

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 174th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2019 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, David Woolner, Lindsay Lyons, Laurance Tamati, Geoff Thomas, Ngahi Bidois, Alan Baird, and Adam Rayner (arrived 12.10pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, Mark Sherburn, John Meikle, Eben Herbert, Matt Osborne, and Lloyd Gledhill (Eastern Fish & Game); Grant Dyson and Steve Doughty (New Zealand Fish & Game); Trevor Richardson and Brian Samson (Western BoP Fish & Game Club), Michael Rusling (Prime Pine), Tim Julou (Equine Estate), Nigel Raven (Pirini Family Trust), Tiggy Clayton, Colin Prestige, Mike McLean, Chris Vinie, Shaun Williamson, Richard Conner, Rod Swindlehurst, Yvonne Langridge, Ian Ferguson, Lewis Rudd, Grahame Atkinson, Andrew Davenport, Chris Hill, Steve Brown, Jim Patten, Kim Kenny, Dave Julou, Rob Hayes.

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.05pm and welcomed all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Ken Coombes; Helen Neale and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation); Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); and Carmel Veitch (Eastern Fish & Game).

2.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Geoff Thomas) that the apologies for the 174th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 DECEMBER 2018)

3.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:*

Item 15.8, last sentence - amend "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish were in better condition last year" to "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish had been in better condition the previous year". [19/02/3.1]

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 Two items were identified for inclusion in Council Policy, these being resolutions [18/12/4.1] and [18/12/11.3].

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Laurance Tamati – Junior licence books for clubs

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 Alan Baird registered his potential conflict of interest relating to the Upland Game Properties item, and in particular the questions concerning captive-reared mallards. His comment noted, “no financial interest, future prospects could see a game CRM start”. Cr Barry Roderick also registered a potential conflict now and in the future relating to any discussions concerning the Tangaroa Fishing Competition due to his “sponsorship of prizes for the event”. No other conflicts were identified.

8.0 GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

- 8.1 The Council’s Governance manual had been issued to Councillors present at the last meeting and copies had since been distributed to those not present. Cr Lindsay Lyons provided a brief overview of the contents of the manual and requested that Councillors take time to review the information within and to bring it along to each meeting.
- 8.2 Lindsay spoke in more depth about the Governance role that the Council needs to maintain and highlighted the difference between governance and management responsibilities. He said that while Council holds authority over management he prefers to act as a team with management and staff. He requested Councillors to direct their queries/issues through the Chairman or Manager rather than contact staff directly, and to consider whether their query is of a management or operational nature, adding that operational matters were not the role of Governors. Lindsay also confirmed that recommendations/motions could not be made on items of General Business and suggested that these items be raised with the Chairman prior to the Agenda being prepared for the next meeting to determine whether it should be included as an agenda item.
- 8.3 Lindsay stressed that failure to follow Governance and Conflict of Interest policies was the primary reason for the audits being undertaken on some regional Fish and Game Councils recently. He added that conflicts could be Pecuniary, Perceived, Actual, or Closed Mind i.e. stalls discussion. Lindsay noted that a “Declaration of Interest” form had been handed to Councillors so they could identify any obvious matters or associations at the outset of the year that could constitute a conflict of interest for them being a Fish & Game governor, and this coupled with recording any specific conflicts they might have in relation to an agenda item at the commencement of each meeting was important as it provided transparency and reduced the likelihood of issues arising as had happened elsewhere in Fish & Game. An “Oath of Office” document had also been handed out, and while these documents were not legally binding it could also be viewed as a declaration Councillors could make to licence holders and those who elected them that they would uphold the values of Fish & Game. Cr Murray Ferris added that Councillors were not here to represent any particular group but all fish and game licence holders.
- 8.4 There was also a need for confidentiality particularly for Public Excluded discussions where information may be embargoed, politically sensitive, or was related to individual persons. Andy Garrick advised that from time to time the Papers for Information also contained confidential information that was for the eyes of Councillors eyes only, and this needed to be respected.
- 8.5 Lindsay advised that extracts of the relevant legislation applying to Fish & Game were contained in the rear section of the Governance Manual. Cr David Woolner suggested that taking in all of this information may be overwhelming for some, and questioned their freedom to act? Lindsay referred to the Councillor Guide at the front of the manual which provided a more concise overview of the role of Councillor and what interactions

with media and clubs and others was appropriate. In conclusion Andy Garrick said that while governance policy makes clear distinctions in relation to the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and staff, he wanted to make it clear that from his perspective we don't want to have a them and us situation, our strength lies in being a team. Between Council and staff we have a great team in this region and he welcomes Councillors sharing their ideas with staff.

