

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 6 April 2019 commencing at 11am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: G. Annan

Councillors: W. Howard, A. Kerr, B. Moore, C. Sherrard, S. Smith.

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

Visitors: P. Hardy (DoC)

1. APOLOGIES

M. Young, N. Juby, P. Shaw, E. Williamson, D. Cocks, G. Avery, D. Klee

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Smith/Kerr CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2019:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 9th February 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Howard/Kerr CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Councillor Smith reported that he was regularly checking Cambridge Lake for botulism but so far only averaging about one duck per week, which was far fewer than in previous years. Overall there appeared to be few botulism outbreaks in the Waikato, perhaps due to the exceptionally dry weather.

Councillor Smith expressed his disappointment that one of the properties with special conditions was actively trying to get on to Schedule 3 despite not raising this issue at the February Council meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had presented Mr John Finnerty with the Council's Merit Certificate at the recent AGM of the Hamilton Fish & Game Association. Mr Finnerty was very grateful and humble to receive the award.

5 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from Mr David Nordell, President of the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Association, recommending that Council recognise the considerable efforts by Grant Annan in organising and running the Annual Fishing Contest at Lake Arapuni for the last 25 years.

Mr Wilson emphasised the considerable promotional benefits of the competition and the value of the data obtained for the management of Lake Arapuni trout fishery.

Councillors voiced their strong support for Councillor Annan and his past and ongoing commitment to Fish & Game.

It was moved;

that Grant Annan be awarded Council's Merit Certificate for outstanding service and contributions to the Council, wildlife and conservation.

Sherrard/Smith CARRIED

Councillor Sherrard spoke on the many years of commitment to Fish & Game at both a local and regional level by Mr Murray Young including his role as Chairman. Councillor Sherrard recommended that Mr Young's commitment be formally recognised by Council. Other Councillors strongly supported the recommendation.

It was moved;

that Murray Young be awarded Council's Merit Certificate for outstanding service and contributions to the Council, wildlife and conservation.

Sherrard/Annan CARRIED

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

In reply to a question Dr Daniel spoke on the sterilised trout project noting that he was waiting for Eastern Region staff to advise a suitable time to commence the project.

The recent swan cull by the Auckland Airport Authority was discussed and Mr Wilson advised that he would soon be meeting with the Authority's staff to discuss swan management in the region.

Mr Wilson reported on his recent meeting with Walking Access NZ who were working on enhancing access to public land in the North Waikato. Mr Wilson emphasised that there would be increasing demands for public access to Council's wetlands that could conflict with their wildlife values.

Mr Wilson introduced the Financial Statements observing that Fish licence sales would be similar to previous years. Game sales had a very slow start but had recovered in recent days. However, game sales were very much dependant on April rainfall and the forecast was not promising.

It was moved;

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

7. GOVERNORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 2019:

Councillor Annan spoke on the recent Governors Forum, held in Wellington that was attended by himself and Councillor Nigel Juby.

Points of note:

1. Sir Geoffrey Palmer & Elana Geddis spoke on the power and responsibilities of regional councils and the NZC.
2. Chair and Governor responsibilities – this was presented by Graeme Nahkies
 - Accept accountability for organisational wellbeing.
 - Adopt a more proactive approach to the council's role
 - Start and continue with the end in mind
 - Focus on what matters
 - Measure and monitor the right things
 - Exercise duty of care
 - Act honourably
 - Avoid using our position for personal advantage
 - Comply with all relevant legislation and organisation constitutional and policy requirements
 - Act in the best interest of the organisation as a whole
3. Audit review for North Canterbury F&G Council, presented by Bruce Robertson.

8. LAKE WAIKARE AND WHANGAMARINO WETLAND FLOOD SCHEME: FINAL REPORT:

Mr Wilson introduced the Final Report for the Lake Waikare and Whangamarino Wetland Flood Scheme. Under-spending on this project was \$45,000 less than budgeted.

9. WARD RANCH UPDATE:

Councillors discussed the report and acknowledged that there were significant financial implications of a mediation process.

10. HEALTHY RIVERS UPDATE:

Mr Wilson observed that all the funds budgeted for this project would be spent in this financial year.

11. OSH REPORT:

It was moved;

that the OSH Report be received.

Kerr/Smith CARRIED

12. GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to staff issuing certificates to the children who helped with duck banding over the summer. Councillor Smith strongly agreed noting that the children very much appreciated the certificates.

Dr Daniel spoke on the recent Hamilton Anglers kids fishing day on Cambridge Lake, emphasising that there were over 60 kids attending who were given soft baits provided by the event sponsor. Dr Daniel stated that a similar event would be held soon on Hamilton Lake, and that he would try and obtain more of the sponsor's products.

It was moved;

that up to \$300 be allocated towards the Hamilton Lake kids fishing day for prizes and giveaways.

Smith/Kerr CARRIED

The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Dr Daniel and his family who recently spent the entire weekend camped at Lake Arapuni during the recent Te Awamutu F&G Club's fishing competition. The Chairman had received numerous comments from anglers expressing how great it was to see a Fish & Game officer there the whole weekend of the event.

It was reported that the Huntly Club was not having an Anzac Day shoot this year.

Councillors discussed the use of social media especially in regard to supporting Fish & Game. Mr Wilson advised Councillors to minimise their social media presence and that posts on such had the same legal status as a media release.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1.25pm.