

# HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 20th AUGUST 2019 AT 6.00 PM

### PRESENT:

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Duley, Elstone, Hern, Hickmott, Lumsden, MacKay, Niblett, Pinker and Williams.

### IN ATTENDANCE

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

### PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Graeme Jobey, Steve Perfect, Brad Pinker, Bob Spain and Aaron Wakeford

### 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. He informed council Lindsay Lyons had emailed mid- afternoon advising he and Martin Taylor would not be attending tonight's meeting.

#### 2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr's. Bowcock and Nimon.

#### AGREED

- 2.1 *That the apologies for the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be accepted. (19/08/2.1)*  
*Duley/Lumsden*

#### 3.0 FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business tabled.

#### 4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict of interest register was passed around for signatures and councillors to note any conflicts with the listed August agenda items. No conflicts of interest were tabled.

#### 5.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

#### 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 27 June 2019 are a true and correct record. (19/8/5.1)*

*Hickmott/Niblett*

## **6.0 MATTERS ARISING:**

Cr Elstone requested an update with HB Regional Council on No Shooting Areas within the Tukituki River area. Jesse had followed up with Russell Engelke from HBRC, due to staff changes, no progress has been made on Public Use of Rivers, and however HBFG will participate in the discussion process.

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

Cr Bates informed council the OWP would be finalised at tonight's meeting.

Mr Friedlander informed council of the changes made:

3.5K budgeted in the Satisfaction Survey has been moved to Rangers Appreciation Gift of \$500 and 3k to salaries which will provide flexibility for contract services.

Jesse advised council vehicles expenses year to date had increased and requested council amend additional 3k allocated salaries to 2k salaries and 1k vehicles.

Cr Williams commented that moving funds from one project category to salaries might make it more difficult to apply for CPI when discussed at the Contestable Funding round. Jesse advised council CPI doesn't cover the contract salary budget, staff salaries and contract salaries is spilt in our budget.

**AGREED**

**7.1 *That Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2019 -20 year. (19/8/7.1)***

*Pinker/Mackay*

**7.2 *That Council approves the delegation authority to the Regional Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. (19/8/7.2)***

*Duley/Lumsden*

## **8.0 EVALUATION OF COUNCIL.**

Chair Bates clarified with councillors, the council appraisal form had been included with the papers of information to read, this evaluation form had been provided by NZ Council and previously used in the 2017 year. Council discussed conducting an evaluation last year however as this coincided with the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Audit and instruction that the audit would proceed expeditiously, council had agreed to await its outcome. However, 12 months later- 13<sup>th</sup> August the final audit has just been presented to our council.

Council agreed to hold off until the council have had discussions with NZ Council and made decisions on recommendations made.

**AGREED**

**8.1 *That Council agreed to reassess when it would be appropriate to conduct evaluation of council at each council meeting. (19/8/8.1)***

*Hickmott/Niblett*

## **9.0 POLICY: Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Honorary Ranger Incentives.**

Council enquired whether there was a National Policy for Honorary Rangers Incentives.

Cr Williams enquired whether staff had investigated the legality of paying honorary rangers.

Jesse explained the rationale was a token appreciation gift to rangers, as set out in section 2 of the policy and suggested a \$50.00 petrol voucher.

Council instructed the manager to seek advice from Robert Sowman and develop a gift register to record annual gifting. Council agreed to change the name of the policy to reflect the fact that the gift would be a token gesture and not an incentive.

## **10.0 REVIEW OF MANAGERS PERFORMANCE.**

The Chair informed councillors previously an employment committee of the Chair and two councillors were elected to perform the annual review of the manager.

Council agreed to select three members from council and one external HR person.

Cr Williams nominated Paul Elstone. Seconded Cr Hickmott.

Council agreed to nominate the two existing councillors and one new councillor. Cr Niblett, Cr Bates and Cr Elstone will make up the employment committee and will be delegated the role of selecting an external HR person.

**AGREED**

*10.1 That Council agreed to appoint the Chair Bates, Cr Niblett and Cr Elstone plus an external HR person to the employment committee. (19/8/10.1)*

*Hickmott/Lumsden*

## **12. LIASION OFFICERS REPORTS**

Cr Williams reported on the last NZ Council meeting held 9 – 10 August.

At the June Meeting it was agreed to three sub committees being Licencing, Strategic Finance and Remuneration to be set up from NZ Council members and outsiders.

At the August Meeting it was agreed that:

Licence Sub Committee: Chris Owen, Noel Birchall, Ian Hadland, Jay Graybill and Phil Teal.

Strategic Finance Sub Committee: Paul Shortis, Daniel Isbister, Richard O Keefe (North Canterbury Councillor) Ray Grub (Otago Councillor).

Remuneration Sub Committee: Colin Weatherall, Bill O’Leary, Ken Cochrane (Southland Councillor) and Phil Teal (Wellington F & G Manager)

Cr Williams confirmed Graham Nahkies recommendation to NZ Council of not appointing staff to the Remuneration Committee had been considered however not totally followed his advice.

NZ Council agreed to a campaign for the upcoming local body elections “Drink water, Think water, Vote water and allocated 1k.

Council sought clarification of NZ Council backing some councillors. Cr Williams advised the topic was discussed, he said it was public knowledge that a Regional Councillor was standing for ECan and he could see conflict of interests.

Council enquired whether NZ Council had a policy on advocacy, liaison and political engagement for their CEO. Cr Williams confirmed NZ Council had no policy and we needed to trust the CEO's integrity.

