

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council **held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,** **on Saturday 14 December 2019 commencing at 11.30am.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: G. Annan

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

Staff: B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee .

Visitors: P. Hardy (DOC), I. Bailey (12.45pm to 2pm)

1. APOLOGIES

M. Young, N. Juby.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Sherrard/Smith CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 12 OCTOBER 2019:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 12 October 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Smith/Kerr CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated the triploid rainbow trout held at the Ngongotaha hatchery had not yet been tested to confirm their triploid status.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was tabled from Lindsay Lyons, Chairman NZF&GC, informing Councillors of a resolution made by the NZ Council regarding media communication.

Councillors were concerned over the decision by the NZ Council to survey licence holders on freshwater advocacy rather than directly consult with regional fish and game councils. Councillors agreed that this was a move to circumvent the input of councils and

was part of an ongoing strategy by the NZ Council to side-line the regions from advising on national policy and towards centralisation.

It was moved;

that the Chairman of the NZ Council be informed of Councils' concerns regarding his letter of 28 November 2019, especially in regard to the proposed survey of licence holders.

Cocks/Williamson CARRIED

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

Extensive discussion over the numerous waste-water treatment plant consent applications that staff were currently vetting, noting that F&G was usually the only submitter on these consent applications.

Councillors agreed that staff should make more effort on publicising local environmental issues including press releases and newsletter articles to educate the public on what was occurring.

It was moved;

that more effort is given to publicising local environmental issues especially the performance of waste-water treatment plants operated by district councils.

Smith/Williamson CARRIED

Concern was expressed over the damage done by Transpower contractors coming onto F&G properties and damaging stopbanks. Mr Wilson was asked to investigate the rights of contractors regarding access and the potential to impose bonds.

Mr Klee gave an update on the recent botulism seminar noting that many participants were unaware of the magnitude of the problem.

In reply to a question from Councillor Sherrard, Mr Klee stated that he had received no communication from the Huntly Gun Club about the Murray Young Wetland.

Mr Wilson introduced his financial report noting that he was intending to considerably reduce the communication budget by moving to internet phones.

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 1.20pm.

7. GAME SEASON REMITS:

Mr Ian Bailey spoke in support of his submission requesting that the game hunting hours should be half an hour before sunrise and half an hour after sunset.

Extensive discussion ensued with most councillors preferring set hours because they were concerned that licence holders would have difficulty, or not bother, following a table giving sunrise and sunset hours.

It was moved;

that the hunting hours be restricted to 6.30am – 6.00pm to increase hunting efficiency.

Cocks/Howard CARRIED

Councillor Smith requested that his vote in opposition to the motion be recorded.

Councillors discussed the staff reports and recommendations.

It was agreed that;

- The northern paradise shelduck special season be gazetted from 2021 onwards.
- That the current regional ban on drift shooting from camouflaged rowboats on opening weekend is maintained.
- That more publicity and enforcement effort is spent on the ban on hunting from motorised vessels under power.
- That staff should liaise with the Hamilton City Council towards closing off the Hamilton City area for hunting in 2021.

It was moved;

- **that the limit for black swan be increased to 2 birds per day from 1 bird per day in the “all other areas” section.**
- **that the hunting of black swan is limited to the period of the dabbling duck season.**

Sherrard/Shaw CARRIED

The staff recommendation that the bag limit for pheasants be increased from 3 to 5 birds was discussed. Councillor Annan advised that bird numbers were increasing but so were the number of hunters. Mr Klee acknowledged that few hunters were shooting their limits. It was agreed that the pheasant limit should remain at 3.

After future discussion it was moved;

that the remaining regulations remain the same.

Sherrard/Shaw CARRIED

8. GOVERNORS MEETING 23 NOVEMBER 2019:

Councillors received an oral report from Councillor Annan and a brief email from Councillor Juby.

At Councillor Annan's request Councillors reviewed the Power Point presentation by the Chairman of the North Canterbury F&G Council, Mr Alan Strong. Councillors were surprised and disappointed at the sentiments expressed by Mr Strong regarding the need for a review of Fish & Game's structure and function.

There were concerns expressed at the centralisation agenda of the NZF&GC.

9. NZF&GC MEETING 22 & 24 NOVEMBER 2019:

The minutes of the NZF&GC meeting of 22nd and 24th November 2019 were tabled.

10. WARD RANCH UPDATE:

Mr Wilson updated the meeting on the Ward Ranch Limited case, where supporting documents had recently been exchanged. The Plaintiffs are to serve their Brief of Evidence by 28 February 2020. A further Care Management Conference is to be scheduled for the first available date after 7 May 2020.

11. RMA REPORTS:

Mr Wilson tabled the RMA reports prepared by staff that summarised the projects funded by NZF&GC over the last year.

12. 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE:

It was agreed that the proposed 2020 meeting schedule be approved with the following amendments:

- The February meeting to be held on the 29th February
- The August meeting to be held on the 22nd August.

13. OSH REPORT:

The October 2019 OSH report was tabled.

Mr Wilson advised that Dr Daniel had extensive experience and training in the handling of small boats due to his voluntary work with the Raglan Coast Guard. He now had his skipper ticket and would be able to conduct annual training for staff.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Shaw informed the meeting that the Otorohanga Kiwi House had raised a pair of blue ducks that were now producing eggs, but DOC was not allowing the eggs to hatch. Paul Hardy was asked to comment but replied that he was not informed on this issue.

Councillor Cocks spoke on the considerable benefits derived by licence holders from the land owned by Fish & Game. He emphasised that purchasing wetlands was the best way

to protect them, while the Kakahi property had shown the benefits of purchasing land for angler access.

It was moved;

that when negotiating future mitigation agreements, staff endeavour to negotiate at least 50% of funds towards land purchase and development.

Cocks/Williamson CARRIED

Councillor Howard informed that the Franklin Acclimatisation Society was extending their pest management project upstream to the Tuakau Bridge. The project involved many bait stations including coverage of the kahikatea forests.

Mr Klee advised that the schedule for duck banding would be finalised soon and he would convey these dates to councillors and other interested parties.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.50pm.