

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 184th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 13th AUGUST 2020 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Lindsay Lyons, Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Laurance Tamati, Alan Baird, Ken Coombes, Adam Rayner, Debbie Oakley, and David Woolner (online via Zoom).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt Osborne, Lloyd Gledhill, Mark Sherburn, and Anthony van Dorp (Eastern Fish & Game).

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr David Woolner (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.05pm, welcomed all present, and invited Cr Ngahi Bidois to perform an opening karakia.

1.2 Andy Garrick provided a Health & Safety briefing in relation to Covid 19 and Alert Level 2. He reminded those present of the need to maintain social distance, to utilise the hand sanitiser that was available, and asked that everyone complete the sign in register if they hadn't already done so.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Geoff Thomas.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that the apologies for the 184th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [20/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 JUNE 2020)

3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [20/08/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Murray Ferris) that Item 13.2 relating to the naming of hunting stand No. 5 in the Kaituna WMR be included in Council policy. [20/08/4.1]*

4.2 Cr Adam Rayner informed Council that he had received adverse feedback concerning the balloting of Stand No. 5 and the perception that it had been removed from the general ballot, and asked for clarification around this. Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that Council had agreed that on completion of the current three- year ballot term that Stand No. 5 would be returned to the general ballot.

4.2 There was some discussion whether some Anglers Notice items should be included as Council Policy, particularly the item relating to the change to the season start date for lakes Rotoiti, Okataina, and Tarawera to the first Saturday in October for the 2021-22 Season. It was consensus that these items were not Council Policy, rather they were recommended changes to the Anglers Notice which were subject to change from year to year.

4.3 Cr Laurance Tamati expressed his concern that licence holders were not canvassed regarding changes to the Anglers Notice that might be of interest to them. Laurance had received feedback from a number of concerned individuals regarding the proposal to change the opening date for the three lakes Okataina, Rotoiti, and Tarawera for the 2021-22 Season, and queried the extent of the consultation process. Matt Osborne outlined the process which included distribution of information for the proposed

amendments to clubs, the Department of Conservation, and a number of iwi groups including Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Tuhoe entities. The information had also been put onto our website, and had been advertised in ezine newsletters, and on our Facebook page. Cr Adam Rayner queried why we don't email licence holders? Andy Garrick advised that a large number of licence holders do not provide their email addresses or wish to receive information from Fish & Game. He commented on recent feedback from Steve Doughty (NZC) which had shown an approximate average open rate of recent emails distributed to be around 25%. Mark Sherburn informed Council of the costs associated with bulk email distributions which had been sent out during the lockdown period adding that there were free packages available, such as Mail Chimp, but these free versions had limitations which made it difficult to target large numbers of licence holders within a short period of time.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that since the previous meeting he had discussed Item 8.12 regarding the proposal to change the opening of the three lakes Okataina, Rotoiti, and Tarawera to the first Saturday in October with Steve Doughty, Marketing Manager for the New Zealand Council. Steve had offered to canvas all other Fish & Game regions and establish what level of support there might be to do this right across the country and to date had received five responses. Four regions felt it warranted further consideration, and suggested that the proposal be put forward to the New Zealand Council, and one advised that it would make no real difference to them.

5.2 Due to technical difficulties (Zoom lagging), Cr David Woolner asked to co-opt Deputy Chairman Cr Ngahi Bidois to chair the remainder of the meeting. Cr Ngahi Bidois accepted and informed Council that he liked to keep discussion on matters brief and to the point.

5.3 Andy Garrick advised that he had also made some enquiries regarding the proposal to hold an event at the Lake Tarawera landing on the evening prior to this season's opening. He informed Council that the current lessee of the Landing Café was in the process of renovating it, and he expected that the café wouldn't be open until the third week in October. The Chair of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association had informed Andy that the Association supported an event of some sort in future, but not this year or in its present form as it didn't wish to sponsor or be associated with an event in which there was a high level of alcohol consumption on the part of some of those attending. Andy advised that he was working with Steve Doughty (NZC) and Destination Rotorua on alternative options for a pre-opening event in future.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Adam Rayner - Photograph of current Council
- Cr Murray Ferris - PFI paper on catfish

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

8.0 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

8.1 Andy Garrick advised that staff hours had now been incorporated into the work plan and that the only significant change to those compared to the previous year had been the allocation of more hours to R3 and business development. Budgeted Hatchery

income had had to be reduced due to regional orders having been reduced or cancelled as a result of other regions needing to reduce their costs also. He said that the target for 100 large fish to be raised for promotional liberations had also been cut back to 50 for the coming year due to the significant loss of 2yr old fish stock which occurred during the Christmas flooding event.

