

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council **held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,** **on Saturday 9 February 2019 commencing at 11am.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: D. Cocks

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

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

Visitors: R. Murray, R. Foster, R. Radonich, S. Lindeman, D. McCauley, R. Stephens
(11.15), G. Ralph (1.30), J. Kellow (1.30), M. Williams (1.30), P. Hardy (DoC)

1. APOLOGIES

M. Young.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Smith/Judy CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER 2018:

It was moved;

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

Smith/Avery CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE:

An email was tabled from Dave Malcolm, Chairman of the Hamilton Fish & Game Association, nominating two of their longstanding members for Fish & Game Council Merit Awards. Councillor Annan spoke in support of the nominations. He emphasised the outstanding service that Michelle Houghton had done as secretary and treasurer of the club for the last 23 years. Councillor Annan also spoke on the support the club had received from John Finnerty who had donated the use of land on Collins Rd for a tree nursery some 25 years ago.

It was moved;

that Michelle Houghton and John Finnerty be awarded Council's Merit Certificate for outstanding service and contribution to the Council, wildlife and conservation.

Annan/Smith CARRIED

A letter from Lindsay Lyons, Chairman of NZF&GC, was received in reply to a letter sent by the Chairman (19/11/2018) commenting on the performance of the NZ Council and especially the excessive time spent in committee and the lack of consultation with regions.

Councillor Williamson expressed his disappointment with the reply from Lindsay Lyons. He considered that consultation with the regions was still inadequate as highlighted by the recent debacle over upland game properties. Councillor Juby informed the meeting that he had contacted Lindsay Lyons and received assurance that the letter from Auckland/Waikato Chairman would be tabled at the next meeting of the NZF&GC. Councillor Juby reminded Councillors that the NZF&GC had seven new Councillors and thus changes should be expected.

It was moved;

that the correspondence be received.

Annan/Williamson CARRIED

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

Mr Wilson advised that the delegation by DoC to Fish & Game of the authority to issue permits to cull/disturb gamebirds was a very welcome initiative. However, he did note this would considerably increase the staff time spent issuing and following up of permits issued for the North Auckland special paradise shelduck season. Mr Wilson recommended that instead of issuing permits that the season is gazetted in advance as is standard procedure in other F&G regions including Northland.

In reply to a question Mr Klee provided an update of the Section 128 review of the consent conditions for the Whangamarino Weir. He advised that the scheduled meeting had been postponed and that F&G would be advocating for a whole scheme review rather than just concentrating on the weir. Mr Klee also noted that there had been significant staff changes at ICM.

Mr Wilson introduced the financial statements and emphasised that the auditor's recommendations had been fully implemented. Mr Wilson reminded Councillors that they would usually consider the draft budget for the 2019/20 financial year at their April meeting. However, this year the NZF&GC would be vetting the draft regional budgets in early April due to later dates clashing with public holidays. Therefore, a draft budget would need to be prepared by early March, and this would then be sent to Councillors for comment prior to the April council meeting.

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive bi-monthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.
Annan/Juby CARRIED

8. WARD RANCH UPDATE:

<u>General subject of each matter to be considered:</u>	<u>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:</u>	<u>Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</u>
Legal action against Council	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(i)

Sherrard/Kerr CARRIED

It was moved;

that Council moves out of public excluded meeting.
Annan/Smith CARRIED

9. LAND AND WATER HABITAT TRUST:

The Performance Report for the Land & Water Habitat Trust was tabled.

It was moved;

that the Performance Report for the Land and Water Habitat Trust for the Year ended 31 August 2018 be received

Williamson/Smith CARRIED

10. HUNTING CODE OF CONDUCT:

The report “Code of Practice for Gamebird Hunting” was tabled.

After discussion it was moved;

that Council agrees to the revised game hunting code of conduct becoming national policy and being included in the 2020 gamebird hunting regulation guide book.

Smith/Williamson CARRIED

11. BEQUEST POLICY:

The report “Fish & Game NZ Bequest Policy” was tabled.

