

# AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton**  
**on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 commencing at 11:27am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** N. Juby.  
**Councillors:** E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, M. Barker, C. Sherrard  
G. Annan, G. Dickey, T. Clark.  
**Staff:** D. Klee, D. Le Lievre, A. Daniel  
**Public:** O. Kent, W. Williams

The C.E. began the meeting by thanking outgoing Councillors Sherrard and Shaw for their service and presenting them with some gifts as a token of the council's appreciation.

**1. APOLOGIES:**

B. Jarvis-Child, B. Barnes.

It was moved;

**that apologies be accepted.**

**Annan/Cocks – CARRIED**

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

Nil.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024:**

It was moved;

**That the minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024 meeting be accepted as true and correct records:**

**Barker/Shaw – CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Councillor Dickey raised the prospect of body cameras for rangers. The CE acknowledged that it would be ideal for all rangers to wear body cams with budget being the main issue

with the cost of \$1200 each. Adam Daniel, councils' compliance coordinator will investigate options and report back at a future meeting.

The Chair questioned whether there had been any updates regarding the restoration of Whakapapa River access. The C.E. replied that his last two emails to DOC manager George Taylor had not received a reply.

The Chair asked for an update for the Hamilton Anglers Club proposal to promote kids coarse fishing at Horseshoe Lake and feeding the fish to zoo animals, councillors were looking for an update. Messer Daniel responded that he had contacted the zoo with the proposal and would be meeting with zoo staff the following day to discuss and would provide an update at the next meeting.

#### **5. INWARDS COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Councillor Barker would like to have it clarified why there were so many redactions in the NZC C.Es most recent report stemming from the August meeting and what the rationale for the reactions was?

It was moved;

**That the C.E. to enquire the reasons and process for redacting information at NZC/National office:**

**Barker/Williamson – CARRIED**

Councillor Barker raised the risk score in the NZC C.E. report for HPAI. The C.E. explained some of the issues and suggested that in our region the risk is high due to our reliance on game licence sales and potential impact on game populations. He also expressed concern that MPI appear to have taken the position that in the event of establishment of HPAI in wild birds, regional and local councils will be the ones to do ongoing operational activities within the guidelines agreed amongst DOC, MOH and MPI. Based on previous mass bird mortality events, the CE expressed significant reservations of such an approach. There is an urgent need to develop a response plan that clearly articulates roles and responsibilities, leaving it up to councils to implement without strong guidance and resourcing is unlikely to be a successful strategy.

Feedback on draft annual budget and meeting schedule

Councillors had a wide-ranging discussion around zero-based budgeting and how the decision was reached at the last NZC meeting. It was universally agreed by all councillors that there is a need to review existing budget policy and ensure that any changes are given an appropriate level of scrutiny and rigour.

It was moved;

**That the C.E writes a response in line with the recommendations in the agenda noting the following additions:**

- *That managers should be involved in the budgeting process due to their knowledge of the operational requirements of the organisation.*

**Barker/Clarke – CARRIED**

It was further moved;

**To include a provision for regions to review and provide feedback on NZC and National office budgets prior to approval:**

**Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED**

The CE introduced the draft meeting dates for 2025 including the potential need to have a meeting in May so that council could provide feedback on draft budgets within the prescribed window stipulated by NZC. It was suggested this could be a mid-week afternoon meeting and have the potential to have a zoom option. The CE informed council that the councils standing orders would need to be updated in order to accommodate online attendance and this would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

It was moved;

**To defer discussions regarding meeting schedule to the first meeting of the new council in November:**

**Annan/Cocks – CARRIED**

#### **Sports Fish & Game management Plan Documents.**

The three proposed NZC policy and one guideline documents were discussed. There was general agreement that the documents were useful and provided a good basis for the preparation of SFGMPs. It was further noted that having an updated universal template would also be helpful and in line with the minister's request.

It was moved;

**To thank NZC for the helpful documents and support the use of them as guidelines for regional use during the development of SFGMPs. It was not considered necessary to have them as formal national policy documents.**

**Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED**

The meeting rose for lunch at 12:44pm and resumed at 1:15pm.

#### **6. OUTGOING COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

The letter of condolence to Vanessa Hammond was noted by councillors.

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

The Chair congratulated staff on getting through the initial hurdle of getting access benefit lot provisions in the Waitomo DP.

Councillor Annan and his son has caught a couple of nice trout in Quarry Lake and council agreed that having fish releases in a high-profile site near Auckland with no natural spawning was a good use of licence payer funding.

The CE gave an update on licence sales noting slow start to sales this season which could be a sign of financially difficult times and wet weather in the South Island where sales were down significantly.

It was moved;

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

**Annan/Dickey – CARRIED**

**8. FINAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR ADOPTION**

It was noted that the drug and alcohol policy was required as part of the maritime programme. The CE encouraged councillors to adopt the policy. Dr Daniel raised concerns that council had not yet adopted a fatigue management policy which was also required under the maritime audit.

The CE informed the council that he had provided feedback on the draft policy in May but was yet to receive a response or final policy document for adoption and as soon as this is received, he would provide it to council. The CE had not found any evidence that a revised draft policy had been provided back to NZC for adoption either so the status of the document remained unclear. The CE noted that since he took the role, he has reinforced at every opportunity the need for the national office to establish a central repository with all existing policy, clearly noting its status was necessary. Apart from some of the HR policies which are available on SharePoint this is yet to occur.

It was moved;

**To adopt the final Drug and Alcohol Policy.**

**Annan/Dickey – CARRIED**

**9. ADOPTED POLICIES AND POSITIONS REVIEW**

Council amended several policies and deleted some which were deemed to be defunct. Amendments are captured as tracked changes in appendix 1.

It was moved;

**Subject to agreed amendments and deletions all council policies reaffirmed.**

Councillor Barker noted that it was council policy to oppose game preserves. The CE explained the difference between game preserves and register release sites. The C.E. will contact Lighthouse Station to clarify their status.

**10. OSH:**

The updated council on OSH issues and showcased the new defibrillator and first aid kit that had been purchased to take to working bees on council land. Councillor Cocks received the equipment to take to the next one. It was noted that there was a need to keep track of where the defib is and who will be responsible for taking it to the different events.

The CE noted that Dr Daniel had injured his back whilst removing water temperature recorders during spawning surveys. This was noted in the incident and near miss register and the hazard register was updated to ensure any future post removal would be done with a mechanical tool or Jack. We have subsequently acquired the requisite equipment to perform this function.

The CE noted that Ms Le Lievre has been included on the national H&S committee.

It was moved;

**that the OSH report is accepted.**

**Barker/Dickey – CARRIED**

**11. Remit from Doug Emmett**

Council recognised the many years of service councillor Sherrard has provided and thanked him for such. It was unanimously agreed that the remit should be accepted.

It was moved;

**That the North Shepherd Wetland is to be renamed the Sherrard Wetland.**

**Barker/Dickey – CARRIED**

- 12.** Councillor Facebook page. Council discussed the letter from NZC chair raising concerns over the Fish and Game Councillor Facebook page. Councillors were of the opinion that having the ability to communicate between themselves is valuable and that other similar pages existed. It was noted that the page was not public.

**13. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2:36pm.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 16th of November 2024 at 11am.