

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council **held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,** **on Saturday 17 August 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, A. Daniel.

Visitors: P. Hardy (DoC), M. Leeson.

1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Annan/Cocks CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 15 JUNE 2019:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 15 June 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Annan/Smith CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Councillor Annan passed on the congratulations of the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Association to the Chairman Murray Young on having the wetland at Evans Rd named after him. The Association considered the honour was well deserved given Mr Young's many years of service to the Council and conservation.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters were tabled from:

- Lindsay Lyons, Chairman NZF&GC, inviting the Chairman to a one-day workshop in November 2019. The Chairman informed the meeting that Councillor Annan had agreed to attend on his behalf.

- Lindsay Lyons, Chairman, NZF&GC requesting feedback on the proposed dates to set licence fees in 2020 and beyond, which would require regional councils to have their June meeting in the middle two weeks of that month. Councillors agreed that having a meeting in early/mid June was already standard practice and that they had no objection to the NZF&GC's request.

Councillor Juby recommended that where practical all Council meetings should be scheduled at least two weeks after the NZF&GC meetings.

- Kurt Bayer, Senior Reporter NZ Herald, with a request made under the OIA regarding interaction between F&G and Federated Farmers since the November 2018 elections. Mr Wilson noted that all the requested emails had been forwarded to Mr Bayer.
- Benesia Smith, Executive Director MNZM, requesting information that would assist the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the attack of Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019.
- Phil Long, Barrister, regarding the Ward Ranch case against DoC & F&G.

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

Dr Daniel reported that the sterile trout project was progressing well but that the juvenile trout were not yet large enough for blood to be taken to confirm that the fish were triploid.

Mr Wilson updated on the proposed Waikato District Plan emphasising that the workload was much higher than he had expected due to the large number of applications by landowners seeking changes in zoning for rural land that were adjacent to waterbodies with high Fish & Game values.

Mr Wilson updated on the Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1. Fish & Game had given its last presentation to the Hearing, which was well received by the Commissioners who thanked our expert witnesses (Sarah Ongley, Helen Marr, & David Klee) for the high standard of their evidence.

Mr Klee reported on his recent attendance at a biodiversity strategy meeting in Cambridge, with the majority of attendees having a realistic view of the contribution made by valued introduced species such as trout.

Mr Wilson introduced his Financial Report noting that while there were some areas of under-expenditure, he expected to be on budget for the year.

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive's Report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Smith/Cocks CARRIED

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.15pm.

A. Daniel left the meeting.

7. NATIONAL SUB COMMITTEES:

The meeting discussed the financial threats facing Fish & Game over the next 5 years, especially funding the new staff positions in the smaller regions.

Councillor Juby informed that the positions on the National Sub-Committees had already been confirmed by the NZF&GC.

The Chairman asked whether any Councillors were interested in being on any of the committees, but no such interest was expressed by any Councillor.

8. NZF&GC MEETING 7-8 JUNE 2019:

Councillor Juby spoke on the minutes, especially the initiative of the National Council to seek alternative forms of revenue.

Councillors agreed that a bequest policy would only be successful if potential donors could be assured that their bequests would only be spent in specified regions and/or nominated projects.

9. OSH REPORT:

Report tabled.

It was moved;

that the OSH Report be accepted.

Smith/Annan CARRIED

10. GENERAL BUSINESS:

The following staff reports were tabled:

- Monitoring Waikato Delta Baches on F&G Land – John Dyer
- Awakino River: 2019 Drift Dive Survey – Adam Daniel
- Mangatutu Stream: 2019 Drift Dive Survey – Adam Daniel
- Whakapapa River: 2019 Drift Dive Survey – Adam Daniel
- Upper Whanganui River Water Quality update – Adam Daniel
- Waihou and Waimakariri rivers: 2019 Drift Dive – Adam Daniel
- Aerial Transect Counts of Mallard and Grey Duck 2019 – David Klee

It was moved;

that the reports be accepted.

Smith/Annan CARRIED

Councillor Juby stated that he was unable to attend NZF&GC meetings for the rest of the year and offered his resignation as NZ Councillor.

The Chairman asked for nominations for the position of NZ Councillor. No nominations were offered.

After discussion it was moved;

that Councillor Juby's resignation as NZ Councillor be declined.

Annan/Smith CARRIED

Council acknowledged that Councillor Juby would be unable to attend NZF&GC meetings for the rest of the year.

Councillor Annan reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Hamilton F&G Association whose members had enquired whether Council could provide some form of assistance to COLFO (Council of licenced firearms owners). It was agreed that this would be inappropriate given the Council's status as a Crown Entity.

There being no general business the meeting concluded at 2.06pm.