

**AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME**

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,**  
**on Saturday 16 June 2018 commencing at 11.00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** M. Young

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

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

**Visitors:** P. Hardy (DoC), R. Tyson.

**1. APOLOGIES**

B. Smith.

It was moved;

**that the apologies be accepted.**

**S. Smith/Juby CARRIED**

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

None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 7 APRIL 2018:**

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 7 April 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED**

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

Nil

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil.

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

Mr Klee updated Councillors on the Lake Waikare/Whangamarino appeal, noting that ICM will be doing a Section 127 application under the RMA to manipulate the Te Onetea gate to try and achieve the suspended sediment reduction in the discharge from Lake Waikare to the Whangamarino Wetland, and if that doesn't work there is an obligation to look at other measures.

Brief discussion on the current high RMA workload which was partly due to the consent renewals for the Waikato Fonterra dairy factories. A submission will soon be lodged on the Te Rapa discharge consent.

In reply to a question, Dr Daniel stated that he was pleased with the outcome of the meeting with the Eastern F&G Council to discuss the availability of triploid trout. Eastern Councillors were generally supportive of the initiative and will consider the issue further in committee before getting back to him with a decision.

Councillor Annan complemented Dr Daniel on the high standard of his recent presentation to the Te Awamutu F&G club.

Councillor S. Smith expressed his disagreement with the statements made to staff by a “concerned hunter” that the Flax Block water levels were on par with the lowest he had ever seen them at this time of year. Councillor Smith noted that water levels in the block at markup and opening weekend were more than adequate and far higher than during the drought year of about 4 years ago. The weir boards were currently set at 1.7m. He suggested that staff ask the concerned hunter to contact the Flax Block hunter association to discuss further. Councillor Smith was concerned about incorrect information circulating amongst the hunter community.

It was moved;

**that the CE Bimonthly report be accepted.**

**Juby/Annan CARRIED**

Mr Wilson noted that further to his report more trees had been removed near the office on the advice of the arborist. Furthermore, we had agreed to refund the Astronomical Society 50% of the costs of removing trees next to the store, which were close to power lines.

It was moved;

**that the Financial Statements be accepted.**

**Annan/S. Smith CARRIED**

## **7. FISH AND GAME MARKETING ANALYSIS:**

The Report “Marketing Analysis” prepared by Steve Doughty was tabled.

Councillors agreed that the number of hunters and anglers in the Auckland/Waikato region was constrained by resource limitations and thus there was little potential to increase licence sales despite an increasing population. The ecological collapse of the lower Waikato lakes and the impact of urban sprawl had negatively affected a large area of the region that once held high numbers of dabbling duck. Mr Wilson reminded Councillors that he had a long list of over 200 hunters who were seeking places to hunt in the Waikato. Formerly these hunters would be directed to the lower Waikato lakes, but this was no longer an option.

Councillors agreed that additional promotions could increase fish licence sales but again there were resource constraints especially compared to the comparatively under-utilised fisheries in adjacent regions (ie. Eastern lakes and Taranaki rivers). It was emphasised that Council's extensive promotion of coarse fishing had not increased licence sales and that most of the regions coarse fisheries had subsequently collapsed due to the illegal introduction of koi carp, which was not a sports fish. Nevertheless, it was agreed that it was important to maintain licence numbers and that some marketing was essential.

Councillors were concerned that the report emphasis that "minimal skill and resource should be the new mantra" as this fed the perception held by a small section of the public that hunters and anglers were unskilled.

It was moved;

**that individual Fish & Game regions should be responsible for their own promotions and marketing.**

**Cocks/Annan CARRIED**

Council rose for lunch at 12.30 and resumed at 1.30

**8. 2018/19 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION:**

Councillors discussed the 2018/19 licence fee recommendations with concern expressed over the process, and with agreed that F&G should be looking at other forms of revenue including a tax on sporting goods.

It was moved;

**that the recommendation of an adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$130 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$96 be accepted.**

**Sherard/Annan CARRIED**

The modification to licence categories and ratios with whole season fees was then discussed. Councillors were concerned over the proliferation of licence categories which would discourage new participants.

It was moved;

**that the number of licence categories should be reviewed by the licence committee with the objective of reducing the number of categories.**

**Juby/Cocks CARRIED**

**9. 2017 NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE:**

The report on the 2017 National Staff Conference was tabled. Mr Wilson noted that Auckland/Waikato would be holding the 2019 conference.

**10. PIGGOTT WETLAND REPORT:**

Mr Dyer's report was tabled.

Mr Wilson advised that a report would be sent to Winstones as partial funders of the project, and that an offer would be made to show Winstones staff the project. Several Councillors expressed interest in visiting the site and Mr Wilson agreed to arrange this.

#### **11. OSH REPORT:**

The OSH Report for June 2018 was tabled.

Councillor Juby suggested that the possibility of police accompanying rangers on opening weekend should be considered as occurred in several other F&G regions.

It was moved;

***that the OSH Report for June 2018 be accepted.***

***S. Smith/Cocks CARRIED.***

#### **12. NZF&GC MEETING 27 – 28 APRIL 2018:**

Councillor Sherrard summarised the minutes and answered questions.

#### **13. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Sherrard thanked Mr Klee for his efforts in restoring wetlands in the Opuatia area.

Councillor Shaw advised that self-setting automatic traps based on the fenn trap were being produced by NZ Auto Traps for \$320 + GST. The traps were on display at the NZ Fieldays. Councillor Shaw also informed that DoC had an extensive display of predator trapping at the Fieldays. Mr Wilson stated that he was informed that DoC budget for Fieldays was \$60,000.

Councillor S. Smith expressed his disappointment that the regulations booklet was often not distributed by licence agents when issuing game licences. Discussion ensued of whether the booklet should be mailed to licence-holders but Mr Wilson emphasised that a high proportion of game licences were sold by agencies in the last week of the game season.

It was agreed that the pre-season game newsletter should have a section summarising the game regulations including season dates.

Mr Tyson informed the meeting of his concern over political pressure from groups such as SAFE to restrict the right to use firearms and hunt to individuals over the age of 18 years. Councillor Carey stated that this policy had recently been introduced in Poland.

Councillor Kerr enquired whether SNA zoning was being considered for F&G wetlands. Mr Wilson replied that the Waikato District Council was considering such zoning for virtually all F&G wetlands and that Mischa Davis was looking at the implications for F&G.

Councillor Juby asked whether staff had access to disinfecting equipment for visiting farms due to the M. bovic outbreak. Mr Wilson agreed that such equipment was essential.

Mr Wilson recommended to Councillors that Standing Orders for Council meetings be reviewed at the August meeting. It was requested that both the proposed and existing Standing Orders be sent to Councillors well prior to the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.45pm