9.0 R3 PRESENTATION FROM STEVE DOUGHTY

- 9.1 Cr Murray Ferris introduced Steve Doughty from the New Zealand Council who would be presenting on R3 today.
- 9.2 Steve Doughty provided Council with a brief overview of his background in business development and marketing and the purpose of his involvement with Fish & Game. He said his role in the first instance is to look into angler participation and revenues which had been on the decline in recent years, adding that this was not dissimilar to what was also occurring overseas. The focus of the R3 programme was to identify where and why there has been a reduction in participation, and explore opportunities for turning this around. Retention of existing participants was the number one priority followed by, re-activation of past participants, and recruitment of new participants (the three Rs).
- 9.3 Steve presented to Council via power point the background for the project, and highlighted some of the reasons for the decline in fish licence sales, the opportunities available in lakes and lowland rivers where participation could be increased, and factors that influence retention and recruitment.
- 9.4 Cr Barry Roderick asked how they motivated people in the States. Steve Doughty advised that they did this through motivational marketing e.g. being with the family, in the outdoors, and experiencing what is on offer. He noted that Government and State funding was available in the US do this.
- 9.5 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Steve for his presentation and asked if Councillors could receive a copy. Andy Garrick advised that he would circulate a copy of the power point to Councillors.

10.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 10.1 Andy Garrick noted that Steve Doughty's presentation led nicely into this agenda item which concerned planning for the 2019/20 programme commencing 1 September 2019 through to 31 August 2020. Andy provided a brief overview of the process highlighting changes to timing which meant the draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) and Budget would need to be approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Council in order to meet NZC deadlines (needing to be submitted to NZC by 20 March 2019). The draft OWP and budget would be presented to the full Eastern Fish & Game Council ahead of its meeting in April which would provide an opportunity for all other Councillors to comment on what it proposed.
- 10.2 Andy provided an overview of Council's current priorities and commented on the tendency in past years' to roll out the same priorities each year. He said that the Council's strategic planning meeting held in November last year had provided an opportunity for reviewing these priorities in greater depth than was usually available. The outcome of this meeting was effectively, to retain the key regional priorities Council currently has, the one exception being that the focus on "Increasing Licence Revenue" be reworded to "Increasing Revenue". General support was registered for the concept that some of Council's priorities are of greater importance than others in terms of for example, maintaining operational sustainability. Higher priorities at this

point in time were considered to be Access, Maximising Fishery Opportunities, and Increasing Revenue, the arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds. Maximising fishery opportunities was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

- 10.3 Cr Barry Roderick queried whether our use of social media could be improved and referred to the availability and use of the daily Tongariro River fishing reports supplied by Graham Whyman of Sporting Life in Turangi. Steve Doughty confirmed that there is an opportunity to improve on the way in which we make use of social media, but with the number of waters within the region we are unlikely to have the resources available to undertake this to the level they do in Turangi. Barry suggested that businesses with guides operating out of their stores might be able to contribute to an initiative of this sort.
- 10.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that further consideration be given to exploring opportunities at the Ruahihi Canal at McLaren Falls in Tauranga for increasing fishing opportunity. Cr Barry Roderick commented on the great publicity the large fish release into Lake Rotorua had received and questioned whether a portion of the hatchery's surplus large fish at the end of this year could be released into the Canal with the aim of creating greater interest there.
- 10.5 Andy Garrick noted that much of our annual work programme revolved around core activities, and asked Councillors to consider if there were areas they considered less effort could be put into in order to provide room for new activities. Cr Barry Roderick suggested we could consider reducing liberations of trout into Lake Okataina as had been proposed by Ken Raureti at December's meeting. Andy suggested incorporating a project into the OWP to have another look at options for creating a trophy trout fishery at Lake Okataina which could include assessing the merit of reducing or halting liberations as a means of achieving this. Cr Lindsay Lyons noted that a previous attempt to create a larger number of trophy trout at Okataina by reducing the minimum takeable size had not worked.
- 10.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons questioned whether it was worthwhile continuing with access efforts in areas where access was very restricted such as in the Rangitaiki. Anthony van Dorp advised that access work in the Rangitaiki area had already been cut back, and much of the area that we do maintain is primarily funded by Timberlands. Cr Barry Roderick queried the use of the Whirinaki as a summer fishery given the loss of access to the Rangitaiki over summer months. Anthony advised that the amount of public land over which access could be provided to the Whirinaki was somewhat limited but currently appeared to be adequate for current levels of use. These access points were included within the latest access brochure.
- 10.7 Cr Adam Rayner requested an update on the Kaituna Wetland. In response John Meikle advised that the Regional Council had received \$1.4m in funding to finance the conversion and enhancement of an area to the south and west of the Wildlife Management Reserve to wetland. He said hydrological modelling was currently being undertaken to quantify how much water was needed to supply the wetland and how this could be achieved. The work was planned for next summer. Andy Garrick said that this was a collaborative effort with ourselves and other agencies.
- 10.8 As a follow on from Steve Doughty's R3 brief, Andy asked Steve to provide some insight to some of the ideas he had been discussing with staff for improving access and