8.2 Due to our inability to locate a suitable sponsor for the 2020-21 tagged trout promotion Andy advised Council that it would not be possible to run the event for the upcoming season. Steve Doughty (NZC) had approached several companies for sponsorship but not surprisingly, the economic impact of Covid 19 and uncertainties surrounding that meant he was unable to secure a sponsor for the major prize. Andy added that the event in its current format had not produced a good number of new licence holders for the significant effort that was needed to run it. Cr Lindsay Lyons felt that the event was well worth the effort as a means of retaining licence holders and asked whether it would be re-instated if Steve Doughty was able to find a suitable sponsor? Andy responded that he was very supportive of it going ahead in the future, but suggested we need to have a closer look at its format and timing as other times of the year might be a better option for Council's primary goal of attracting and recruiting new participants.

8.3 Cr Barry Roderick advised Council that he had a sponsor keen to support Fish & Game and wondered whether a cash prize draw could be offered for the return of datawatch tags? Andy expressed appreciation for the sponsorship offer and said staff would give some thought to what might be the most appropriate and effective project to put this towards.

8.4 Cr Barry Roderick questioned the reliability and consequences of the forecasted national revenue figures considering the recent Covid19 news. He was also concerned at the level of funding provided by the South Island regions to those in the North Island noting the number of North Island regions requiring NZC grants in order to function. Andy advised that the revenues forecasted were based on worst case scenarios which was appropriate, and that while significant reductions in revenue had been budgeted, regions held adequate reserves to see the organisation through in the short term at very least. With regard to regional levies and grants he noted that the next New Zealand Council agenda included an item concerning regional resourcing a proposed review of how resources are distributed across the country.

8.5 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Laurance Tamati) that Council accepts the proposed changes and approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2020-2021 year. [20/08/8.5]***

8.6 ***Agreed (Ken Coombes/Debbie Oakley) that Council delegates authority to the Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Wok Plan and budget. [20/08/8.6]***

9.0 COVID 19 WAGE SUBSIDY

9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council of recent information received from WINZ and the Ministry of Social Development regarding the wage subsidy. He confirmed that based on the information at hand, Council was eligible to retain the wage subsidy and that a paper trail of communications to this effect was available should an audit be undertaken at some time in the future.

9.2 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that based on the information currently sought from Government sources Council believes that Fish & Game Eastern Region***

should retain the Covid19 wage subsidy, but should further contrary advice from Government sources come to hand, Council will be open to reconsider. [20/08/9.2]

10.0 PRESENTATION

10.1 Andy Garrick advised he had been unable to receive a response from Te Arawa Lakes Trust invitee so the proposed presentation would not be proceeding.

11.0 ENHANCED FISHERY IN WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY

11.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that the purpose of this options paper for Lake McLaren and the Ruahihi Canal which had been some time in the making, was to inform Council and provide an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the options presented. Staff had recently received a response from Trustpower which had identified a number of issues that would need to be addressed if further consideration was to be given to enhancing and promoting the Ruahihi Canal fishery as had been proposed.

11.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois invited each Councillor to provide their feedback to the information and while some Councillors had nothing further to add, other comments included the following:

- a brilliant opportunity, beautiful location with all the amenities
- staff should be encouraged to pursue further
- large population close by, agree that it is something to proceed with
- retain status quo, keep releasing fish as we currently do, extend media coverage
- retain status quo, as an additional cost to the organisation in uncertain times
- media coverage is the key, continue to put some trophy fish in there
- put large fish in there, they will need feeding, approach Trustpower for funding
- the campground provides a captive audience
- access and opening up opportunities is a high priority assuming it can be adequately financed
- a good location for staff to provide angler tuition.

