

**MINUTES OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2021 AT 6:00PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors Bates (Chairman), Niblett, Lumsden, MacKay, Bowcock, Duley (via video-conference), Melville, Newton, Slavin (Blair), Slavin (Callum)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jesse Friedlander (Regional Manager), Sam Robinson (Governance Advisor), Steve Perfect

1 Welcome (6.00 PM)

Cr. Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those in attendance that the meeting would be audio-recorded.

2 Apologies

Apologies received from Cr. Williams

3 Minutes of the previous meetings (26 October, 2 November 2021)

3.1 That having previously been circulated to members, the minutes of the meetings of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on the 26 October and 2 November 2021 are a true and accurate record.
Bowcock/Slavin (Blair)

4 Matters Arising

Nothing tabled

5 Notification of Items of General Business

- Toilets at public river access points
- Naming of Game Farm wetland development.
- Cultural use of the Game Farm and cultural harvest of gamebirds
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At this point it was decided to discuss the preliminary report received from the F&G Structure Review Team. This is a general discussion document, and the group is still very open to feedback.

Council believes that it is very important to consult with iwi at this early stage. There was also concern about the meeting forum. There were Councillors, staff and managers from different regions all present at the meeting which made it more difficult to discuss some subjects.

Any change needs to be made for the right reasons with a demonstratable increase in value to licenceholders.

Rearranging boundaries rather than amalgamating regions could make more sense for Hawke's Bay.

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Reserves from each region should be ringfenced for 6 years (two terms) and used for the benefit of local licenceholders.

There has already been a high attrition rate and it is necessary for F&G to avoid staff losses as much as possible.

The Manager will draft a letter to the Structure Review Team, reiterating these points.

6 Conflict of Interest Register

The conflict of interest register was passed around and signed. Cr. Bates declared a conflict as he runs an upland game preserve for friends and family.

Cr. Niblett declared a conflict as a director of a proposed upland game preserve.

Cr. Newton declared an interest as a director of the National Trout Centre.

7 Health & Safety Report

*That Council accepts the health and safety report
Bowcock/Mackay*

8 Adoption of the 2020-2021 Performance Report

Council discussed the unanticipated increase in licence sales due to covid-19 border closures.

While we have saved money and our finances are strong, it is important that we also spend money in areas that provide value to our licenceholders.

9 2022 Game Season Conditions

Cr. Niblett declared a conflict. It was agreed by all that Cr. Niblett would stay and contribute to the discussion but abstain from voting.

The dates need to be changed to reflect an 8 week season (for mallard, paradise shelduck, shoveler and black swan).

Discussion around changing shooting hours. If we can simplify our rules further, we should do so.

*1. That Council approves the 2022 game season conditions with the above change noted.
3. That Council agrees to reconsider its decisions on 2022 season conditions if summer monitoring programmes show a significant change to game populations.*

Lumsden/Bowcock

Cr. Niblett abstained from voting.

Mackay/Niblett

11 Liaison Officers Reports

Cr. Duley provided Council with an update from the most recent NZC meeting. Ray Grubb has been reelected as NZC Chair. An executive committee has also been elected.

Cr. Duley will provide a written report to Council as it is difficult to give a full report via Zoom.

12 Operational Reports

12.1 Management Report

Jesse provided Council with an update on the 'Tranche 2' Water takes in CHB. Submissions are open until the 17th December. The council does not agree with such a largescale increase in water abstraction from the Ruitaniwha Plains where water scarcity is already a big issue.

That Council authorises the Manager to investigate the engagement of a specialist for the 'Tranche 2' water take submission and hearing process. Funding authorised for this purpose may also be used for a collaborative submission with other groups.

Newton/Mackay

12.2 Finance Report

Cr. Newton questioned why there was no aged debtors report included in the finance report and why the report was only inclusive of September/October accounts. This is a timing issue regarding getting our agenda out prior to each meeting, payment of bills on the 20th of the following month and subsequent finalisation of the bimonthly accounts.

General expenditure does not line up with the \$28k re[payment of the covid-19 wage subsidy. This is likely the GST component which should have been included. Jesse will provide an answer regarding the aged debtors report and general expenditure via email.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 *That the payments for September and October 2021 totalling \$94,413.62 be approved.*

<i>September 2021</i>	<i>\$44,645.27</i>
<i>October 2021</i>	<i>\$49,768.35</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$94,413.62</i>

6.2 *That the Finance Report be accepted for the 2 months ended 31 October 2021.*
Niblett/Slavin (Blair)

12.3 Licence Report

That Council accepts this licence sales report

Bowcock/Niblett

General Business

- Cr. Bates questioned whether our files are secure and well ordered. Our filing system has recently been upgraded on to the cloud (Onedrive). We can now access these files if staff need to work from home (i.e during a covid lockdown). The files should be left in a way that anyone could find anything if staff were to leave. Files are in pretty good shape but staff will tidy personal and field files.
- Staff have approached HBRC regarding putting some toilets at public access areas and are waiting to hear back. These could be paid for by F&G but we would need to collaborate with either HBRC or the district council in order to make sure they were serviced regularly.
- Cr. Bates and the Manager will provide Council with a paper presenting options for a trial of cultural harvest of gamebirds or swan eggs in Hawke's Bay.
- The Manager will re-circulate the paper written on private land hunting blocks. If we could secure hunting access to 2-3 private ponds for the 2022 season that would provide a good trial run. It would be necessary to select responsible novice hunters to take up the opportunity.

At this point the meeting was adjourned in order to hold the AGM. 8:17pm.

Meeting Resumes 8:25pm.

13 Public Excluded Session

That the public be excluded from the following parts of this meeting while allowing the Manager and Sam Robinson (governance Advisor) to remain part of the meeting.

Mackay/Niblett

That the public Meeting Resumes

8:40pm.

Bowcock/Mackay

14 Meeting closes

Signed:

 **Chairman**

Date 15-2-22