enhancing participation within the Eastern Region. Steve outlined five projects that had been scoped, these being:

- Access promotion – opportunity to collaborate with NZC;
- Kids fishing days followed up with beginners' classes;
- Adult beginners' class;
- Working with Destination Rotorua on marketing initiatives;
- Kayak fishing tuition.

10.9 Cr Geoff Thomas queried where Council had got to regarding Saturday opening for the fishing season. Lindsay Lyons responded advising that this had been considered at the prior meeting but could be discussed again further down the track.

11.0 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES

11.1 Cr Murray Ferris welcomed those present who had come along specifically for this discussion. He informed all present that this was a consultation process and there was a need to keep it objective. While he welcomed people to share their views he asked that due to time constraints only one person representing a group speak and to please not repeat information if it has already been put forward. All questions needed to be put through the chair. He said the purpose of the discussion was to provide feedback to the New Zealand Council, and advised that the information and paperwork this Council held on the matter was the same as that available to all others. He advised Council that resolutions were required to feed back to the NZC, and that all Fish and Game Councils around the country had been invited to do the same.

11.2 Mike Rusling (Prime Pine) wished to highlight that the information circulated for this meeting was different to the initial information that they originally been made aware of, and wanted clarification on what exactly was going on. He commented that while Fish & Game was wanting to increase revenue as discussed in the previous agenda item, shutting down preserves will result in the loss of thousands of dollars in licence income. Andy Garrick advised that staff have been analysing upland game property diary returns and doing some background research on the numbers of licence holders participating in pheasant shoots, how often individuals do so, licence categories (day versus whole season, adults versus juniors), and place of residence. This information would be forwarded to the NZC to provide some insight into the extent to which upland game properties are utilised within the Eastern Region, and the demographics of those doing so.

11.3 Tim Julou (Equine Game Keeper) said that he was attending the meeting today to ensure that the information conveyed to Councillors was accurate. He said that while he worked for Equine he was not speaking on behalf of Equine. Tim acknowledged that there had been some misunderstanding about the intentions of today's discussion as they were unaware that what had been proposed by the NZC (transfer pheasants and partridge from Schedule 1 to Schedule 3 for three years) was an interim or transitional measure to allow commercial operators to continue operating as they have been for another three years giving time to sort things out. Tim added that a lot of people get a lot out of preserve hunting, and that it provided great opportunity to bring young people into the sport. Kim Kenny from Equine commented that they were here to answer Council's questions.

11.4 Shaun Williamson advised that his daughter enjoyed pheasant shooting and game shooting and felt that if the preserves were to close down, they wouldn't get into hunting and fishing to the same extent.