Councillors welcomed the proposed policy and agreed that bequests could be a significant source of revenue for funding projects such as wetland purchase and restoration.

It was agreed that it was crucial that licence holders were made aware of the opportunity to leave a legacy.

It was moved;

that the proposed national policy on the acceptance and utilisation of bequests be supported as national policy.

Juby/Avery CARRIED

12. SETTING NATIONAL POLICY:

The report “Setting National Policy” was tabled.

Councillors discussed the policy and agreed that it should be amended so that:

- 1) The period for Fish & Game Councils to consider proposed policy should be a minimum of at least two meeting cycles.
- 2) When NZ Council makes a significant amendment to proposed policy after consultation with regional F&G Councils, then the draft policy should go back to the regional F&G Councils for re-consideration (i.e. a second round of consultation).

It was moved;

that the proposed policy on Setting National Policy, with the above amendments, be supported as national policy.

Smith/Williamson CARRIED

13. OSH UPDATE:

It was moved;

that the OSH report be received.

Howard/Smith CARRIED

Discussion followed on the operational requirements for the ATV due to recent Health & Safety recommendations by Worksafe New Zealand. Dr Daniel agreed that the OSH manual for the ATV would need to be updated.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Smith informed that there had been a botulism outbreak at lake Te Koutu in Cambridge and that he had already removed some ten dead ducks.

Councillor Shaw expressed his concern that hunters were leaving loaded shotguns in maimais unattended and that this was not considered an issue for prosecution by the police.

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.30pm

7. GAME PRESERVES:

The report “Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions” was tabled.

Councillors discussed the report with concerns expressed over the moving of commercial preserves to Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act by the Minister of Conservation, especially the setting of a precedent and where this could lead. The opinion was expressed that because commercial preserves had never been legal there should be no phase out period.

Mr Wilson provided a summary of current Auckland/Waikato F&G policy, which was that:

- Commercial preserves were opposed since they were illegal under the Wildlife Act.
- Council supported the syndicate model for the release of gamebirds.
- That duck hunting is only allowed on such properties on days when there are no upland gamebird shoots.

The Chairman invited visitors to the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

Mr James Kellow expressed his concern that any change to the Wildlife Act could also affect trout fishing and duck shooting opportunities and this should be avoided. Both he and Mr Guy Ralph had met with Martin Taylor and it was Mr Kellow’s understanding that the Auckland/Waikato syndicate model would be adopted nationally.

Mr Rick Stephens praised the Auckland/Waikato syndicate model which he considered transparent and user friendly. He considered that the system wasn’t broken but was working well. However, he was concerned that phasing out commercial operations would lead to a reduced demand for young stock and this would lead to much higher costs for small syndicates.

Mr Richard Radonich, a member of a syndicate in the Eastern Region, stated that he supported change to the Wildlife Act to allow for the hunting of upland game for a fee.

Councillors then addressed the five questions provided in the report prepared by Robert Sowman on behalf of the NZ Fish & Game Council.

1. Does your Council support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee?

No

2. Is there support for non-commercial (ie. where hunting is not being provided for a fee) upland game properties operated by families, private syndicates or friends to provide an immediate and guaranteed hunting opportunity?

Yes, but only for syndicates rearing and releasing upland gamebirds with costs shared, but not providing hunting for a fee.

3. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other gamebirds on that property for a fee?

No

4. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions without a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other gamebirds on that property without a fee?

Yes, but not on the same day as upland gamebirds are hunted.

5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on upland game properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other situations?

No

It was moved;

that the answers above and the support of the Auckland/Waikato Council for the syndicate non-commercial model for upland game properties be conveyed to the NZ Fish & Game Council.

Annan/Smith CARRIED

The Chairman asked if there were any remaining issues regarding upland gamebirds that the meeting should discuss.

Mr Stephens informed the meeting that he had arranged for the importation of a vaccine that had been approved in NZ for avian botulism. In reply to questions, Mr Stephens stated that each vaccine would cost about 44c and that a minimum of 10,000 doses would need to be imported. He noted that the vaccine could be stored for about 2 years.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.15pm.