

HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON Tuesday 15th October 2019 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Perfect, Bob Spain, Graeme Jobey, Brad Pinker, Michael Percy

INTRODUCTION

1.0 WELCOME

Cr. Duley opened the meeting at 6.00pm advising the meeting would be recorded. He also advised the public in attendance that he would be chairing the meeting as Cr. Bates had sent in his apologies. The Manager of Hawke's Bay Fish and Game was also unavailable to attend as he had taken a fall and was incapacitated.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr's. Nimon, Bates, Hickmott

3.0 FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

It was requested that there be a discussion on the registration of firearms and the proposed fish release into Tutira.

4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

5.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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 20 August 2019 are a true and correct record. (19/10/5.1)
Elstone/Niblett

6.0 MATTERS ARISING:

Cr. Williams asked whether everyone had received an email from NZ Council regarding the registration of firearms as he had followed this up with NZC. NZ Council now has their draft position on this out.

7.0 2020 Game Season Conditions

There is an error in 4.1 that needed to be corrected as it limits cartridges to two in total instead of a magazine capacity of two plus one in the chamber of the shotgun.

A discussion centred around the threshold limits for swans, paradise shelducks and mallards. Crs. questioned whether data from trend counts and banding should be used to make these decisions as we have been told that 1000 birds are needed to be banded every year to get a large enough sample. This has only been achieved once in the last 20 years. Council has also previously been informed that the aerial trend counts do not cover

enough paradise shelduck moult sites to accurately reflect population changes. If trend counts show a population change, we need to understand why, not just change the limits.

Staff are looking into carrying out counts from drones for mallards and maybe a similar programme should be explored for swans and paradise shelducks.

Council requested that staff look at comparing hunter survey data with aerial trend counts as the aerial trend counts do not appear to be statistically robust enough to make management decisions.

Staff should also follow up with upland game forestry hunting blocks and if no blocks are available, this section should be deleted from the second schedule.

Council discussed whether the time that shooting can commence should change from 6:30am to 6:15am as early in the season 6:30 seems too late.

7.0 Game Season Conditions

7.1 That shooting hours for the 2020 Game Season in the Hawke's Bay region be changed to 6:15am-6pm.(19/10/7.1) *Pinker/Lumsden*

8.0 INFORMATION FOR THE DRAFT 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

8.1 That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance, Chairman's reports and draft financial statements for the 2018-2019 year. (19/10/8.1) *Lumsden/Niblett*

9.0 Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting Dates for the 2020 Year

9.1 That Council approves the proposed meeting dates for the 2019/2020 year.(19/10/9.0)

Lumsden/Hern

11.0 FUTURE FISH AND GAME LICENCE SALES SYSTEM

Cr. Duley passed around a paper received earlier today from Jay Graybill, CSI F&G CEO.

Options 1 and 2 were discussed. One being to stick with the current provider and two being NZ Council taking over this role and employing staff to carry out the licencing function. The benefits of option 2 were summarised by Cr. Williams as cost savings and allowing Fish and Game to have a better understanding and control over the workings of the licencing system in the future.

Discussion centred around reluctance for NZ Council to take over this role without further scoping and pricing. A recent change of accounting system by the NZDA was used as example of these risks. We know that the current provider can carry out the role and the potential savings seem to be very little.

11.1 That Council supports option 1 as a fall-back option but suggests NZ Council further investigate option two.(19/10/11.1) *Elstone/Mackay*

12. Draft Policy on Hawke's Bay Honorary Ranger Appreciation

Council agreed that since the manager was not present, he could not answer the question posed at the previous meeting regarding the legality of providing gifts to Honorary Rangers. Since this question could not be answered, the matter is to be deferred until the next meeting.

13. Draft Policy on Providing Plants/Predator Traps for the Enhancement of Wetland/Riparian Habitat in Hawke's Bay

It was discussed that there needs to be care taken to avoid potential conflicts of interest that could arise such as friends of staff receiving plants preferentially. This policy is to make sure any situation like this would not arise.

Cr. Bowcock advised that traps can now be checked via Smartphone if a trap box has been installed with a monitoring/communication device. If we are to give away or provide subsidised traps the traps need to be checked regularly and this checked up on by staff.

Cr. Duley questioned whether trapping efforts had been coordinated between Fish and Game regions and whether this information was uploaded on to Trap NZ. Fish and Game regions have small local ongoing trapping efforts, and these is not coordinated between the regions.

It was discussed that we should be coordinating as much as possible with Predator Free Hawkes Bay. The reasons for the level of discretion delegated to the Manager were discussed. As the policy stands, the Manager could give away 20 traps to a landowner. There may be cases where this is valid, however, further clarification is needed on this from the Manager before this policy is signed off.

14. Liaison Officers Reports

15.0 REPORTS

15.1 Management Report

Cr. Niblett mentioned that the lack of prior notice given when Council needed to decide on the whether to appeal the WCO Special Tribunal decision was very poor. Cr. Williams stated that the Manager had been unintentionally left out of emails from the lawyers involved but had been added again at the request of Martin Taylor, NZC CEO. As Jesse is not at the meeting, Council would like to seek further clarification as to why staff were given such late notice on this and how this could be avoided in the future.

Cr. Elstone questioned the whereabouts of the Railroad Wetland. It was clarified that the wetland is on the roadside adjacent to Waitangi Wetland.

