

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 10 February 2018 commencing at 11am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: M. Young

Councillors: G. Annan, C. Carey, D. Cocks, W. Howard, N. Juby, A. Kerr, P. Shaw,
C. Sherrard, B. Smith, S. Smith, E. Williamson.

Staff: J. Dyer, A. Daniel, D. Klee, B. Wilson.

Visitors: R. Tyson

1. APOLOGIES

M. Davis, A. Sintenie.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Annan/Kerr CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 9 DECEMBER 2017:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 9th December 2017 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from Richard Tyson, Vice President EPCM, asking on behalf of EPCM that Council award a Certificate of Merit to life member Mr Lance Dickey in recognition of his forty years of outstanding service to Fish & Game.

It was moved;

that a Merit Certificate be awarded to Lance Dickey for his outstanding service to Fish & Game

S. Smith/Howard CARRIED

A memorandum was received from the NZ Fish & Game Council inviting consultation and feedback on establishing the Terms of Reference for a Fish & Game NZ National Salmon Committee.

Dr Daniel and Councillor Juby spoke regarding their concerns about the establishment of a national salmon committee, but both acknowledged that salmon were of considerable importance to South Island Fish & Game Councils.

It was moved;

that Council support the establishment of a F&G NZ National Salmon Committee.
Annan/Juby CARRIED

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The Chairman informed that the Makarau boat ramp was under the management of local iwi. This is a popular boat ramp for Kaipara hunters.

Councillor Kerr inquired whether alternative banding sites had been found to replace the sites no longer available. Mr Dyer replied that it was looking encouraging that another site would be available near Wellsford. At the Aka Aka site the landowner was no longer willing to host the banding programme and thus other sites were being considered.

Mr Tyson spoke on his attendance the previous Saturday at the Wellsford banding day and emphasised that he was most impressed with the high volunteer turnout and especially the enthusiasm of the younger helpers. It was a great day, and Mr Tyson thanked Mr Dyer for his organisational efforts.

Councillor Howard noted that it was the Franklin Club and not EPCM that was carrying out the bait station operation on the lower Waikato River.

Councillor Cocks requested an update of the Meremere cleanfill site application by Ward Demolitions. Mr Wilson replied that he and Anna Sintenie had recently met with the applicant and expressed their concerns over the impact of water flows from the proposed site to the North Shepherd Wetland. An EIA had not yet been received.

General discussion ensued on waste water treatment plants in the Waikato District. Mr Klee reported that two options for the Te Kauwhata site were being considered:

- A new MBR plant and continued discharge into lake Waikare
- Pumping the effluent to an upgraded plant in Huntly.

In reply to a question regarding the Lake Waikare Section 128 Review, Mr Klee stated that a meeting of all parties would be held in June to look at both the in-lake options and changing the operational regime for the lake, including discharge via the Te Onetea outlet back into the Waikato River. Early indications are that these changes could reduce sediment discharge to the Whangamarino well in exceedance of the relatively small amounts imposed by the commissioners.

Dr Daniel stated that he had recently issued an offence notice for an angler fishing without a licence at Lake Hakanoa. Discussion ensued on the use of multiple rods in coarse fishing waters.

It was moved;

that Dr Daniel prepare a paper for Council on the use of multiple rods in coarse fishing waters.

Cocks/Sherrard CARRIED

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated that the zon guns were being rented out for \$2 per day +GST plus courier fees. This did not include the cost of fuel.

It was moved;

that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED

7. RELEASE OF CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS:

Extensive discussion took place on the memorandum: Release of Captive Reared Mallards, prepared by Robert Sowman and Andy Garrick. The submission by Jeff Niblett was also considered.

There was general agreement that Council opposed the commercialisation of mallard hunting and that there should be no changes to standard regulations.

It was moved;

that Council's position on the five questions asked by the NZ Council was as follows:

- (i) *Is F&G supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool to augment wild populations?*
Opposed
- (ii) *Is F&G supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence for example, of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting?*
Opposed
- (iii) *Does F&G support the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity?*
Opposed
- (iv) *If the latter is something F&G wishes to facilitate, support or promote, would we accept the development of commercial enterprises run along the lines of many*

upland game operations, or would we require 'put and take' operations to be of a non-commercial nature only? [An argument to consider is if F&G allows commercial pheasant/quail/partridge hunting, should it not also allow commercial exploitation of mallards or other gamebirds and change the law to enable this if necessary?]

Opposed

- (v) *If F&G allows release of 'put and take' operations, would we wish to see the birds hunted in a similar way to how wild mallards are hunted now, or would we be accepting of the upland game equivalent of 'driven hunts', where birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from point A to point B, or some other approach?*

Opposed

Williamson/Cocks CARRIED

Council rose for lunch at 12.20pm and resumed at 1.05pm.

8. LAND AND WATER HABITAT TRUST:

The Chairman asked if there were any questions on the Financial Statements for the Land and Water Habitat Trust, but there were none.

8. OSH UPDATE:

In reply to a question Dr Daniel stated that two stab vests had been purchased. General discussion ensued on the advantages or otherwise of high visibility vests for ranging.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Howard asked about publicity for the 2018 F&G election especially the need for licence holders to opt in for voting and whether licence sellers would be contacted. Mr Wilson replied that he understood that there would be publicity in the National F&G magazine and that there would also be publicity in the Auckland/Waikato newsletter. Licence sellers would also be contacted and reminded that it was election year and the need to register licence holders for the election.

Councillor Sherrard informed that the NZ Council was looking at the online licence purchasing process for licence purchasers to opt in/out of being an elector.

It was moved;

that the NZ Council is asked to confirm that licence purchases will need to opt in/out of being an elector

Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED

Councillor Juby advised that boxes for DoC traps are available from the Waikeria Prison for free. Contact details available from David Klee.

Councillor Annan informed Councillors that Russell Gaston was very humbled to receive his Merit Certificate from Council. Mr Gaston died just after Christmas, and Councillor

Annan complemented Mr Wilson on his eulogy given at the memorial service on Mr Gaston's contribution to F&G. The service was well attended with over 200 people in the small community hall.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1.20pm.