present with the transition from DOC, and confirmed that Lorna Taylor was to take the issue to the next Tribal Authority meeting and we would await the outcome of this. He said that Tuhoe acknowledge the fishery is a key component of their economic

- future at Waikaremoana, and that no one had indicated they could foresee significant changes being sought to the way in which the fishery is currently managed.
- 7.2 Cr Barry Roderick commented on recent reports that Canadians are now the biggest investors in New Zealand and that a Canadian group was looking at buying the cutting rights to the Kaingaroa forest. He suggested that the statutory need for this proposal to go through the Overseas Investments Office could provide an opportunity to obtain better access for our anglers and hunters. Andy Garrick advised he would follow up on this.
- 7.3 *Water Quality:* Cr Barry Roderick spoke of Fish & Game's involvement in community groups established by the BOP Regional Council for consultation over how freshwater should be managed and the setting of limits. He felt that it was important that community groups have an input to decisions affecting the fate of our waterways. Andy Garrick confirmed that, while very resource demanding, it was imperative that Fish & Game be involved in these community processes to ensure the interests of anglers and hunters are recognised and provided for. Barry asked those present to inform Fish & Game of any new groups that they may hear about. Andy advised that participants within these groups would represent a wide diversity of interests including iwi, the horticultural sector, Federated Farmers, Regional Council and various others, and their job would be look at nutrient limits, land use, and water abstraction amongst other things. Sandy Bull noted that the Gisborne District Council had previously set up a committee to look at the Waipoua River and its tributaries but interest in this seemed to have drifted away. Andy advised that GDC's current focus in the Gisborne region was with the Freshwater Advisory Group and that Fish & Game via Eben Herbert was very involved with the Group. Feedback had been provided on a draft Freshwater Plan and this had been released for public consultation. Once the Plan has been finalised, attention will become more catchment focussed.
- 7.4 *More Waterfowl:* Following meetings with the BOP Regional Council Cr Barry Roderick said that he was delighted to hear that staff had been appointed with an interest in promoting stream and drain margin plantings. He commented on monitoring of East Coast ponds planted by Fish & Game and the high number of farm ponds not currently producing ducks. Andy Garrick confirmed an interest from various staff in both the Bay of Plenty and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils towards more sympathetic drain management practices, and this in addition with Fish & Game's current activities relating to drains and farm ponds will hopefully have a positive impact on mallard populations.
- 7.5 *Maximising Fishery Opportunities:* Cr Lindsay Lyons introduced the idea of a tagged trout promotion for the upcoming opening of the new fishing season. He felt that this would be a great way to increase participation on the Rotorua lakes, increase awareness, and make a real event out of the opening of the 2015-16 season. Andy advised that he and staff had initiated enquiries, and planning for the event was well underway. While time was short and there were some hurdles to overcome in relation to rules, insurance, and provisions in the Gambling Act, he was reasonably confident that an event would be able to be staged for the opening on 1 October 2015. Council was supportive of the idea and discussion followed on timing, prizes, costs, eligibility, and sponsorship.
- 7.6 Cr Barry Roderick commented on the fantastic back country fishing opportunities that were available within the Eastern Region this season with Murray Ferris adding that he had heard that the Waioeka has seen some of its best angling in 30 years. Cr Neal Hawes also commented on the success winter shoreline anglers were having. Ron

Zeilstra noted in contrast however, that he had been asked to advise Council of a lack of fish in Lakes Whakamarino and Kaitawa. David Dods said that he had a lot of complaints over fish size in these waters rather than numbers. Andy Garrick said he would pass these comments on to fisheries staff for their consideration.