- 11.5 Brian Samson (WBoP Fish & Game Club) commented on Fish and Game's goal to increase hunting opportunities and added that hunting opportunities in the Bay of Plenty were down to just 10% of what they once were when he was starting out. He felt that the legislation had been in place for quite some time and that it wouldn't hurt to review the rules and address the issues that have arisen around commercial hunting operations.
- 11.6 Tim Julou commented that yes there is a cost to hunt on preserves and questioned whether it was wrong to recoup the costs to provide the opportunity. He made a comparison between fishing guides and pheasant preserves and suggested that there was not a lot of difference.
- 11.7 Jim Patton at 86 years old wanted to let Council know that the preserves provided him and others of his age their only real opportunity to go shooting.
- 11.8 Yvonne Langridge said that a lot of ladies get involved whether it be as beaters or working with gun dogs. She said that there was great atmosphere and camaraderie. The preserves also provided a very safe environment particularly for women and children, and commented on the wives' and children's days held. She felt that field shooting was not a safe place for women anymore and the preserves were a really good way of keeping women in the sport.
- 11.9 Richard Conner was involved with dog trials and said that without preserves like Equine there would not be the same opportunity for others like him to work their dogs, as insufficient numbers of birds were available in the wild to do this. He added that the stakes were high for the operators, and noted that preserves provide an opportunity for ladies to be introduced to hunting and that they were required to have a shooting licence too. He enjoyed the camaraderie and commented on the escapees from Equine to nearby Rotoehu Forest.
- 11.10 Trevor Richardson (WBoP Fish & Game Club) also commented on escapees. He had had no involvement with preserves here, but had worked in England on a couple of preserves where they would be happy if 40% of the birds were shot. Trevor said that our preserves had been operating for some 18 years, they were doing a good job, and why stop them in three years' time - Fish & Game should be working to get this small matter sorted. Andy Garrick said that what was being looked at was an interim measure that had been proposed in recognition that many preserves were well established, had had a lot invested into them, and there was an obligation to those businesses and operations to provide them with an opportunity to either restructure their operations to make them compliant with the legislation, or develop and implement an exit strategy, or resolve the issue in some other manner. He said the intention of this temporary measure was not to shut down preserves in three years' time, but to provide breathing space and a lawful means by which otherwise non-compliant operations could continue to operate as they were for the next three years while their operators decided on the future of their preserves.
- 11.11 Kim Kenny (Equine) was pleased to hear that this was an interim measure. He estimated escapees from Equine to adjoining properties to be in the order of 80,000 pheasants over the years the preserve had been operating.
- 11.12 Cr Alan Baird commented that preserves provide 80,000 pheasants a year for hunters, and Fish & Game puts 80,000 fish into the lakes, but doesn't put anything into hunting. He said we need to get clarification of our support for preserves so we can go to the Minister to get the legislation changed.
- 11.13 Tim Julou commented that contrary to what Martin Taylor was saying that some syndicates may be acting within the law, Sir Geoffrey Palmer's opinion did not

- differentiate between commercial operations and recreational syndicates, and that the Act needed changing.
- 11.14 Cr Geoff Thomas noted that according to Eastern Region records, preserves had liberated over 380,000 pheasants over the 18 years they had been operating, 220,000 of which were not shot on the preserves and could have gone over the fence. The cost for Fish & Game to breed that number of birds would be in the millions of dollars. Geoff noted that predator control on preserves benefits native birds also.
- 11.15 Shaun Williamson said that he attends every weekend by choice to be involved as a beater and working the dogs and to be part of what is a huge social event.
- 11.16 Kim Kenny commented that kokako were coming back into Equine and added that a whole range of native birds including kaka benefitted from the predator control they did there.
- 11.17 Nigel Raven (Pirini Family Trust) noted that Totara Lodge had had an extended cock pheasant season for juniors and that Fish & Game in the past had used preserves to bring youth through.
- 11.18 Cr Ngahi Bidois found the information provided was interesting to read and compared it with people breeding trout on their properties and charging people to fish for them. If that was to occur there would be people up in arms about it. He noted however, that while tikanga can change over time to suit the environment, the people, and the wildlife, that doesn't change the fact that selling the hunting of pheasants is currently illegal no matter how long it has been going on. Because it's been going on for so long there may be justification for changing the law. Legally the speed limit is 100km but there are people doing 105km. This needs to be recognised or put right.
- 11.19 Cr Adam Rayner felt that as Councillors they were in a difficult position. He was not against preserves but felt that the legislation needed addressing.
- 11.20 Kim Kenny commented that Equine would not break the law intentionally but these activities had been condoned by the law makers for a long time.
- 11.21 Yvonne Langridge queried whether they had the support of this Council to recommend a change of law.
- 11.22 Chris Vine had read Mr Palmer's report and suggested that all that needed to be changed was to allow a landowner to charge a fee for hunting on private land.
- 11.23 Cr Murray Ferris advised the meeting that it was time for Council to consider the questions raised by the New Zealand Council. Andy Garrick confirmed that Council needed to respond to these questions, and noted that all Upland Game Property operators had been invited to forward submissions to the New Zealand Council if they wished to do so, 29 March being the final cut off point.
- 11.24 Cr Lindsay Lyons noted that it would be a major undertaking to change the Act, and in attempting to do so would pose a risk of other changes being made that were not in the interests of game bird hunters or Fish & Game.
- 11.25 Tim Julou commented that a lot of people have the perception that Fish & Game is not working for hunters anymore. He added that Fish & Game has a serious image problem with farmers and he hears constant complaints from them. He advised that a number of preserve operators have formed an environmental organisation (the NZ Game and Conservation Alliance) and it wants to work with Fish & Game.
- 11.26 Cr Murray Ferris informed all present that 99% of what the Eastern Fish and Game Council does is for groups that want change. He said no one is more passionate than the group around this table.

