

# **HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2019 AT 6.00 PM**

### **PRESENT:**

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Bowcock, Duley, Elstone, Hern, Lumsden, MacKay, and Williams.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Friedlander (F&GNZ, Manager) and Tuck (F&GNZ).

### **PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Brad Pinker, Fred Nichol and Andrew Robb

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed staff, councillors and the general public; he opened the meeting at 6.00pm advising the meeting would be recorded.

#### **2.0 APOLOGIES**

Cr's. Hickmott, Niblett and Pinker. No apology received from Nimon.

#### **AGREED**

*2.1 The apologies for the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be accepted. (19/04/2.1)*

*Williams/Elstone*

#### **3.0 FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Pheasant Preserves – Cr Lumsden
- Final Count of Electric Fishing from Tukituki River Tributaries Survey.- Mr Nicol

Staff informed Mr Nicol at this early stage of monitoring there is insufficient data to compare with at this stage; staff monitoring focus will be on long term trends which gives statistical foundation to the survey.

- Beach raking – Mr Nicol

#### **4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

No conflict of interest were tabled.

#### **5.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Cr Williams noted Graham Nankevis correct spelling is Graham Nahkies.

Cr Elstone corrected the record of matters arising- he noted he had enquired three times why the special meeting held 23 May 2018 wasn't on the website, could staff please attend to this.

## AGREED

- 5.1** *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on 19 February 2019 are a true and correct record. (19/4/5.1)*

*Williams/Elstone*

## 6.0 MATTERS ARISING:

Fred Nicol enquired why at the last meeting the general business item - lack of trout before Patangata in the Tukituki River – Williams, wasn't discussed. Cr Williams thanked Mr Nicol for bringing this to his attention.

Cr Williams advised council a member of the public had approached him stating there seemed to be a lack of fish below the Patangata Bridge and requested council discuss further. Staff informed council drift diving wasn't an option due to poor visibility, council discussed other monitoring methods such as angler's diaries, spawning counts and tagging programme. It was noted the abundance of trout varied due to seasonal conditions such as filament algae, lack of infusion of spring water over the summer period.

## 7.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2019 – 2020 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN.

Mr Friedlander informed Council as staff hadn't received enough feedback from the emails to narrow down the priorities; the priorities remained as stated at the February meeting. Staff had moved some projects around according to priorities identified and actual costs incurred over the past few years; he invited council to question allocation movement within the projects.

Council discussed the tabled draft 2019-20 Operational work plan and raised the following:

Cr Bates queried the movement of 5k allocated to a Cawthorne Report for beach raking. Staff advised council the funds had been moved to RMA gaining more flexibility. Council emphasised the importance of instigating the beach raking report for the region's fisherman. Discussions centred on using reserves to fund a beach raking report and approaching other managers including Nelson Marlborough Region to investigate their funding and survey methodology.

Jesse informed council the Gamebird trend count and waterfowl management budget allowed investigation of the use of drones to conduct monitoring, together with continuing with banding for another year, allowing staff to choose the monitoring methods in future years.

Council questioned the \$700 sponsorship income allocated in Angler & Hunter Training for the Junior Pheasant hunt and the potential of future events.

Cr Bates requested councillors consider their priorities when reviewing the Operational Work Plan and invited further comment at the June meeting allowing changes to be made before approving the final at the August meeting.

- 7.1** *That council received the initial OWP for 2019 20 and noted the draft plan would be available at the June meeting. (19/4/7.1)*

*Duley/Lumsden*

- 7.2** *That council approved the Contestable Fund Bid of \$4,094 for CPI increase of 1.9%. Record. (19/4/7.2)*

*Duley/Lumsden*

## **8.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW.**

Council instructed Jesse to approach NZ Council investigating the process of removing of treble hooks from schedule one. Council agreed that ideally changing this regulation nationally would simplify sports fishing regulations.

Council discussed the Mohaka River fishing regulations; currently the river was spilt into three varying daily bag limits and season lengths, they questioned the science behind setting these regulations. Jesse mentioned the Napier Freshwater Anglers Club noted lack of fish around the Five Minute Flat area. Council instructed Jesse to investigate options to survey and monitor this river.

Cr Lumsden requested the slotting size to be moved to the beginning of the schedule before Open season, permitted methods, daily bag limits for easy reference.

Cr Hern requested promoting the Twin lakes at Kuripapango and using this fishery in conjunction with the R3 programme.