- 7.7 *New Zealand Council Aspirational Outcomes:* Andy Garrick briefly commented on Eastern Region's contribution to national publicity and awareness activities, and how having Grant Dyson, Fish & Game's North Island Communications Advisor working out of our office two days/week greatly enhanced our ability to generate regular Eastern Region media releases.
- 7.8 Cr Barry Roderick spoke of the Fish & Game Council elections coming up in October which provide an opportunity for all licence holders to get involved whether it be standing for Council or registering to vote. Cr Terry Wood queried whether splitting a regional council into a sports fish council and a game bird council had ever been discussed noting that some councillors may have more experience in one area than the other. Responses included: Councils are generally made up of a good balance of Councillors with an interest in each area; a good percentage of a Councillor's role is involved with habitat and environmental protection for the benefit of both sports fish and game birds; and that there is an obligation on Councillors to become familiar with both - which comes with time.

#### **8.0 THE 2015-2016 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

- 8.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that the final draft OWP had been updated with minor corrections to grammar and that no further submissions had been received.
- 8.2 *Agreed (Mike Little/Neal Hawes) that Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2015-2016 year and delegates authority to the Regional Manager to approve expenditure during the 2015-2016 year as set out in the Operational Work Plan and budget. [15/08/8.2]*

#### **9.0 2015-2016 LICENCE FEE**

- 9.1 Council received the update on the proposed licence fees and categories for the 2015-2016 fishing season commencing 1 October 2015. Kate Thompson provided an overview of the new categories to Council and public present, and responded to questions raised. Cr Lindsay Lyons wished to acknowledge and thank Kate for her input into the Licence Working Party and her work with Eyede and other Fish & Game regions.
- 9.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Terry Wood) that Council receives the 2015-2016 Fishing Licences update. [15/08/9.2]*

#### **10.0 NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENCE REVENUE**

- 10.1 Cr Murray Ferris opened the discussion asking Council for its preferred option in dealing with the additional revenue generated from the sale of non-resident fishing licences. He advised that the options presented were to retain the funds regionally or to allocate this revenue to a central fund. He noted that the general feeling appeared to be that a central fund would be the most appropriate way of dealing with the additional proceeds from the non-resident licence sales. Andy Garrick highlighted the following for consideration:
- the region in which a non-resident angler purchases a licence is not necessarily the region in which they fish, and therefore there is unlikely to be a close relationship between the revenue generated in that region and its

back country fishery needs. Retaining the revenue in the region that collected it would be arbitrary and not necessarily in the best interests of anglers either regionally or nationally;

- back country fisheries are broadly defined;
- there are advantages of a national pool in that applications could be made for greater sums than would have been held within the individual regions.

However, Andy also noted that it would be important if the revenue went into a national pool that fair and reasonable allocation criteria be developed in consultation with all regions to ensure that every region having what it has deemed to be sensitive, significant fisheries within its boundaries had a realistic prospect of obtaining funding. The concern is that while back country fisheries have been broadly defined, some regions could experience considerable difficulty in measuring up against other regions in obtaining funding.

10.2 Council discussed the pros and cons of each option, the need to develop some criteria over distribution of the funds, and the listing of waters such as the Ruakituri in the proposed "back country or sensitive fishery" schedule. Cr Mike Little felt that it would be more appropriate to retain the funds within the region that generated them.

10.3 Dave Withers asked that the Council put a request to the Minister that the Ruakituri River remains Fly Fishing only in perpetuity. Cr Murray Ferris advised that proposals such as this which relate to regulations need to be dealt with through the Anglers Notice process which commences in February 2016. Murray commented that the criteria needing to be developed could identify those sensitive fisheries that funds could be applied for, and Cr Lindsay Lyons added that the previous Minister of Conservation, Kate Wilkinson, had intended that these funds would be held centrally and that regions would need to make application to utilise them.

**10.4 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Terry Wood) that Council agrees that the additional revenue from the sale of non-resident fishing licences should be allocated to a dedicated national fund, managed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and that specific criteria for distribution of those funds be circulated to Councils for debate before being put into effect. [15/08/10.4] Cr Mike Little opposed.***

## **11.0 2015 FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

11.1 Council received the 2015 Fish and Game Council Election schedule and Cr Murray Ferris provided a brief overview of the timeline. Cr Lindsay Lyons advised those who intended to stand to ensure that they received a receipt confirming electionz had received their nomination.