- 11.27 Cr Alan Baird wanted to add to the discussion that Equine had organised fundraising balls for the last two years to raise money for charities. Tim Julou advised that these had resulted in donations of \$24,000 to the Kokako and Kiwi Trusts.
- 11.28 Cr Barry Roderick felt that as Fish & Game Councillors they had only one option, and couldn't condone something that was illegal.
- 11.29 As a preface to considering the questions raised by the New Zealand Council, Andy Garrick explained that the italicised text he had inserted after 4 of the 5 questions was to assist Council with its deliberations by clarifying what was being asked or needed to be considered, and/or provided additional information e.g. relevant policy or resolutions previously made by Council.
- 11.30 Cr Murray Ferris read aloud the first question, "Does your Council support the operation of Upland Game Properties with special conditions for the principal purpose of providing an alternative or more productive hunting/shooting experience for a fee? Cr David Woolner noted that the sale of hunting rights had never been tested in the Courts and Cr Ngahi Bidois queried whether it was worthwhile getting another legal opinion. Matt McDougall advised that the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council had previously obtained a legal opinion on pheasant preserves charging a fee and this had concluded it was not legal, and Andy Garrick advised that the Department of Conservation had also done this and come to the same conclusion last year. Andy suggested that the first question should be read as "If the legislation was changed to allow the charging of a fee, would your Council support the operation of ..."
- 11.31 Council decided to address the three suggestions presented in Item 4.3 of the agenda prior to considering the questions raised in Item 4.1.
- 11.32 ***Item 4.3(i): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of acknowledging Sir Geoffrey's opinion and endorsing the NZ Council's position that Upland Game Properties currently charging a fee cannot continue to operate under the current structure. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/11.32]***
- 11.33 ***Item 4.3(ii): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of expressing strong support for an interim measure such as that proposed that will enable time for currently non-compliant Upland Game Properties to restructure, or implement exit strategies minimising the financial impact that that might have on their businesses, or to explore other options. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/11.33]***
It was also suggested that the NZ Council give consideration to extending the three year transitional measure proposed.
- 11.34 ***Item 4.3(iii): Eight out of nine Councillors were in favour of a review of the operational guidelines/conditions associated with Upland Game Properties to ensure that these are relevant and appropriate. For example, requirements relating to the ongoing welfare of released birds following the conclusion of the season, and protocols/procedures for disposal of carcasses. One Councillor abstained. [19/02/11.34]***
- 11.35 In response to a question from Cr Murray Ferris, Tim Julou advised that Equine continues to feed its free ranging birds after the game season has concluded until they are no longer taking that food.
- 11.36 Council returned to the questions raised by the New Zealand Council and voted on the first three as follows:
- 11.37 ***Question 1. Does your Council support the operation of Upland Game Properties with special conditions for the principal purpose of providing an alternative or more productive hunting/shooting experience for a fee? All nine Councillors were in favour (assuming it is legal). [19/02/11.37]***

