

# MINUTES OF THE HAWKES BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2018 AT 6.00PM

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bates (Chairman), Williams, Hern, Niblett and Lumsden.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mark Venman (Regional Manager), Nathan Burkepile, Christine Tuck (Hawkes Bay Fish and Game staff), and Glenis Phillips (Minute Taker).

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Red Hooper, Andrew Russell and Blair Slavin.

## 1.0 WELCOME

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public and the new CEO of Fish and Game, Martin Taylor.

Cr Bates advised Councillors that this meeting will be recorded.

Cr Bates introduced the new CEO to the meeting and before starting the meeting gave Martin a chance to talk with Councillors to just give us a quick over-view of what he has been doing since starting in his position around October 2017.

Martin started off by saying that what he has been noticing since going around the different Councils is that each Council has a different style and the different and interesting conversations that Councils have.

He talked about how he sees our licence holders as our customers and he feels that we have to deliver them the best experience we can so then we can justify the licences that we sell them and how we obviously need to be focusing on delivering that experience to our customers.

He went to on to talk about the work that has been done in the environment space especially over the last decade and how this is very important as it is part of our statutory role. The other part of this role is again, delivering the best experience that we can. Martin talked about one of the first things he got involved with which was the Marketing paper which has now turned into the Participation paper. He said that marketing is just a tool to get you something that you want. It is all about increasing revenue and focussing on bringing the young kids into hunting and fishing and said that this is not an easy thing to do. Martin said that when he tells people what his job is - people tell him that "they do not mind the fishing, but not the gun". Lots of adults are interested but they do not know the first thing about taking a kid fishing. Martin told Councillors that this is one of the things that he would like to get involved with in trying to get families involved, and this is one of the areas that he wants to focus on, but not sure whether or not this will be supported in the regions. He also added that he would like to see more national policy coming out of Wellington and feels there needs to be more consistency and more modernisation within Fish and Game.

## 2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Mackie and Cr Duley.

No apology was received from Cr McIntosh.

## 3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018)

The CEO Martin Taylor wanted to clarify a comment made in 10.0 Ngaruroro Water Conservation Order (WFO) page 7, second paragraph. He said he will be instructing the lawyers, and this is not in conjunction with Sally Gepp. This clarification has been noted in the Minutes and changed accordingly. The second paragraph now reads: -

“NZ Council will be paying for the legal costs of this and Martin Taylor and Sally Gepp will be leading the process **with Martin Taylor** instructing the lawyers. We are committed to the process until the end of stage two which will commence in July 2018. There is a need for us to engage with all parties for the upper and lower sections to resolve any key challenges”.

## AGREED

***3.1 That having previously been circulated to members, and with the above change being made, the Minutes of the meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 are a true and accurate record.***

Niblett/Hern

## 4.0 MATTERS ARISING

- Clarification to the Minutes by Martin Taylor were duly noted and changed in the Minutes before approving them (as above)
- Cr Williams made reference to page 3 regarding the magazine supplement and newsletter and wanted his comment to be duly noted, and recorded in the Minutes. “On behalf of the Hawke’s Bay Fish & Game Councillors, I would like to congratulate the Regional Manager and his team for a fantastic job and said there has been so much talk and wonderful comments about it. In essence, it was a wonderful piece of work”.
- In response Mark advised Council that Nathan was the person who actually put this all together for Fish and Game Hawke’s Bay. Mark then thanked both Nathan and Christine for their efforts with this.
- Cr Niblett asked about the Fish and Game Management Plan. He wanted to know if there had been any submissions on this which closed on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mark said 5 submissions had been received and the review committee needed to get together to discuss these. Cr Bates said that the committee will be having a review with Mark on Thursday so we can do that then if that is suitable with him
- Cr Williams asked if the other Councillors not on this committee are able to read these and Mark advised that is not a problem and will circulate
- Mark advised Council that there was nothing major that had come in

## **5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nothing tabled.

## **6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

The Conflict of Interest Register was passed around to Councillors to sign.

## **7.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

Mark advised Councillors that staff met and discussed the draft for information for the new operational work plan. He said that in the Agenda item he has tried to summarise under 3. what was discussed at the February meeting as priorities, and has tried to factor these into the new draft of the work plan in different places.