## **12.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**

12.1 Cr Neal Hawes congratulated Matt Osborne, Matt McDougall, and the team on the production of excellent species monitoring reports. Cr Terry Sutton also thanked staff, and queried whether a weekly or regular current fishing report could be produced along the lines of that available for the Taupo fishery? Andy Garrick noted that while Eastern Region once produced a report of this nature, it was very time consuming and its continuation had to be balanced against other public awareness initiatives. Mark Sherburn did however put current news snippets out on Twitter for those who used that facility, and fishing reports were also produced by a number of anglers in various media.

**12.2** *Agreed (Mike Little/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the 2014-2015 Rotorua Lakes Summer Creel Survey Report and the 2014-2015 Mallard Monitoring Report. [15/08/12.2]*

**13.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS**

**13.1 Bay of Plenty Conservation Board**

Not represented and no report received.

**13.2 Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board**

Not represented but a written report provided by Colin Paton (see August Papers for Information).

**13.3 East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board**

Not represented and no report received.

**13.4 Department of Conservation, Central North Island Region**

Not represented and no report received.

**13.5 Report from the New Zealand Council**

Lindsay Lyons' report had been pre-circulated and Lindsay spoke briefly about the role of the Walking Access Commission, particularly the need for them to work with the Overseas Investment Office. Norrie Day advised that he had fished many times through Lochinver and informed Council that recently a colleague had been declined access.

**13.6 Report from the Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee**

Cr Murray Ferris informed Council that he, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, and Andy Garrick had attended the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council meeting following the recent departure of the Manager, Peter McIntosh and Fish & Game Officer, Tim Hopley. He referred to Eastern Region's agreement for provision of services to the Hawke's Bay Council and suggested that this be extended to include management services with Andy Garrick becoming Acting Regional Manager for Hawke's Bay until the upcoming election was over and a new Council elected. After that further discussions could take place to look at whether or not it might be desirable to provide ongoing management support of some kind. Cr Barry Roderick suggested that Council should make a formal resolution to extend the existing agreement to enable this. Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that Council would need to temporarily suspend standing orders to do this in accordance with section 1.4.1 of the Fish & Game Rules dated November 2009, and moved a motion to do so.

**13.7** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Barry Roderick) that Council temporarily suspends the standing orders for the purpose of discussing Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council agreement. [15/08/13.7]*

The following motion was then voted on:

**13.8** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Barry Roderick) that Council will continue with the existing agreement for provision of services to the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council, and extend this to include hours for the provision of management services with Andy Garrick becoming its Acting Regional Manager until a new Council is in place. [15/08/13.8]*

**14.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

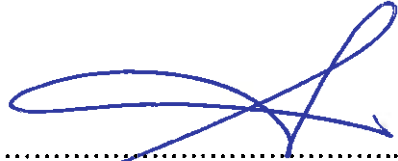
**14.1** Cr Neal Hawes queried when the Datawatch draw was to occur. Kate Thompson advised that this had been completed on 18 August 2015 to ensure that letters were in the post prior to the 2015-16 licences becoming available for purchase on 20 August 2015.