- 11.38 **Question 2. Is there support for continuing to allow non-fee paying Upland Game Properties with special conditions operated by families, private syndicates or friends for the purpose of providing an alternative, or more productive hunting/shooting experience, that are compliant with current legislation? All nine Councillors were in favour. [19/02/11.38]**
- 11.39 **Question 3. If Fish & Game and the legislation allows pheasant/partridge hunting on Upland Game Properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other game birds on that property for a fee?**
All nine Councillors were initially in favour on the assumption that it was legal to do so, but subsequently revoked this after further consideration (see below).
- 11.40 Eben Herbert pointed out to Council that by voting in favour of Question 3, “assuming it was legal”, conflicted with earlier resolutions made by Council in relation to the hunting of mallards on Upland Game Properties which are highlighted on pages 30-31 of the agenda. Andy Garrick suggested that the inclusion of mallards in this discussion was adding layers of confusion to an already challenging topic, and suggested that Council might wish to defer consideration of this question and the next until such time as the principal issues relating to the operation of Upland Game Properties have been resolved.
- 11.41 **Questions 3 and 4. Council agreed that debate on the hunting of mallards and other game birds on preserves be deferred until the issues associated with the hunting of pheasants and partridges have been resolved, and it was not in a position to provide feedback to the NZ Council on Questions 3 and 4 at this point in time. All nine Councillors were in favour of taking this course. [19/02/11.41]**
- 11.42 **Question 5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on Upland Game Properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations? All nine Councillors were in favour. [19/02/11.42]**
- 11.43 Tim Julou acknowledged that the topic of captive reared mallards was too much to consider at present, and extended an invitation to all Councillors to come and have a look at Equine’s operation.
- 11.44 Cr Murray Ferris brought the discussion to a conclusion and thanked all those who had attended for their contribution to this agenda item. Members of the public departed at this point (3.10pm).

12.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING DURATION

- 12.1 **Agreed (Adam Rayner/Laurance Tamati) that the meeting be extended by a further 30 minutes to deal with remaining items. [19/02/12.1]**

13.0 SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

- 13.1 Councillors had reviewed the draft policy for Setting National Policy and supported it as written.
- 13.2 **Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Ngahi Bidois) that Council supports the proposed draft policy for Setting National Policy as written. [19/02/13.2]**

14.0 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN CONTINUED

- 14.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons pointed out that Council had not voted on the recommendation on page 26 relating to the 2019/2020 Operational Work Plan.
- 14.2 **Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council had reviewed its priorities and programmes for the 2018-19 year and identified changes as discussed. [19/02/14.2]**

14.3 Council also discussed providing Child Licence pads to clubs in order to make it easier for them to get kids fishing. Andy Garrick informed Council that there were plans ahead to develop a programme around this, however it was agreed that this would be appropriate in the interim.

15.0 BEQUEST POLICY

15.1 Councillors had reviewed the draft Bequests Policy and supported it as written. A comment was made however, that it could or should apply to donations as well.

15.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposed draft Bequests Policy as written. [19/02/15.2]*

16.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

16.1 Council received the Rotorua Lakes 2018 Winter Creel Survey Report.

17.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

17.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

No Report.

17.2 *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No Report.

17.3 *Department of Conservation*

No Report.

17.4 *New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that a recent meeting with Eugenie Sage, the Minister of Conservation, went well, and commented on Fish & Game's positive relationship with Merv English, Deputy Director-General of DOC. Lindsay advised that there was to be a discussion on the regional Fish & Game audits that had been taking place at the upcoming meeting of the NZ Council this coming Saturday, and acknowledged the upheaval these had caused, but noted that what was coming out of these was positive. He said that there were six new Councillors on the New Zealand Council and a new executive committee. There was to be a Governors meeting on Friday at the end of this week, and Lindsay advised that Murray Ferris would be attending that along with all other Fish and Game Council chairs.

18.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

18.1 Cr Barry Roderick expressed concern about the difficulty staff were having in obtaining drift dive data in the upper Rangitaiki due to ongoing poor visibility and asked whether it would be worthwhile putting a highly skilled angler in there to obtain some data. He noted there was generally better visibility in the Otamatea and asked whether Dry Fly Creek was also clear. Anthony van Dorp advised that the Otangimoana had visibility of 6-7 metres and the Otamatea 5 metres when staff attempted to dive the river in mid January, whereas visibility in the Rangitaiki was down to 1 metre or so. Matt McDougall had flown over Lake Poerua on Lochinver Station in January and said that there appeared to be no obvious cropping next to the lake and that this didn't appear to be the source of the poor water quality, though there were five kms or so between the lake and the State Highway 5 bridge where our first monitoring site was. Matt added that while it was not obvious, that didn't mean that it wasn't the source. Andy Garrick said that despite staff being unable to obtain any comparative fish data, we did still get useful measurements of water quality to compare with previous years' including secchi disc, temperature, and oxygen, and this would be useful for advocacy purposes and

discussions we would be having with BOP Regional Council staff. Barry wondered whether it was appropriate to put an angler in for four hours and record numbers of fish caught during that time. Anthony van Dorp said that the feedback he had received from anglers over winter was that trout were of good size and condition. Andy noted that angler catch rates weren't a particularly useful index for monitoring trends, and in addition we didn't have historic data this could be compared against. Cr Lindsay Lyons said that the Rangitaiki had always been a premium river and the bread and butter for many guides, and the potential to get worse was right up there.