Council agreed they were uncomfortable the organisation showed any allegiance to any political group, acknowledging Fish and Game is required to stay non-political to enable an open working relationship with the government elected at the time to meet our statutory requirements.

Council instructed the chair to write to the NZ Chair to enquire if NZ Council are actively supporting candidates in the elections.

Firearm Reform - NZ Council agreed to open dialogue with NZ Deerstalkers on firearm law reform and safety.

Council noted Martin Taylor's public support of the Second Tranche of the Firearms and supporting registration without detail of the policy, council enquired if the CEO had received the mandate from NZ Council and what information the council had to base this instruction on. Cr Williams confirmed NZ Council had supported a wide number of subjects on Tranche Two under public excluded. Council questioned how NZ Council achieved an independent decision without consultation with regional councils and licence holders.

Council instructed the NZ Appointee to enquire with the Chair whether the CEO was directed to release support for the Second Tranche and what information was the decision to support registration based on and will there be consultation.

Council instructed the Chair to write to NZ Council requesting the council agendas and minutes are kept up to date on the website.

NZ Game Bird Trust has invited nominations for the Trust Board.

Non-resident licence revenue – under spent and sitting in back country reserves.

Jesse informed council, staff have accounted to use part of these funds in our headwater diving research this summer.

## **12.0 REPORTS**

### **12.1 Management Report**

Peter Wilson updated council with

1. TANK Plan change and how the plan change is in the final preparation. Fish & Game and DoC have been cut out of involvement in the final drafting however we have been in discussions with iwi who have remained involved. He outlined staff concerns of the standards stating they don't represent F & G values, appears to have poor rules for the application of minimum flows and no guidance on how resource consents are to be notified. He advised council funding would be required for the first hearing to engage expert assistance from a Hydrologist. Existing budget of 35k should cover the first hearing costs.
2. Outstanding rivers plan change to be notified towards the end of the end.
3. Hawkes Bay Sports Fish & Game Plan- a weekly prompt has been sent.

4. Rivers Activities in the Regional Plan – the plan is unusual as it is fully permitted, with Council required to notify Fish & Game if a channel diversion is required. Council discussed options available and instructed Peter to investigate the budget cost to commission Ian Fuller to report on the likely natural state of a river versus those that had been beach raked.

**AGREED**

***12.1 That Council instruct the manager and Peter Wilson to prepare a budget to commission a report on the effects of Beach Raking on the Regions Rivers. (19/8/12.1)***

*Hickmott/Elstone*

Jesse informed the council of the substantial donation of plants donated to HBFG by Hayden Durant of Plant Depot, Hastings, also the plan to order a large quantity of small size plants and to use the services of the Department of Corrections Crew to repot and in turn sell on at cost to licence holders in Hawkes Bay. Staff informed council that HBFG will be in a position to supply Fish & Game branded predator control traps. Jesse proposed to develop a policy of eligibility to purchase plants and potentially the proposed chimney traps for predator control.

Council discussed the issue of powerboats in the Regions Rivers.

Council discussed the trend count and enquired whether the population was down or the trend count down. Jesse briefed the council with the new model use to try and account for the variation in the timing of the counts. Council enquired how the harvest trends compare with the trend counts, has this dropped off. Establishing yearly harvest tally particularly for swan, council recalled years ago a huge cull at Brownrigg's. Council investigate why Paradise Shelduck numbers were down. Council expressed their concern to the manager with the drop in numbers and emphasised the importance to establish why as it was council statutory obligation to manage.

Council requested an update from the National Mallard Research Committee.

## **12.2 Health & Safety Report**

**AGREED**

***12.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (19/08/13.2).***

*Mackay/Duley*

## **12.3 Finance Report**

Jesse updated council with planned expenditure of the unspent budget before the end of the month. He informed council he had hoped to present quotes for the stage one development of the Game Farm however the contractors are currently busy and the quotes are pending. Staff have applied for an extension of the 4 k Game Bird Habitat Fund plus with funding available in the unspent budget to investigate the game farm development and game farm, the manager sought approval to proceed with stage one of the game farm development.

Jesse informed there is interest and support received from local schools and the Lower North Island Forest & Bird manager had indicated interest in participating with planting and running predator control workshops. He confirmed no resource consent was required for the proposed two shallow unlined ponds in a natural state or larger pond.

Staff confirmed the staff house was compliant with the new insulation rules.

Staff verified expenditure paid to Guns and Tackle in May, was ammunition for the patterning day held at Ben Lomond.

**AGREED**

*12.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (19/08/13.2).*

*Mackay/Duley*

**13.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**Time: 8.25pm**

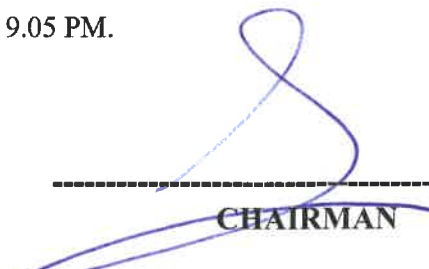
**AGREED**

*13.1 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*

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 PM.

**CONFIRMED**

  
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CHAIRMAN

*15 October 2019.*

## **2. APOLOGIES.**

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## **10.0 REVIEW OF MANAGERS PERFORMANCE.**

*10.1 That Council agreed to appoint the Chair Bates, Cr Niblett and Cr Elstone plus an external HR person to the employment committee. (19/8/10.1)*

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*12.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (19/08/13.2).*

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