Carmel has put together a summary of the main changes in terms of the budget from this current year to what we are proposing for the new 2018-2019 year. Under 5. that is a summary of the Eastern agreement (Hawke's Bay and Eastern) and again a copy of the details in the papers. He went on to say that we are just really keen to get some feedback on what we have proposed. There are some things that will need a bit of discussion around performance measures and a bit more detail in terms of the projects around the water fowl monitoring but again, he said he has tried to factor in as many of the priorities as he could. In essence he said he is looking for feedback and ideas so that he can then develop it a little bit further and look at hours for the next round. The Chairman asked what the timeframe for this was and Mark asked if we could discuss this now.

Cr Williams started off the discussion and had some thoughts on this. He started by saying that he hears what Martin Taylor (CEO) is saying about having a product to sell called "Fish and Game" and went on further to say that he has looked at the hours and said we haven't allocated hours yet. He has looked at the percentage of hours and broke them down – looking at hours spent on 8 different outputs and 1 and 2 which are management of game birds and management of habitat. We spend 33% of our hours on these (those two particular outputs) and if you take away the 360 hours that we spend on RMA which is really looking after what regional councils are not doing, then we spend 25% of our time looking after Fish & Game physically (and that is the scientists) and told Council that he believed we needed to look at this.

If we go and look at publications, communication and public awareness and encouraging people to go and buy our product we spend about 25% of our time on telling people that you should go and buy a licence. We also spend 20% of our time on providing resources for council meetings and writing reports so we spend a lot of time writing reports and believes that we need to cut down on that. We spend a minimal 30% on compliance on telling people to go and buy a licence to have this experience but where we do have to be careful is that that experience is pleasurable and successful so we have to look a little at our percentages.

He said we spend a lot of time on running this game farm and this could possibly be looked at. We could look at the hours that we spend a little bit closer. Things happen and you do have to mix and match – we don't need to drop anything but we do need to mix and match and that is the job of the Manager. We need to look at all of this and we can drop whatever we like. We have got other Councillors here with their own thoughts on this.

Cr Williams asked if we were doing the In-House survey this year. Mark responded – there was one based on a satisfaction survey which is on page 20 of the WP and that was just to try and do something within our region following on from what Cr Niblett asked for at the last meeting. If it is something that comes nationally that would be great. Cr Bates commented that somebody needs to get the “ball rolling” and said people are pretty quick to pick up things that work. Cr Hern commented that he believes that there is one thing that has been over-looked (in retail) and that is that Fish and Game has never supported the licence sale and believes Fish and Game and licence sellers do not have a good relationship.

At this point the Chairman asked Councillors that if anyone wants to push things up in the list, to e-mail Mark as we need to move on to the next Agenda item for discussion which is the water fowl monitoring programme. Mark needs some feedback on this.

Mark started off the discussion by saying that nothing has changed from this current year and is just looking for some guidance on whether we need to change that – is there anything specific that we need to add in so we can progress it. Cr Niblett opened up the discussion and believed that this should be driven nationally. He talked about the Mallard research which has come back recently and they are basically saying that we have not produced enough ducklings. This is of major concern because this is what Fish and Game licence holders are here for and also what Fish and Game are here for. He went on to say that perhaps the water fowl monitoring programme should be looked at by the NZ National Council. Cr Niblett believes that this should be co-ordinated nationally, and we supporting as regions. The Chairman asked the question – what are we going to do about it. We have spent a lot of time discussing this but really we have not come up with anything different. We have got statutory responsibilities as to what we are going to do, where are we going to go. Nothing is changing - we are just coming back to the same thing each time. We have a statutory obligation. As nothing was happening with this discussion and no conclusions reached, the Chairman put the question to Councillors – what are we going to do about this.

Mark suggested to leave it open and work out what we are going to do. We will have something to go to the Minister. The Chairman asked that Councillors give Mark a call if any one thinks of any more ideas. E-mail Mark if you think there is something that needs to go up or down the list.

## **8.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**

Mark started off this discussion by saying that following on from the last meeting he has written an initial options paper on two matters that we discussed, the first one being prohibiting the use of treble or multi pointed hooks and has given a bit of background information there. He advised Councillors that he has spoken with Mark Osbourne from Eastern Fish and Game who said they are looking to do something similar at Eastern and said that it is possible to make a change under Schedule II.

