

**AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME**

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,**  
**on Saturday October 12, 2019 commencing at 11.00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** M. Young

**Councillors:** G. Annan, D. Cocks, W. Howard, A. Kerr, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard,  
S. Smith, E. Williamson.

**Staff:** B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee, A. Daniel.

**1. APOLOGIES**

N. Juby, G. Avery.

It was moved;

**that the apologies be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

Nil

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 17 AUGUST 2019:**

It was noted that the date should be 2019 and not 2018.

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 17 August 2019 as amended be accepted**  
**as a true and correct record.**

**Cocks/Smith CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Dr Daniel was asked for an update on the sterile trout project. Dr Daniel replied that the mortality and growth rate of the young fish was similar to that seen with diploid juveniles. The young fish had not yet been tested for their triploid status.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter was tabled from the Chairman to Mr Lindsay Lyons, Chairman NZF&GC, fully supporting the recommendation of the NZ Council that the regional meetings to discuss the licence fee are held in the middle two weeks of June.

A letter was tabled from the Strategic Financial Committee providing a quick update on the background and progress of the committee.

A letter was tabled from Mr Graeme Watson, Chairman of Southland F&G Council, proposing that all regional Councils reduce their budgets by 1% for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

Mr Wilson emphasised that the price of a game season licence had not risen at a significantly greater rate than inflation. Councillor Cocks considered it prudent to keep licence increases approximately in line with CPI, especially given declining reserves.

It was moved;

**that the proposal by Southland F&G be rejected.**

**Smith/Annan CARRIED**

A letter was tabled from Mr Bill Gordon, Secretary EPCM, stating that EPCM wished to support John Dyer's nomination of Peter Nola senior for a Fish & Game Merit award.

Mr Dyer spoke on the nomination noting Mr Nola's efforts over many years on working bees, tree planting, sporting clay target shoots, and pheasant releases.

It was moved;

**that Mr Peter Nola be awarded a Fish & Game Merit Certificate in recognition of his outstanding service to the Council, wildlife and conservation.**

**Cocks/Smith CARRIED**

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

Mr Klee was asked whether shoveler duck numbers were stable. He replied that the recent national count of shoveler had shown stable numbers over the last 20 years. A total of 13,617 shoveler were counted at 255 sites.

Mr Wilson reported that he had not heard anything in recent months on the legal status of commercial pheasant preserves.

Discussion ensued over the Whangamarino Weir review with it noted that the current consents expire in 2027, but that DOC were considering major modifications to the weir and thus the re consenting process could happen earlier.

Dr Daniel stated that he was working on access issues to the Puniu, Waitawheta, and Whakapapa rivers.

Councillor Sherrard updated the meeting on the proposal by Huntly gamebird hunters to manage the Murray Young Wetland. He envisaged that a proposal would be received by Council before the November meeting.

Mr Wilson introduced his Financial Report noting the new format for the accounts.

Mr Wilson updated the meeting on the status of the storage shed, which was located in the Hamilton Zoo carpark. A concept plan developed by the Zoo had recently been granted funding by the Hamilton City Council. The plan involved a new entrance which would

require the removal of the F&G shed. The shed was currently on land leased by the Hamilton Astronomical Society from the Hamilton Council, but this lease was expiring soon. Mr Wilson stated that he was looking at other storage options, including building a new shed next to the existing office.

It was moved;

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

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.15pm and resumed at 1pm.

Dr Daniel left the meeting.

**7. NZF&GC MEETING 27-28 AUGUST 2019:**

The minutes from the NZG&GC meeting 27-28 August 2019 were tabled.

**8. GOVERNANCE REPORT:**

Mr Wilson observed that the recent audit report of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council had emphasised the importance of annual council evaluations.

The performance evaluations for the Council and CE had shown no areas of concern or significant variations in recent years.

**9. POLICY REVIEW:**

Three new policies had been added to the Adopted Policies in the last year.

It was moved;

- **that the Adopted Policies and Positions be reaffirmed**
- **that Mr Klee provide Council with a report on whether the current Canada Geese policy was still viable given the potential management demands resulting from their increased numbers.**

**Sherrard/Cocks CARRIED**

**10. LICENCE SALES SYSTEM OPTIONS:**

The report prepared by Chris Owen, Chairperson of the Licence Sub-Committee, was tabled. The report provided three options for the management of licence sales and asked for Council's recommendation.

Councillors agreed that Eyede had provided a stable licencing system for many years, and the reduction in price was welcomed. The change to a new system was considered to be too risky given the potential benefits.

It was moved;

**that the preferred option for the continuation of the F&G licence sales system was Option 1 (Eyede with their own support staff).**

**11. CONSULTATION ON 2020 MEETING DATES:**

Councillors considered the proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2020 and agreed that the recommendations by the NZF&GC would require a meeting in early March, which was not ideal as it would be only 4 weeks after the February meeting and would not allow adequate time for the preparation of the draft Operational Work Plan and budget.

It was moved;

*that the NZF&GC be asked to move their April meeting to the 30<sup>th</sup> and the final date for draft budgets to the 30<sup>th</sup> March.*

*Kerr/Williamson CARRIED*

**12. OSH REPORT:**

The OSH report for October 2019 was tabled.

It was moved;

*that the OSH report be accepted.*

*Cocks/Smith CARRIED*

**ARMS LEGISLATION BILL**

The draft F&G submission was considered by Councillors, who made the following recommendations:

**1. Firearms Registration:**

Council opposed registration as it was considered to be unnecessary, unworkable, and expensive.

**2. Access by Government agencies to registry database:**

Council considered that if a registry was established then it should only be accessible by the NZ Police. Councillors expressed considerable concern over the potential security risks.

**3. Firearms licence renewal period:**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**4. Increasing licence fees:**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**5. Tightening rules to get and maintain a licence:**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**6. Prohibiting visitors from buying a firearm:**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**7. Enshrining in law that owning a firearm is a privilege.**

Council considered that this proposal should be opposed as it allowed for the potential of personal bias by an examiner in the issuing of firearm licences.

**8. Guidance notices**

**9. Introducing higher penalties and new offences:**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**10. Setting up a formal group to give independent advice to the Commissioner of Police.**

Council supports the NZF&GC position

**11. The creation of a licensing regime for shooting clubs and ranges.**

Council supports the NZF&GC position

**12. Requirement to be a licence holder in order to purchase and hold firearm parts, magazines, and ammunition.**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**13. Provision to enable health practitioners to notify police if they have concerns about a licence firearms owner's health or wellbeing.**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

**14. Review of the Act to commence 5 years after the Bill is in force.**

Council supports the NZF&GC position.

It was moved;

**that Council's recommendations on the Arms Legislation Bill be conveyed to the NZF&GC.**

**Cocks/Smith CARRIED**

**13. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Shaw inquired whether a hunter prosecuted for shooting over a fed pond would have a police record. Mr Wilson replied that there would only be a police record if they were prosecuted and not given diversion or an instant fine.

Councillor Shaw asked whether it was true that 9 tonnes of nitrogen were discharged each week into the Mangapiko Stream from urban effluent. Mr Klee replied that it was probably true, but it was still much less than the impact from diffuse discharges. Mr Wilson emphasised that point source discharges from urban and industrial treatment stations had considerably improved in recent years and were generally a small contribution to the overall nutrient levels in local waterways.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.40pm.