

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 18 August 2018 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: M. Young

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

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

Visitors: L. Lyons (Chairman NZ Council), P. Hardy (DoC).

1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr, E. Williamson, A. Sintenie, M. Davies, A. Daniel, R. Tyson.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 16 JUNE 2018:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 16 June 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Cocks/S. Smith CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Outward: A letter from the Chairman to Mr Lindsay Lyons, Chairman NZ Council, regarding the Auckland/Waikato Council's concerns with the report "Marketing Analysis" prepared by Steve Doughty.

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

Mr Lyons informed Councillors that the Eastern Region has agreed to the raising and release of triploid rainbow trout with the proviso that the fish are referred to as "sterile" rather than "triploid".

Councillor Juby stated that he disagreed with the statement in the Mangatutu Drift Dive Survey Report regarding the impact of the dairy farm conversion on angler usage, since the decline in angler usage occurred before the conversion took place.

Councillor Juby also suggested that a “big picture” report would be useful, integrating all the survey methods to present a State of the Fishery report.

Mr Wilson gave a brief summary of the new guidelines from the Auditor General regarding Fish and Game reporting with more emphasis on why councils do activities and what were the impacts.

Councillors discussed the replacement of the ATV, remarking on the high maintenance costs, and made suggestions as to its replacement. Mr Wilson stated that they would try to obtain a discount as part of sponsorship deal.

In reply to a question, Mr Klee spoke on the use of the recently purchased Mavic Drone for taking photos & video of wetland restoration projects for publicity purposes and to show funding agencies.

Mr Lyons was invited to speak to the meeting by the Chairman. Mr Lyons emphasised his close relationship to the Waikato region having been brought up on a dairy farm next to Lake D on the outskirts of Hamilton. He was a founding member of the Waikato branch of Ducks Unlimited, and had a maimai on Lake Ngaroto for many years, eventually leaving this possie because of his concerns that the water quality had declined to a level where it was no longer safe for his dog to drink. Mr Lyons then spoke on the NZ Council advising that they were currently being carried out three regional audits at the request of the Minister of Conservation. The audits arose due to concerns by councillors and/or members of the public over conflicts of interest and lack of governance.

Mr Wilson spoke on the proposed Waikato District Plan and the potential impact on restoration and maintenance work on Council’s wetlands. A comprehensive submission was being prepared by Mischa Davies.

Council rose for lunch at 12.40 and resumed at 1.30

The Chairman spoke on the recent passing of Dan Madsen who gave many years of service to Fish and Game both as an Auckland/Waikato and NZ councillor.

It was moved

that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

7. CONFIRMATION OF 2018/19 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:

Mr Wilson spoke on the 2018/19 budget stressing his disappointment that he couldn’t present a final budget as the NZ Council had not yet considered Council’s request for an additional \$5,000 for the salary increase for the RMA staff.

It was moved:

that the 2018/19 Operational Work Plan and budget of \$789,508 (conditional on the NZ Council approving \$5,000 for salary adjustments) be approved.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

8. STANDING ORDERS:

Councillors discussed the draft Standing Orders, which were based on the *Model Rules for Conduct of Regional Fish and Game Council's Meetings* as set out in Schedule 1 of the Conservation Act 1987 and published in the New Zealand Gazette, 30 January 2017.

The Chairman stated that he didn't consider that the draft was materially different from Council's existing standing orders except they were a bit "tighter" in regard to the running of Council meetings. Councillors agreed that the current standing orders had rarely been referred to in recent years but were a necessary backstop in case of potential discord.

It was moved;

that Council retains its existing Standing Orders

Cocks/Annan CARRIED

9. STAFF REPORTS:

The staff reports were tabled.

Mr Dyer's report on Grey Teal was discussed with several Councillors concerned that numbers were not adequate to sustain ongoing harvest. However, Mr Dyer considered that the Grey Teal population would be relatively easy to monitor and that the current population could sustain harvest.

It was moved;

that Mr Dyer's report on Grey Teal be sent to the NZ Council with the recommendation that they request the Minister of Conservation to transfer Grey Teal to the 1st Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953 to become "Wildlife declared to be game"

Cocks/B. Smith CARRIED

Councillors Howard and Shaw requested that their votes in opposition to the motion be recorded.

10. NZF&GC MEETING OF 19TH JULY 2018:

Councillor Sherrard reported on various issues that arose at the recent NZ Council meeting including their allocation of \$21,000 to mallard research for the study of brood-habitat selection and use.

In reply to a question, Mr Lyons reported that the minutes of the recent meeting of the National Sea Run Salmon Committee would soon be available to Councillors.

Concern was expressed at the recent closure of the Fish & Game Magazine, and especially that Councillors and staff had no prior knowledge of the closure. Mr Lyons replied that the magazine was running at a considerable loss and was being heavily subsidised by Fish and Game

11. OSH REPORT:

The OSH Report for August 2018 was tabled.

Mr Wilson drew Councillors attention to his comments concerning the maintenance required on Council's building.

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for August 2018 be accepted.

S. Smith/Cocks CARRIED.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS:

There being no general business the meeting concluded at 2.25pm