When we spoke about this last year it was Schedule I and we could not make a change, but Eastern are looking to making this change and it is a good opportunity if we can consider this as well.

The First stage is to vote on it – do we vote or leave as is for another season, and then I will find out more information and try and progress it further.

Cr Williams wanted to know if Eastern were going to discuss that at their meeting on Thursday and Mark said they are going to decide whether they want to prohibit trebles or not. The Chairman put the question to Council as to what they wanted to do. Councillors agreed that we would like to change it under Schedule II if we are able. It was voted unanimously that Hawke's Bay Fish and Game want to get rid of the treble. Mark to follow-up with Eastern Fish and Game.

**AGREED**

***8.1 That treble hooks be prohibited if we are able to get the change made under Schedule II.***

Lumsden/Hern

The second matter was back country fisheries and Mark has been in contact with other regions which operate back country fisheries to try and get some feedback from last discussion – these have been summarised in the table and is looking at whether we want to progress this further or not.

Cr Bates reiterated again, that he has a conflict of interest and wonders do you actually get as much out of these backcountry surveys as you think you are going to. Cr Bates talked about perhaps doing a little survey. Cr Williams said that we have talked about this generating of income and selling the experience and went on to say that he believes the backcountry fisheries is an exclusive experience and needs to be charged for.

The question was raised as to - do we have to make a decision now. We don't need to have a decision this year. Fishing will start in October so we can think about it. We have gone along quite happily without this for a lot of years so in conclusion it was suggested that we get a survey started to see whether it is worth having back country fisheries here in Hawke's Bay. It was suggested we do a little bit of work and see whether it is actually worth having back country fisheries in our region.

Councillors were quickly asked their opinion as to yes or no. The Chairman asked Mark and he responded by saying that he believes that we need to do more to better understand the back country fisheries and if we don't do this we need to better understand the customer and who is using it. Cr Williams made the comment that we need to monitor our fisheries better than we are at the present time.

The consensus at the moment is to get staff to do a bit of a survey and advise Council of results upon completion.

## **9.0 REGION PROTECTED DISCLOSURE POLICY**

**AGREED**

***9.1 That Council are happy with the Protected Disclosure Policy and was accepted unanimously.***

Williams/Niblett

## **10.0 DATES FOR 2018 COUNCIL**

Mark advised Councillors that after the Managers meeting it was brought to his attention several regions had not got correct dates to allow for the appointment of new Reps after the new Councils are formed so my understanding having spoken with Carmel is that if we leave them as they are, as decided at the last Council meeting, that we would need another meeting to discuss and appoint them so that's another option – just a 10 minute meeting – between 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November. Perhaps this is less disruption for Councillors. In conclusion Mark said we will leave it as the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting being Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> October and the AGM and Council meeting being the 27<sup>th</sup> November. It will be after the election.

## **11.0 EVALUATION OF COUNCIL**

The Chairman asked Councillors to please e-mail these to him. He asked where the results of the last evaluation were – Cr Williams has a copy of them and will forward them to the Chairman before the June meeting. Cr Williams commented that these assessments of ourselves are very important and he takes them very seriously. Cr Williams to send forms to the Chairman before the June meeting.

## **12.0 FORESTRY LOGGING OPERATIONS**

Mark opened up this discussion by saying that this was brought up by an angler who contacted Cr Williams. Council needs to have a discussion around the effects of forestry logging operations on Hawke's Bay waterways and provide an update on the National Environmental Standards Plantation Forestry that were published late last year. These come into effect in May 2018. They provide nationally consistent regulations to manage the environmental effects of forestry operations.

Exotic pine forestry operations are a threat to water quality and the Hawke's Bay region has many river catchments that contain large areas of exotic forest. Mark advised Council that we need to make sure we work with Regional Council and just to make sure that things are "ticking along". Hawke's Bay Fish and Game staff will need to work closely with Hawke's Bay Regional Council staff to ensure that forestry activities are being properly monitored once the new plan takes effect in May 2018.

