

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 21 March 2020 commencing at 11am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: D. Cocks

Councillors: P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, S. Smith, G. Annan, N. Juby, W. Howard

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

1. APOLOGIES

M. Young, G. Avery, A. Kerr, E. Williamson, J. Shaw

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Annan/Smith - CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 29 February 2020:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 29 February 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Smith/Shaw - CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Mr Klee updated councillors on the botulism outbreak on the Hauraki Plains/Firth of Thames. He stressed that fish kills were still occurring with both botulism and toxic algal blooms occurring. Waterfowl carcasses were still being removed and buried by volunteers.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was tabled from the President of the North Shore Fly Fishers Club Inc, David Symes, stating that the club no longer supports the release of trout into Lake Pupuke.

After discussion it was agreed that Dr Daniel be requested to prepare a report on the Lake Pupuke trout fishery.

An email was tabled from the Chairman of the Hamilton Fish and Game Association, Dave Malcolm, requesting that a special weekend pukeko season be established for all of the Auckland/Waikato Region to align with the special paradise shelduck and pukeko season north of the Harbour Bridge. Councillors agreed that the concept of a special pukeko season was worth considering but agreed that Council's policy was to assess major changes to the game regulations at three yearly intervals. Therefore, it was agreed that any decision on the Hamilton Fish & Game Association request should be delayed until the next major review of the game regulations.

It was moved;

that all correspondence be accepted.

Annan/Smith - CARRIED

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

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated that they had not yet received the results from the tests to determine whether the sterile trout project had succeed in producing triploid trout.

Mr Dyer was asked to explain the discrepancy between his verbal report at the February council meeting and the data provided in the CE report regarding the number of paradise shelduck counted on the King Country trend count. Mr Dyer replied that it didn't matter what threshold was used as it would not have been practical to have a special season. Mr Wilson stated that protocols were now in place to avoid this misunderstanding reoccurring.

Mr Klee provided an update on the OCD consent application noting that a hearing was going to be held the following week. He was disappointed that DOC would not be attending the hearing.

Mr Wilson reported that the commissioners for the Healthy Rivers Plan Change for the Waikato catchment had produced their report. He had requested an assessment of the report by Council's external experts Helen Marr (Planning) and Sarah Ongley (legal).

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive's bi-monthly report to be accepted.

Juby/Annan - CARRIED

Financial Statement

Mr Wilson introduced the financial report emphasising that the coronavirus would have

a significant impact on revenue but the magnitude of the decline could not yet be accurately forecast.

It was moved;

that the financial report be accepted.

Smith/Shaw - CARRIED

7. Land and Water Habitat Trust:

The annual report for 2018/19 of the Land and Water Habitat Trust was tabled.

It was moved;

that the 2018/19 annual report for the Land and Water Habitat Trust be accepted.

Smith/Shaw - CARRIED

8. Transpower Contractors:

Mr Wilson introduced his report, which stated that Transpower contractors have the right of access to Fish and Game land with prior notification, and that Fish & Game cannot impose a bond.

9. Management Plan:

The draft management plan and review process were tabled. Mr Wilson asked Councillors to provide any feedback by email noting that a final draft plan would be produced for the June Council meeting.

10. Ward Ranch Update:

Mr Wilson updated the meeting on recent developments with the Ward Ranch case.

11. Operational Work Place and Budget for 2020/21:

Mr Wilson emphasised that due to the exceptional unpredictability of the revenue forecast it was likely that there would have to be ongoing changes to the operational work and budget.

Councillors agreed that there would be no request for increased funding other than from the non-resident reserve.

Councillor Juby stated that there would be considerable opposition to any increase in the licence fee from the southern councils.

It was moved;

that the 2020/21 operational work plan and budget of \$816,188 be accepted but noting that there would need to be some ongoing flexibility because of the unpredictability of the revenue forecast.

Juby/Sherrard – CARRIED

12. OSH Report

Councillors discussed the potential impact of the current epidemic on Council's operations and meetings.

It was agreed that the next meeting would most likely have to be carried out by video conferencing. Mr Wilson agreed to organise this including the purchase of webcams if available.

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for February 2020 be accepted.

Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED

13. General Business

The Chairman informed the meeting of the recent vandalism of the Whangamarino weir. Mr Wilson reported that a DOC engineer would soon be visiting the site to assess the damage and the cost of repairs.

Councillor Juby suggested that Council should consider requesting district councils to put in place provisions allowing land owners that provide enduring access to public amenities, such as a wetland or river, the right to subdivide off a title.

It was moved;

that staff are requested to produce a report on Councillor Juby's recommendation.

Juby/Sherrard – CARRIED

Councillors discussed the recent survey of Fish and Game councillors by the national office. Only one Auckland/Waikato Councillor has successfully completed the survey.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1pm.