15.2 Health & Safety Report

15.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (15/10/15.2).

Williams/Lumsden

15.3 Finance Report

It was discussed that a for the surplus was the fact that Cr. Bates did not take a salary while he was acting chairman, however this was only for a month of the 2018/19 year. The increase in licence sales also wasn't enough to account for the surplus and so it is also due to reduced spending. Cr. Williams informed Council that any surplus would be put back into the Hawke's Bay reserves, however, if Hawke's Bay Fish and Game then applied to NZ Council for funding, it would likely be told to take the required money from our own reserves. If we are not needing

to spend a large proportion of our budget, we should also be looking at supporting the rest of the Country. There is a strategic Finance Committee looking at the future of this budgeting system. We have plans for the Game Farm which will likely require money from reserves. Without Jesse or Cr. Bates at the meeting it was decided to save any further questions.

14.3 That the council accepts the finance report and that the total payment of \$78,026.10 is approved. (15/10/14.3).

Bowcock/Pinker

15.5 Licence Report

15.5 That the council receives the licence reports. (15/10/14.5). Hern/Williams

GENERAL BUSINESS

Firearms Registration

Cr. Duley questioned whether everyone had seen the NZ Council's draft submission on the registration of firearms and informed Council that today there had been a meeting with all representative groups of firearms users and they have come up with a united submission. It was suggested that Hawkes Bay Fish and Game should support this consensus position. Martin Taylor and Brain Anderton were representing NZ Council at today's meeting.

Cr. Williams explained that this had previously been discussed at New Zealand Council under public excluded session and therefore he hadn't been able to talk about it when asked at a previous Council meeting. It very concerning that the Commissioner of Police will have the ability to effectively "Make his own rules on the fly". Police would also not have to receive a search warrant to enter the premises of a gun owner. COLFO (The Coalition of Licenced firearms Owners) have been doing some good work on this, however, saying that steel shot would be banned was misleading.

Pheasant Releases

Cr. Niblett announced that he had a conflict of interest with this topic. Towards the end of the shooting season, Cr. Niblett explained that he had offered Jesse (Regional Manager) some pheasants which were to be released on public land for hunters in the region. Cr. Niblett then went back through his records and requested banding records from Jesse and the Department of Conservation. Of the birds donated by preserves in the Hawke's Bay region and released by Hawkes Bay Fish and Game in 2016, there are no records other than emails between Cr. Niblett and Fish and Game staff. This is disappointing having donated the birds and was a requirement of the release. Cr. Niblett would like this looked into as it is a condition of the permits that records are kept and sent to DOC. It was suggested that at a future meeting there should be a vote as to whether Hawkes Bay Fish and Game should release further pheasants donated by Hawkes Bay Gamebirds. Council would like staff to further follow up whether the birds were banded in 2016 and if so, where they were released.

Bands are ordered from DOC and records must be kept and sent in to DOC each year with the number of bands used, numbers, species banded and locations.

Fish Releases

Cr. Duley read out correspondence received from Jesse earlier today. There had been no further correspondence with MTT although Jesse was going to follow up again today. The fish release into Tutira was tentatively scheduled for mid-November if these issues could be resolved in time. Cr. Williams reiterated that he thought it would be appropriate to hold this topic in public

excluded as a member of the public or rumours could give the Iwi group the wrong idea of our views and jeopardise our chance to work with MTT on this in a productive manner.

Letter from Southland Fish and Game Council

Council suggested that the Chairman respond with a letter supporting what they are proposing and reiterate that the Hawke's Bay council has already been doing this, being frugal.

At this point, a member of the public, Brad Pinker, requested to speak. He wondered when the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game audit report would be available for the licenceholders to view. Cr. Duley informed the members of the public that the audit report hadn't yet been released. The media requested a copy under the Official Information Act and this was released by NZ Council with staff names redacted. It is therefore up to NZ Council to release.

16.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Time: 7.40pm

AGREED

16.1 That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss the HB Audit and governance matters.

(15/10/16.1)

Lumsden/Bowcock

16.2 That the open meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council resumes.
(19/06/16.2)

Lumsden/Elstone

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 PM.

CONFIRMED

3/12/2019



CHAIRMAN

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Elstone/Niblett

7.0 Game Season Conditions

7.1 That shooting hours for the 2020 Game Season in the Hawke's Bay region be changed to 6:15am-6pm. (19/10/7.1).
Pinker/Lumsden

8.1 That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance, Chairman's reports and draft financial statements for the 2018-2019 year. (15/10/8.1)
Lumsden/Niblett

9.0 Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council Meeting Dates for the 2020 Year

9.1 That Council approves the proposed meeting dates for the 2019/2020 year. (19/10/9.1)
Lumsden/Hern

10.0 Future Fish and Game Licence Sales System

10.1 That Council supports option 1 as a fall-back option but suggests NZ Council further investigate option two. (19/10/10.1)
Elstone/Mackay

15.2 Health & Safety Report

15.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (15/10/15.2).

Williams/Lumsden

15.3 Finance Report

15.3 That the council accepts the finance report and that the total payment of \$78,026.10 is approved. (15/10/15.3).

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15.4 Licence Report

15.4 That the council receives the licence reports. (15/10/15.4).

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