

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 194th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Debbie Oakley, Ken Coombes, Lindsay Lyons, Jay Tapsell, and Mark Sceats.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matthew Osborne (Eastern Fish & Game); Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.00pm with a karakia and welcomed all present

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 An apology was received from Crs Scott Nicol, Kevin Coutts, and Geoff Thomas. Cr Mike Jarvie was unable to join the meeting due to computer access issues.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 194th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9 DECEMBER 2021)

3.1 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendments:*

14.4 Amend "Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie)" to "Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Mike Jarvie)", and

9.1 Amend "Cr Ken Coombes queried who was ultimately responsible..." to "Cr Kevin Coutts queried who was ultimately responsible..." [22/02/3.1].

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that her summary for the Regional Structure review had been sent to the review panel and she would now circulate this to Council. Cr Ngahi Bidois also advised that he had responded to the review panel outlining this Council's preferences as confirmed at the 9 December meeting.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Ngahi Bidois - Cr Kevin Coutts' resignation
- Cr Lindsay Lyons - Recording meetings

6.1 The matter of recording meetings was discussed immediately, and Council supported Kate Thompson retaining a digitally recorded copy of meeting proceedings to assist with accuracy of minute taking and that this would be retained until the minutes of that meeting were accepted, after which the recording would be deleted.

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. Cr Ngahi Bidois reminded Council that if during discussion anyone recalled or realised that they may be conflicted they need to notify the meeting at that time.

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that Council receives the Health and Safety reports. [22/02/8.1]*

8.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Elon Musk for improving the office's communications through the new Starlink satellite internet service. He was also pleased to see licence revenue sitting ahead of budget. Cr Lindsay Lyons queried this as the sales report was showing a decline of 6.7% on last season's results. Kate Thompson clarified advising that licence revenue targets for the 2021-22 Season had been budgeted at a lower level than sales achieved in 2020-21 as a downward trend had been seen between the prior seasons with Covid 19 affecting sales results. So, while sales were down on last season the sales target had also been set at a lower level.

8.3 Cr Debbie Oakley queried the significant change in balance of the Waikaremoana Fund term deposits? Kate Thompson advised that with such poor returns on investments recently she had intentionally held off renewing one of the fund term deposits as she was aware through news media of likely increases to rates over the coming months. The funds were being held on call for a short period.

8.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2021 totalling \$322,835.84. [22/02/8.4]*

8.5 The Management and Licence Sales Reports were taken as read.

9.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2022-2023 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council of the process undertaken each year to review Council's current priorities, and whether Council wished to carry the current priorities forward into the 2022-23 Operational Work Plan (OWP) process or if there was a desire to change these. He said that the feeling from regional managers across the country was that it would be wise to once again run conservative budgets in light of licence revenues and uncertainties around international travel. Andy advised that balanced budgets and bids for contestable funds from all regions needed to be submitted to the National Office Chief Financial Officer by 23 March to enable her to collate and interpret these for presentation to the Managers and joint Managers/NZC meetings on 28 and 29 April. He said that while we had to submit our budget and bids prior to these being signed off at our next Council meeting on 7 April, Council still had the option to make amendments to both the budget and the bids and advise these changes to the CFO prior to the Managers and New Zealand Council meetings at the end of April.

9.2 Andy provided a heads up that there were at least three bids or applications to use reserves we were likely to be recommending for this budget round, these being:

- Compensation for loss of interest income. We also made a one off bid for this last year, and while we're proposing the same again this year the amount we'll

be applying for is likely to be somewhat less as interest rates have recently been increasing.

- CPI on staff salaries. Currently the CPI is reaching record highs and full CPI adjustments may not be affordable, but this is a conversation that needs to take place nationally.
- Contracting a provider to assist with the development of a regional R3 roadmap and/or business development plan. There may also be merit in contracting someone part time to assist with our social media presence.

9.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked Council to consider changing the order of priorities and make Increasing Revenue into our top priority, and that revenue be separated into “Increasing licence sales” and “Increasing other revenue”. He also suggested that we should drop or ease back on the Water Quality priority as he felt that this was currently being adequately addressed at a national level and there was little regions could do presently.