18.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/David Woolner) that Council receives the Management and Health and Safety reports. [19/02/18.2]*

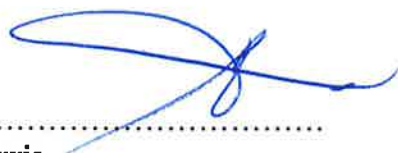
18.3 Kate Thompson provided an explanation to a transaction query from Cr Ngahi Bidois relating to Levies.

18.4 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2018 totalling \$390,879.17. [19/02/18.4]*

18.5 Council also received the Licence Sales report.

19.0 MEETING CLOSED

19.1 The meeting was closed at 3.47pm.



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Murray Ferris
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Geoff Thomas) that the apologies for the 174th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 DECEMBER 2018)

- 3.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:
Item 15.8, last sentence - amend "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish were in better condition last year" to "Cr Barry Roderick also felt that fish had been in better condition the previous year". [19/02/3.1]*

11.0 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES

- 11.32 *Item 4.3(i): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of acknowledging Sir Geoffrey's opinion and endorsing the NZ Council's position that Upland Game Properties currently charging a fee cannot continue to operate under the current structure. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/11.32]*
- 11.33 *Item 4.3(ii): Seven out of nine Councillors were in favour of expressing strong support for an interim measure such as that proposed that will enable time for currently non-compliant Upland Game Properties to restructure, or implement exit strategies minimising the financial impact that that might have on their businesses, or to explore other options. Two Councillors abstained. [19/02/11.33]*
- 11.34 *Item 4.3(iii): Eight out of nine Councillors were in favour of a review of the operational guidelines/conditions associated with Upland Game Properties to ensure that these are relevant and appropriate. For example, requirements relating to the ongoing welfare of released birds following the conclusion of the season, and protocols/procedures for disposal of carcasses. One Councillor abstained. [19/02/11.34]*
- 11.37 *Question 1. Does your Council support the operation of Upland Game Properties with special conditions for the principal purpose of providing an alternative or more productive hunting/shooting experience for a fee? All nine Councillors were in favour (assuming it is legal). [19/02/11.37]*
- 11.38 *Question 2. Is there support for continuing to allow non-fee paying Upland Game Properties with special conditions operated by families, private syndicates or friends for the purpose of providing an alternative, or more productive hunting/shooting experience, that are compliant with current legislation? All nine Councillors were in favour. [19/02/11.38]*
- 11.41 *Questions 3 and 4. Council agreed that debate on the hunting of mallards and other game birds on preserves be deferred until the issues associated with the hunting of pheasants and partridges have been resolved, and it was not in a position to provide feedback to the NZ Council on Questions 3 and 4 at this point in time. All nine Councillors were in favour of taking this course. [19/02/11.41]*
- 11.42 *Question 5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on Upland Game Properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations? All nine Councillors were in favour of taking this course. [19/02/11.42]*

12.0 EXTENSION OF MEETING DURATION

- 12.1 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Laurance Tamati) that the meeting be extended by a further 30 minutes to deal with remaining items. [19/02/12.1]*

13.0 SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

- 13.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Ngahi Bidois) that Council supports the proposed draft policy for Setting National Policy as written. [19/02/13.2]*

- 14.0 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN CONTINUED**
- 14.2** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council had reviewed its priorities and programmes for the 2018-19 year and identified changes as discussed. [19/02/14.2]*
- 15.0 BEQUEST POLICY**
- 15.2** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposed draft Bequests Policy as written. [19/02/15.2]*
- 18.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 18.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/David Woolner) that Council receives the Management and Health and Safety reports. [19/02/18.2]*
- 18.4** *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2018 totalling \$390,879.17. [19/02/18.4]*