

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 15 June 2019 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: M. Young

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

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

Visitors: P. Hardy (DoC).

1. APOLOGIES

B. Moore, A. Daniel.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Annan/Sherrard CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

The Chairman noted that he had a conflict of interest arising from the letter in correspondence.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 6 APRIL 2019:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 6 April 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Smith/Kerr CARRIED

It was moved;

that all the motions approved at the meeting of 6 April 2019 be ratified.

Annan/Sherrard CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

5 CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillor Young left the meeting and Councillor Annan assumed the Chair.

A letter was tabled from Mr Doug Emmett recommending to Council that the Evans Rd Wetland be named after the incumbent Auckland/Waikato Chairman, Murray Young, in recognition of all the time, effort and personal expense Mr Young has selfishly donated over such a long period of time.

It was moved;

that the wetland at Evans Road be named the Murray Young Wetland.
Cocks/Williamson CARRIED Acclamation

Councillor Young returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair.

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

In reply to a question regarding the sterile trout project, Mr Klee replied that it would be about 6 weeks before we knew whether the project worked or not.

Mr Klee and Mr Wilson provided an update of their recent meeting with the Auckland Airport Authority over the recent swan cull in Manukau Harbour. The Authority would soon be carrying out a tracking survey involving some 40 satellite tags to monitor the movements of swan from Manukau Harbour to elsewhere. The Authority was made aware of our concerns, and there was full agreement to work closely with Fish & Game on the swan issue.

Mr Klee and Councillor Juby informed the meeting of the issues with the discharge from Lake Otamangakau into the Whanganui River headwaters.

Concern was expressed over Hauraki Rail Trail locking the gate that provides access for duck hunters to the lower Piako River. Mr Klee stated that he was working through the issues with the regional council and Hauraki Rail Trail. He had negotiated an agreement where the affected hunters would be issued with keys to the gate.

Councillor Sherrard stated that the Te Kauwhata Fish & Game Club used to service the boat ramp at Te Kauwhata, but the club was currently in abeyance.

It was moved;

that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.
Smith/Cocks CARRIED

7. CONSERVATION INFRINGEMENT SYSTEM POLICY:

The proposed Conservation Infringement System was discussed by Councillors. It was agreed that clarification should be sought over whether infringement notices could be issued for offence notices issued by honorary rangers.

It was moved;

that the proposed Conservation Infringement System Policy be approved
Cocks/Sherrard CARRIED

8. NATIONAL POLICY ON PROSECUTIONS:

The proposed National Policy on Prosecution was discussed by Councillors.

It was moved;

that the proposed National Policy on Prosecutions be approved.
Juby/Annan CARRIED

9. 2019/2020 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was moved;

that a 2019/2020 adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$133 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$98 inclusive of GST be approved.
Annan/Smith CARRIED

10. 2019/2020 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:

Mr Wilson introduced the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Work Plan, noting that due to the increasing cost of office maintenance he was looking at the option of moving the office to a building that would require lower maintenance.

After discussion it was moved;

that the proposed budget of \$826,188 and Operational Work Plan be approved.
Williamson/Smith CARRIED

11. 2019/2020 DISTRICT ANGLERS NOTICE:

The report and recommendations by Dr Daniel were discussed.

A) *Increase the number of rods that can be used by coarse anglers*

It was agreed that the one rod rule be maintained.

B) *Opening up the lower Kaniwhaniwha Stream to spin fishing.*

It was agreed that the lower Kaniwhaniwha Stream below Smith Road be open to spin fishing.

C) *That the catch limit for all small rivers and Lake Moana-nui be lowered to two trout.*

Councillor Annan informed the meeting that he had discussed this recommendation with the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club, and they considered that more consultation was required with licence holders. Mr Wilson agreed to produce an article on this issue for the pre-season newsletter. It was agreed that more consultation on this recommendation was required with licence holders.

D) Move or remove the no trolling sign in the upper reaches of Lake Karapiro.

It was agreed that this decision is delayed until after further consultation with licence holders.

It was moved:

that the lower Kaniwhaniwha Stream below Smith Road is open to spin fishing.
Annan/Smith CARRIED

12. WARD RANCH UPDATE:

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the legal proceedings involving Ward Ranch's action against DoC and Fish & Game.

13. KAKAHI PROPERTY UPDATE:

Mr Wilson update Councillors on the recent purchase of a property at Kakahi. Councillors agreed that at present access across the property should be limited to licence holders.

14. OSH REPORT:

It was moved;

that the OSH report be received.

Annan/Smith CARRIED

15. NZF&GC MEETING 5-6 APRIL 2019:

The minutes of the April NZFGC meeting was presented by Councillor Juby.

Also tabled were papers on:

- Terms of Reference for the Strategic Financial Review Sub Committee
- Terms of Reference for the National Licensing Sub Committee
- Term of Reference for the National Remuneration Policy Sub Committee

After extensive discussion it was moved;

that the Terms of Reference be agreed to in principle.

Juby/Sherrard CARRIED

Councillor Williamson raised the issue of the legality of pheasant preserves and informed Councillors of his recent correspondence to the Minister of Conservation on this issue. Councillors agreed that the legality of preserves and whether prosecutions were initiated was an issue for the respective regional councils.

16. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Smith enquired whether the recent pond ballots were successful. Mr Wilson replied that there was considerable interest in the ballots and that the balloting process had gone well.

Councillor Annan reported on a recent Hamilton F&G meeting where members had requested an article on the powers of rangers in the next pre-season game magazine. It was agreed that articles could also be prepared on claiming maimai and what vegetation should be used for maimai cover.

Councillor Avery asked whether there had been any further news on potential changes to the firearms legislation. Mr Wilson replied that he had no information that wasn't publicly available. Mr Dyer expressed his concerns that the police would consider any F&G prosecution when vetting for firearms licences.

Councillor Avery updated the meeting on Department of Conservation's proposed charges for duck huts in the Flax Block. Councillors expressed their shock at size of the fees which could be over \$3,000 per year despite the seasonal use of the huts. It was agreed that hunters were being targeted by DoC and that the fees were excessive. Mr Klee noted that he had raised the issue of DoC huts fees at a national level.

The Vice Chairman, Grant Annan, presented Murray Young with an Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Merit Certificate in recognition of his outstanding service and contributions made to the Council, wildlife and conservation.

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There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3pm.