Cr Williams started the discussion by talking about how Nelson and Marlborough had had two massive floods and there was a lot of damage from forestry operations and the downstream effects of private property and nobody wanted to know. Regional Councils said "not our problem", the logging companies said the same, and these private people were left with a big mess on their property. He went on to say that because East Coast have got a lot of forestry and waterways then we need to start thinking about this. Martin Taylor talked about the forestry and who actually owns the logs. He said this is an unsettled area of the law but it certainly has to be settled as there is going to be more forestry and more adverse weather events. He believes there will be 2-3 years on this subject. Cr Williams said that upon reading this National Environmental Standards there is two references in it – one is fish spawning indicator and fresh water fish sampling protocol. These two areas of this document we need to consider. Cr Bates said we need to find out from Regional Council what the 95% of standards they are going to stick to. Cr Williams said that we need to make people aware of it. Mark to follow-up.

### **13.0 ESK RIVER**

The Esk River is considered to be a self-sustaining wild trout fishery and like many other river systems in the Hawke's Bay, contains adequate spawning and juvenile rearing habitat but suffers a lack of good quality adult trout habitat.

Reports from some anglers who have fished the Esk River regularly over a number of years, indicate declining stocks of catchable adult fish. The Esk River recently experienced a significant flood on 8 March 2018 that flooded the lower reaches and transported large volumes of silt throughout. Mark advised Councillors that it did suffer a flood back in 1938 and it did "bounce" back.

One such angler by the name of John Scott rang Cr Williams and expressed his concern about the damage in this river and asked if Hawke's Bay Fish and Game staff could have a look at it.

In conclusion Council asked Fish and Game staff to monitor it and to get back to Councillors with their findings.

### **14.0 OATH OF OFFICE**

Cr Niblett would like to know if this came from NZ Council or just individual regions. Cr Williams in response to this question said he did not think it was a NZ Council thing and believes it started with Eastern Council and the Chairman was an eastern councillor, and then brought it to the NZ Council. Cr Williams said that he remembers signing it here and thinks it was unanimously signed but he is not sure.

Cr Niblett asked if this is something that Fish and Game were going to be pushing. Cr Williams said that it is up to the individual region as to whether you want to have an Oath of Office. It is an indication of your willingness to look after hunters and fishermen. The Chairman at this point said that on any board or council the more diverse the group, the better.

It was noted that not all regions have adopted the Oath of Office as it is not binding. Robert Snowman has confirmed that Hawke's Bay Councillors can sign their own version of the Oath of Office. The recommendation by Councillors was for the Oath of Office document to be handed around for everyone to look at and to sign if they wanted to.

### **15.0 INCREASING PARTICIPATION REPORT**

This report is about how revenue is critical for Fish and game to manage, maintain and enhance New Zealand's sports fish and game resources in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters. Revenue is generated through licence sales and licence sales are generated through participation. Cr Bates commented that this was a very interesting report. The Chairman asked if Martin could talk Councillors through this report.

Martin started off by saying that we are "greying" as an organisation and that includes our licence holders as well. He believes we should be recruiting now for the next 20 years and we need to get our young kids now into hunting and fishing, ages from 0-12. If we don't get them at this age we are unlikely to get them.

Our statistics show that we are actually missing out on a group of people so in 10-15 years things will start to taper off as people die – this is 1.5 – 2.5% decrease per year so a 15% decrease in income. Because we will see a decrease in our revenue we need to be focussing on our customers and getting more kids in. We need to grow our licence base and be more relevant. To grow our licence base we need to get our youth involved. Martin said that it is harder to get our youth involved in hunting. We sell about 100,000 licences per year. It is about where each council see's their organisation going in the future.

Martin went on to say that it is harder to go duck shooting than it is to go fishing. Duck shooting is not hard to set up but it costs money. Again trout fishing costs money as well. Cr Bates said we have a region which is driven by shooting and is very strong, Martin said that mainly it is fishing focus rather than duck focus.

Nathan advised Councillors that internationally we are seeing a pick-up and said there seems to be a trend occurring in NZ now in 25-35 year olds now starting to take up shooting. It is an expensive sport if you don't know how to shoot. Cr Williams added that this is future proofing Fish and Game.

## **16.0 LIASON OFFICERS REPORTS**

Summary of the NZ Council's meeting Friday 16 March & Saturday 17 March in Greymouth. This was the 130<sup>th</sup> NZ Council meeting.