- 14.2 Andy Garrick highlighted the relationship staff had been developing with the Wairoa District Council towards enhancing angler access to the upper Waikaretaheke, and opening up access to other areas of public land within the Wairoa catchment that landowners had denied anglers access to.
- 14.3 Cr Terry Sutton requested an update following the recent Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC) meeting and the proposal to raise trout for cultural harvest by a Tuwharetoa iwi group at the Tongariro National Trout Centre. Andy Garrick advised that there was some uncertainty around what their longer term aspirations were, and that TFAC had written to the Office of Treaty Settlements with a series of queries to clarify matters. Once a response had been received a further meeting would take place. Sandy Bull added that the implications of the proposal at Turangi were also of concern to the Federation of Freshwater Anglers.
- 14.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Terry Wood) that Council receives the Management Report, Finance reports, and approves payments for May and June 2015 totalling \$348,326.84. [15/08/14.4]***
- 14.5 Kate Thompson provided a brief update on licence sales.
- 14.6 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the report on licence sales. [15/08/14.6]***
- 15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 15.1 Cr Terry Wood raised concern over boats seen fishing off the shore at Lake Tarawera and asked whether the signage shown in the current newsletter could be misinterpreted. Andy Garrick agreed this was a possibility and advised that staff would look in to this.
- 15.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested Council might be interested in allocating half an hour at the commencement of each meeting for an “environmental scan” to enable a general discussion of any Fish & Game related issues that Councillors might wish to raise. This was something he had introduced at New Zealand Council meetings and it had been favourably received. Andy Garrick suggested we trial this at Council’s next meeting in October.
- 15.3 Cr Neal Hawes asked about the possibility of extending the winter shoreline on Okataina as lake levels currently prevailing enable access to more fishable areas. Andy Garrick suggested that this item be put on the agenda for the next anglers notice review which commences in early 2016.
- 15.4 Other items raised by members of the public and discussed during this session included:
- concern over toxicity of steel shot, and unpinned shotguns (Thomas Walker);
  - Fish & Game’s response to submission on depletion of early spawning rainbows in Waikaremoana (David Dods);
  - addition of angler diary to earlier submission (David Dods);
  - usefulness of current Waiotukupuna trap monitoring programme (David Dods);
  - what’s happening with Waikareiti row boats (David Dods);
  - residents of Ruakituri disappointed over removal of sign by unknown persons (David Withers);
  - signage removed from swing bridge Hopuruahine (David Dods);
  - historic Hopuruahine fish trap data and use of it (Sandy Bull);

- availability of volunteers from various clubs to assist with trapping work at Waikaremoana (Ron Zeilstra);
- current arrangement with the Hapu Trust for trap work (Andy Garrick);
- Walking Access Commission review in two years and need to use the services of the commission (Lindsay Lyons).

**16.0 MEETING CLOSED**

16.1 The meeting was closed at 2.47pm.



.....  
**Murray Ferris,**  
**Chairman**

2/11/15  
.....  
**Date**



## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### 2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Terry Sutton/Terry Wood) that the apologies for the 153rd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [15/08/2.2]*

### 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (10 JUNE 2015)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Barry Roderick) that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2015 are confirmed as true and correct. [15/08/3.1]*
- 3.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Luscombe) that there were no resolutions from the previous meeting warranting inclusion as Council Policy, but the title of Item 8.1 relating to Enhancing Habitat for Waterfowl should be amended to Enhancing Habitat for Greylards. [15/08/3.3]*

### 8.0 THE 2015-2016 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 8.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Peter Storey) that Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2015-2016 year and delegates authority to the Regional Manager to approve expenditure during the 2015-2016 year as set out in the Operational Work Plan and budget. [15/08/8.2]*

### 9.0 2015-2016 LICENCE FEE

- 9.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Terry Wood) that Council receives the 2015-2016 Fishing Licences update. [15/08/9.2]*

### 10.0 NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENCE REVENUE

- 10.4 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Terry Wood) that Council agrees that the additional revenue from the sale of non-resident fishing licences should be allocated to a dedicated national fund, managed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and that specific criteria for distribution of those funds be circulated to Councils for debate before being put into effect. [15/08/10.4] Cr Mike Little opposed.*

### 12.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

- 12.2 *Agreed (Mike Little/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the 2014-2015 Rotorua Lakes Summer Creel Survey Report and the 2014-2015 Mallard Monitoring Report. [15/08/12.2]*

### 13.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

- 13.7 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Barry Roderick) that Council temporarily suspends the standing orders for the purpose of discussing Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council agreement. [15/08/13.7]*
- 13.8 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Barry Roderick) that Council will continue with the existing agreement for provision of services to the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council, and extend this to include hours for the provision of management services with Andy Garrick becoming its Acting Regional Manager until a new Council is in place. [15/08/13.8]*

### 14.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- 14.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Terry Wood) that Council receives the Management Report, Finance reports, and approves payments for May and June 2015 totalling \$348,326.84. [15/08/14.4]*
- 14.6 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the report on licence sales. [15/08/14.6]*