12.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

12.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois noted the item should be taken as read and for information only.

12.2 Cr Debbie Oakley commented on the principal component of the balance of funds held versus the sum available to utilise, and noted that the annual inflationary adjustment of \$5,000 per year could not be attained if interest rates were to fall below 1.1% per annum.

13.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 *Te Arawa Lakes Trust*

Nothing to report.

13.2 *The New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke briefly about the recent meeting of the NZ Council which centred around two items, the Covid 19 wage subsidy, and the budgets for the 2020-21 operational year. Lindsay advised that the NZ Council was due to meet next week and that the Chairman had invited Bruce Bates to speak to Council about pheasant preserves. He suggested that this Council review the agenda posted on the New Zealand Council webpages relating to upland game properties as it was likely this would need to be put out to regions for further consideration. He also suggested that Council review

the information provided in relation to the proposal to undertake commercial trout farming in Lake Rotoaira as he understood the group proposing this were seeking to get regulations changed to allow this.

13.3 Cr Murray Ferris asked Lindsay why the NZ Council had invited debate again over pheasant preserves as this Council's position was it was up to the preserve operators to lobby government for legislative change. Lindsay advised he had no idea why.

13.4 Cr Barry Roderick said he understood that Lindsay was looking to step down from NZ Council position and asked whether he had a date in mind? Lindsay confirmed that his term ended in December this year and he would not be putting his name forward again. Cr Ngahi Bidois queried the process of appointing a replacement for the position and Andy Garrick advised that all Council appointments including the NZC appointee role are up for review in either the October or last meeting of the calendar year.

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.1 Council had reviewed the Management report and had no further questions.

14.2 *Agreed (Ken/Coombes/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Management Report. [20/08/14.2]*

14.3 Andy Garrick spoke briefly to the Health & Safety report informing Council that since the close off date of that report, staff member Nigel Simpson was currently off work due to an injury received after slipping on wet grass. The Covid19 QR code on the front door was identified as not working due to reflection, and Kate Thompson advised that this would be laminated and placed on the outside of the door. The spray at the front gate while it could be used for cleansing hands was a mix of disinfectant for spraying the gate and locks after use.

14.4 Cr Ngahi Bidois asked that the Health and Safety report include Covid 19 updates from a Fish & Game perspective as and when these were available.

14.5 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [20/08/14.5]*

14.6 Cr Debbie Oakley asked that the cash position on the Finance Report record the useable funds separately.

14.7 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Debbie Oakley) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for May and June 2020 totalling \$249,349.25. [20/08/14.7]*

14.8 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [20/08/14.8]*

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 Cr Adam Rayner's proposal for a Council photograph was supported.

15.2 Andy Garrick and Matt Osborne explained the concept underlying the preliminary investigation the Bay of Plenty Regional Council had commissioned into the possible use of sterile catfish being used as a tool to eradicate this pest species from lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti. Eastern Fish & Game staff along with Te Arawa Lakes Trust and others had expressed support in principle for further feasibility studies, and if considered viable of being operationalised, assessment of effects studies in consultation with appropriate parties. At this stage the proposition is purely conceptual and Fish & Game will be kept informed of any developments.

16.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

16.1 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 1.25 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Manager's annual performance review;**
- **Council's self-appraisal review. [20/08/16.1]**

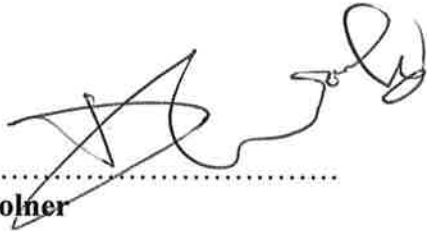
16.2 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 1.55pm. [20/08/16.2]

16.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that a resolution made in the Public Excluded Session be brought out of public excluded to be included in the minutes of the meeting.

16.4 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that Council has reviewed and supports the Management Committee's recommendation to congratulate Manager, Andy Garrick, on his performance and contribution over the past year. [20/08/16.4]

19.0 MEETING CLOSED

19.1 The meeting closed at 2.04pm with a closing karakia by Cr Laurance Tamati.



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David Woolner
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

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