The agenda included a number of public excluded items for discussion, most relating to transition issues with the NZ Council Office review and new CEO. Many of the resolutions taken in this session were later brought back into the public meeting record. These included:

- F&G NZ's original WCO application for the Ngaruroro in Hawke's Bay was split into two – the upper and lower sections – by the special tribunal to hear and report on the application. This has prompted F&G to review its options in securing the WCO.
- A further NZ Council strategic planning session is to be held Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.
- Revised guide licence proposal to be sent to Minister of Conservation by 13 April.
- Pay structures for managers is to become a topic for the next Governors' Forum (now scheduled for July 2019).
- Discussion on the release of captive reared mallard remains under active consideration. Received responses are to be circulated to regions for information.
- The current media strategy is to highlight deficiencies in regional (local government) council initiatives in protecting the environment and to continue to highlight farmers who are being environmentally sustainable.
- The subject of silt & debris washing off recently felled timber plantations was discussed and the issue is to be raised with Ministers.
- NZ Council Office is to submit contestable funding bids to help with developing a recruitment, retention and reactivation national participation strategy, to help co-ordinate RMA initiatives, and support a national salmon committee.
- RM/Legal and exceptional funding applications were approved - \$180K (from reserves) for Lindis minimum flow plan change, Otago F&GC; \$82.8K for crop survival water allocation, Eastern F&GC; \$78K for regional plan, Northland F&GC, \$45K (from reserves) for Bowyers



Stream spawning stream, CSI F&GC, and \$65K (from reserves) for securing a new licensing agreement, NZC F&GC.

- The paper on “Developing revenue through increased participation” to be circulated to regions with the NZ Council’s endorsement to develop a recruitment, retention and reactivation strategy for the whole organisation
- A National Salmon Committee is to be established with appointees from Nelson/Marlborough, West Coast, North Canterbury, Central South Island and Otago Fish & Game Councils, the NZ Salmon Angler Association, South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association and the NZ Council. Appointees are to hold the first meeting by 16 April 2018.
- The next NZ Council meeting is to be on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 April 2018. The Friday 26<sup>th</sup> meeting is to be a joint meeting with regional F&G managers to consider the 2018/19 budget and licence fee recommendations.

Cr Williams advised Councillors that the NZ Council had a meeting in the West Coast

## **17.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

### **17.1 Management Report**

***17.1.1 That the Management Report be accepted.***

Williams/Niblett

### **17.2 Health and Safety Report**

**AGREED**

***17.2.1 That the Health and Safety Report be accepted.***

Williams/Niblett

### **17.3 Finance Report**

January 2018	48,828.14
February 2018	52,058.21
<b>Total to Approve</b>	<b>100,886.35</b>

**AGREED**

***17.3.1 That the Finance report be accepted.***

Williams/Lumsden

### **17.4 Licence Report**

A total of 93.3% of the annual sales target has been achieved.

Sales are report to be 2.2% below licences issued for the same period last year.

Nationally licences sales are -0.3% above on last year's sales to the same time.

The non-resident levy of 278 x \$38.00 = \$10,564 has not been deducted off the sales figure – this will be transferred to non-resident levy – back country fisheries reserve at the end of the financial year.

**AGREED**

**17.4.1 That the Licence Report be accepted.**

Niblett/Lumsden

## **18.0 MEETING CLOSSES**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

**CONFIRMED**



**CHAIRMAN**

DATE: 21 / 6 / 2018

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### AGREED

**3.1 That having previously been circulated to members, and with the above change being made , the Minutes of the meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 are a true and accurate record.**

Niblett/Hern

### AGREED

**8.1 That treble hooks be prohibited if we are able to get the change made under Schedule II.**

Lumsden/Hern

### AGREED

**9.1 That Council are happy with the Protected Disclosure Policy and is accepted unanimously.**

Williams/Niblett

### 17.1 Management Report

#### AGREED

**17.1.1 That the Management Report be accepted.**

Williams/Niblett

### 17.2 Health and Safety Report

#### AGREED

**17.2.1 That the Health and Safety Report be accepted.**

Williams/Niblett

### 17.3 Finance Report

#### AGREED

**17.3.1 That the Finance report be accepted and all bills to be paid,**

Williams/Lumsden

### 17.4 Licence Report

#### AGREED

**17.4.1 That the Licence Report be accepted.**

Niblett/Lumsden