9.4 Andy noted that the current priorities hadn’t been listed in order of most important to least important by Council, though Council had recognised Increasing Revenue along with Access and Maximising Fisheries Opportunities as being of greater significance than the others, the reasoning being improving access and maximising fisheries opportunities were means by which licence revenue could be increased.

9.5 Cr Debbie Oakley felt that all priorities should remain in place but should be prioritised. Debbie also suggested that we should investigate whether Fish & Game can obtain funding support from central government.

9.6 Cr Ken Coombes considered all existing priorities were important but water quality was being picked up by others currently and we could perhaps back off a bit from this.

9.7 Cr Jay Tapsell suggested that other Councils could contribute to costs.

9.8 Barry Roderick commented that the Rotorua lakes are the jewel in the crown and we should be promoting the lakes as the place to go to. He thought it would be a good idea to contract someone to assist with promoting what we’ve got.

9.9 Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested dropping into local agents with chocolates and cards from Council to show appreciation for what they do. Cr Lindsay Lyons said he could donate some avocados too. It was proposed Councillors do these visits as staff are currently too busy to do so.

9.10 No consensus was declared, or resolutions taken on amending priorities or Council direction at this point in time.

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

10.1 Matt Osborne noted that this year a full review of the Anglers Notice was due. He commented on the significant changes that had been implemented from the last review and provided an overview of the process this year. He advised that submissions recommended from today’s meeting would be distributed to interested parties and stakeholders for feedback which would be presented at Council’s next meeting in April.

10.2 *Permit the use of all ‘soft baits’ (scented and unscented) within Eastern Region’s lure fishing waters.*

Discussion centred around the current ability to determine whether a soft bait is scented or not while in the field, especially if no packaging is available. Council agreed that the current regulation is difficult to enforce. Cr Mike Jarvie who was not present today

had requested through Andy Garrick to retain the status quo in the meantime but put the topic forward for further discussion.

10.3 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council was in favour of progressing Item 3.3 through to the next stage of consultation. [22/02/10.3]*

10.4 *Restrict Spinning*

Matt Osborne informed Council that two separate emails had been received requesting Fly/Spin fishing areas revert back to Fly only. Matt advised that staff had seen the combination working well in the areas concerned, but these submissions provided an opportunity for Council to review the changes that had been made. Council supported retaining the status quo as the new rules appeared to be working well and achieved two goals – simplification of regulations, and providing greater opportunity for all anglers (including those new to the sport). It was important to recognize that spin anglers make up a significant proportion of the region's licence holders.

10.5 Andy Garrick asked whether there were any other submissions Council might want to put forward for consideration at April's meeting. Cr Debbie Oakley suggested the use of treble hooks in the Eastern Region as this had been raised with her by another angler. Andy Garrick advised that this had been well litigated by this Council in the past and the results of studies on the impacts of treble hooks were quite ambivalent. He said there was little science to support either one view or the other. Matt Osborne understood many chose not to use treble hooks, and noted that the rules around authorised tackle were located in the First Schedule which was to be reviewed by Fish & Game over the coming year. That would be the appropriate time to review the use of treble hooks if Council felt there was a need to do so.

11.0 PROGRESS REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

11.1 Murray Ferris provided Council with an update on progress towards recruiting a replacement manager for Andy Garrick who had signalled his intention to retire in the near future.

12.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

12.1 *Report from the New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley advised that the February meeting had been deferred but reported briefly on the following:

- Governance training
- Forestry vs natives, carbon credits for forestry, restrictions on access
- Research
- Remuneration committee

13.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois informed Council of an upcoming meeting that he had planned with the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Chair, Sir Toby Curtis. This was to be an informal meeting but he hoped he'd be able to get Ta Toby to a meeting of this Council in the future.

13.2 Andy Garrick advised that Sara Carley from the BOP Conservation Board was disappointed not to be able to attend this meeting but was very keen to be involved in the future.

13.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois confirmed the resignation of Cr Kevin Coutts and provided a brief explanation. Andy Garrick advised that he would follow up on the process to inform the Minister of Cr Coutts' resignation.

13.4 Cr Debbie Oakley suggested the number of members of Council remain at 11 following Cr Coutts' resignation. Cr Ngahi Bidois proposed that this be discussed at a later date.

14.0 MEETING CLOSED

14.1 The meeting closed at 1.46pm with a closing karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ngahi Bidois', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

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