

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 7th April 2018 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: D. Cocks

Councillors: G. Annan, C. Carey, W. Howard, N. Juby, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, S. Smith,
E. Williamson.

Staff: B. Wilson

Visitors: P. Hardy (DoC), M. Taylor (CE, NZF&GC), R. Murray.

1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr, M. Young, B. Smith, D. Klee, A. Daniel, M. Davis, A. Sintenie, J. Dyer.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

S. Smith/Annan CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 10 FEBRUARY 2018:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 10 February 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Howard/Annan CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that when purchasing a licence online a hunter/angler had to opt in to enrol as an elector rather than this being the default position. Councillors discussed this issue and especially the issue of agency online where licence purchasers were not always asked whether they wanted to enrol as an elector.

It was moved;

that it should be stated on hunting and fishing licences whether the licence holder was enrolled as an elector.

S. Smith/Juby CARRIED

Councillor Howard updated the meeting regarding the bait stations obtained by the Franklin Acclimatisation Society. Bait stations have been allocated to the Piggott Wetland (40), Aka Aka Wetland (30), and 80 were given out to members at the AGM.

5 CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was tabled from:

- A sympathy card on behalf of Council and staff has been sent to the Goodin family offering condolences on the recent passing of Ross Goodin, past president and life member of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society. Councillor Sherrard spoke on the contributions made by Ross Goodin to fish and game management both in the local district and regionally.
- An email was received from Tony Dickens, Project Director – Huntly Section, Fulton Hogan, regarding the Fisher Wetland compensation package noting that the “terms of our agreement for us to pay Fish & Game \$250,000 compensation is on the proviso that the entire contribution plus any interest accrued from such will be used for the purpose of wetland restoration, enhancement or creation activities over one or multiple wetlands in the Waikato Tainui rohe (region/area)”.
- Tony Roxburgh, Chairman National Wetland Trust of NZ, thanking Fish & Game for our support at the recent World Wetlands Day.

It was moved;

that all correspondence be accepted.

S. Smith/Carey CARRIED

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

Discussion ensued on a wide range of topics including:

- Te Kauwhata Waste Water Treatment Plant, with concerns expressed by Councillors over the lack of progress by the district council in providing an alternative treatment system.
- The F&G website and especially the lack of information regarding fishing access.
- Disappointment at the non-availability of brook trout from the Eastern F&G hatchery.

- Concern over the delay in obtaining approval for the production and release of triploid rainbow trout.
- Mischa Davis joint responsibilities with Northland F&G.
- That the reporting of a mallard duck banded in Opuatia turning up 16 days later in New Caledonia had been a good opportunity for a publicity release.

It was moved;

that the CE Bimonthly report be accepted.

S. Smith/Juby CARRIED

The Financial Report was discussed with Mr Wilson noting that \$32,000 had recently been paid out for earthworks on the WCEET funded wetland restoration projects.

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated that AOG referred to “All of Government” contracts, of which Council participated in to obtain discounts for vehicles, fuel and mobile phones.

It was moved;

that the Financial Report be accepted.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

7. APPOINTMENT OF F&G NOMINEE TO TE KŌPUKA

Councillors discussed the appointment of a F&G nominee to the Te Kopuka, an advisory strategy group established as part of the Te Awa Tupua settlement for the Whanganui River.

It was moved;

that Glen Maclean be nominated for the position of Fish & Game representative on the Te Kopuka.

Juby/Annan CARRIED

8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2018/19 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

The draft Operational Work Plan for 2018/19 was extensively discussed by councillors with concern expressed over the potential for a huge increase in prosecution costs due to reparation no longer being a viable alternative.

Concerns were also expressed over the high cost of fish from the Eastern hatchery, and whether there were adequate staff resources to deal with the botulism outbreaks.

It was moved;

that the draft 2018/19 budget and Operational Work Plan be accepted.
Juby/Annan CARRIED

Council rose for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 1.15pm.

9. OSH REPORT

The OSH report for April 2018 was tabled.

Councillors discussed the foot bridge in the Aka Aka wetland and the need for replacement of the timber planks.

It was moved;

that the OSH report be accepted.
S. Smith/Annan CARRIED

10. NZF&GC MEETING 16 – 18 MARCH 2018

Councillor Sherrard summarised the main points arising from the recent meeting of NZF&GC. Both Councillor Sherrard and Mr Taylor answered questions on a range of issues including:

- Why much of the meeting was held in “Public excluded session”
- An update on the Guide Licence, with the application recently sent to the Minister of Conservation
- Concerns over the long-term viability of the legal fund given the large number of applications by regions.

It was moved;

that the report be accepted.
Annan/Williamson CARRIED

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Sherrard spoke about a recent farming innovation – “spikey”, a tractor drawn urine detector and nitrification inhibitor which is in use on five dairy farms and could potentially cut nitrate leaching by 50%.

Rex Murray spoke on capture reared mallards and expressed his disappointment with Councillors and staff over their lack of consultation with hunters who had an interest in releasing capture reared mallards. Mr Murray acknowledged that habitat was crucial, but he believed that the local mallard population needed a kick start. Mr Murray also believed that banding capture reared mallard wasn't necessary. Councillors acknowledged that they were concerned over the potential commercialisation of mallard hunting based on capture reared mallards.

Councillor Juby raised the issue of the low tag return rate from the Whanganui River trout tagging programme. He reported that a local fish tackle distributor has offered to sponsor the programme by providing products as reward for tag returns.

It was moved;

that the offer to provide sponsorship of the Whanganui River trout tagging programme be accepted in principle.

Juby/Howard CARRIED

The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor for attending the meeting. He also wished Councillors all the best for the game season.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3pm.

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