**AGREED**

*8.1 That Council agrees to the regional manager seeking advice from NZ Council on the removal of treble hooks from schedule one of the Sports Fishing Regulations (19/4/8.1)*

*Williams/Lumsden*

*8.2 That Council agrees to include a recommendation to anglers fishing within the Hawkes Bay Region to refrain from the use of treble hooks whilst freshwater sports fishing. (19/4/8.2)*

*Lumsden/Williams*

## **9.0 GOVERNANCE INDUCTION PRESENTATION.**

Chairman Bates advised council Robert Sowman was unable to attend tonight's meeting to present the governance induction presentation.

Council expressed the importance of understanding the function of council, the Councillors' role and governance polices. Council instructed Jesse to contact Graeme Nahkies and enquire the possibility holding governance workshop.

## **10.0 GAME FARM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

Jesse informed the council he had received positive response from all schools within a walking distance of the game farm, all indicated their wish to be involved with the development, he identified potential funding sources MFE community fund, DoC Community Fund, Mazda Foundation & Regional Council Leaf Fund. An extension of time request had been sent to Robert Sowman – NZ Gamebird Habitat Trust for the 4k grant.

Council agreed to incorporate the R3 programme including fishing into this programme.

**AGREED**

*10.1 That Council instructed the regional manager to provide a more detailed report for game farm development project. (19/4/10.1)*

*Duley/Bowcock*

## **11. POLICY ON AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council thanked Jesse for the comprehensive policy and requested the signed policy be circulated to councillors to include in their Councillor folder.

### **AGREED**

*11.1 That Council agreed to accept the policy on audio recording of council meetings.  
(19/4/11.1)  
Lumsden/Williams*

## **12. LIASION OFFICERS REPORTS**

Council received Matt Brady's report from DOC noting Lake Whatuma: The Eastern side should read Western side. Council instructed staff to follow up with Iwi & Doc on keeping the existing hunting rights for the licence holder at the lake.

Cr Williams reported he had printed up notes of the last NZ Council meeting however Martin Taylor had since sent the minutes which is a comprehensive report from NZ Council, so everyone could read these over. He suggested staff include bullet points:

- Preserves
- Anglers Report
- Central South Island & Hawkes Bay Audit
- Upland Gamebird Properties with special conditions
- 1080 trout ingestion
- Firearms Legislation changes

Cr Bates enquired if HB Audit was near completion. Cr Williams advised council he had been excluded from this discussion in the public excluded meeting. Council directed the Chairman to write to the auditor enquiring what stage the audit was at and an expected completion date.

## **13.0 REPORTS**

### **13.1 Management Report**

Cr Elstone enquired about the monitoring and control of pukeko. Jesse advised councillors advice was given to landowners when issued authority to disturb game.

Cr Williams enquired why plants had been donated to the Twyford Enhancement Society; Jesse advised plants grown in our shade house had been gifted and in turn Fish & Game benefits from signage placed along the riparian planting areas.

Jesse advised of the proposed review of shooting areas along our river margins with Hawkes Bay Regional Council and other stakeholders.

Peter Wilson's advice on the proposed grass carp farming was to oppose unless the carp can be proven to be triploids.

Jesse informed Council that NZ Fish & Game had ceased the 2019 Game Bird Harvest Festival, staff have continued partnering with local restaurants in the region as they believe it is an important initiative.

### **13.2 Health & Safety Report**

#### **AGREED**

*13.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (19/04/13.2).*

*Lumsden/Mackay*

### **13.3 Finance Report**

Cr Lumsden enquired why the maize paddock income was down this year, staff advised the lessee was invoiced quarterly.

#### **AGREED**

*14.2 That the council receives and approves the payments totalling \$73,923.55- \$40,828.24 for January 2019 and \$33,095.31 for February 2019. (19/04/14.2).*

*Duley/Bowcock*

*14.3 That the council accepts the finance report. (19/04/14.3).*

*Duley/Bowcock*

### **14.4 Licence Report**

Cr Williams noted the game bird licence sales were down. Staff updated council with the latest regional gamebird sales data stating these are now tracking at 8.4% below budget compared to the national figure of 7% below budget.

#### **AGREED**

*14.5 That the council receives the licence reports. (19/04/14.5).*

*Duley/Mackay*

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Pheasant preserves**

Cr Bates referred to the email sent to all councillors today advising pheasant preserves would be illegal as of Opening Morning due to the change in regulations not being passed in time. Mr Taylor has requested all regions not to prosecute while the regulation is pending.

### **15.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**Time: 7.55pm**

#### **AGREED**

*15.1 That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss the HB Audit and governance matters. Williams/Elstone*

*15.4 That the open meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council resumes. Williams/Elstone*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05 PM.

**CONFIRMED**

  
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**CHAIRMAN**

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***15.3 That council accepted the public excluded minutes held 19 February 2019.***

*Lumsden/Duley*

***15.4 That the open meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council resumes. Williams/Elstone***