

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

### Minutes of a Meeting of Council on Saturday 16 May 2020 commencing at 9 am.

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** D. Cocks, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, S. Smith, G. Annan, N. Juby, A. Kerr,

**Staff:** B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee, A. Daniel, M. Davis, R. Simmonds

#### 1. APOLOGIES

E. Williamson, W. Howard, P. Hardy

It was moved;

**that the apologies be accepted.**

**Annan/Smith - CARRIED**

#### 2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Wilson assumed the Chair and called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Grant Annan was nominated by Councillor Sherrard, seconded by Councillor Juby.

Mr Wilson then asked if there were any further nominations. There being none he declared Grant Annan, Chairman and vacated the Chair.

The appointment of Councillor Annan as Chairman created a vacancy as Vice-Chairman. Council policy is that one vice-Chairman should be from the north and one from the south of the region.

Shane Smith was nominated by Councillor Juby, seconded by Councillor Kerr.

There being no other nominations Shane Smith assumed the position of Southern Vice-Chairman.

#### 3. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020:**

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Cocks/Colin - CARRIED**

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

Dr Daniel updated Councillors on the sterile trout programme. The sterile fish will be released into Lake Arapuni in October this year.

Councillor Smith inquired about the pheasant release at Mangatautari. My Dyer replied that local iwi had some general concerns that he had managed to successfully resolve.

An email was tabled from Robert Sowman seeking nominations, preferably women, for the Game Bird Habitat Trust. After discussion it was agreed that Council did not have any nominees.

An email was tabled from Paul Shortis, Chairman of NZ Fish & Game Council updating Councillors on the work of the Standing Finance Committee.

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

Dr Daniel noted that the drift dive proposed for the Waipa River at Toa Bridge had been postponed due to the Covid 19 shutdown. The Chairman emphasised the efforts of ex-councillor John Atkinson who was successful in opening communications between the landowner and Fish & Game.

General discussion took place on the financial situation for Fish & Game both regionally and nationally. It was recognised that the financial risk to the Council could be broken down into three areas:

- i) Immediate financial situation for this year due to low game season sales.
- ii) The financial situation for the next 2-3 years due to a considerable reduction in overseas angler numbers and some decline in game licence sales.
- iii) Long term.

Mr Wilson agreed to report back to Council on the long-term financial position at the August meeting.

It was moved;

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

**Shaw/Smith - CARRIED**

## **7. Botulism or Banding Report:**

Councillors discussed Mr Klee's report emphasising that the banding programme provided essential data for the management of the duck population as well as having high level of community involvement and excellent ongoing publicity. It was recognised by Councillors that the programme was relatively low cost due to the high level of voluntary input by the hunting community.

Councillors thanked Mr Klee for the high quality report.

It was moved;

**that the banding programme be retained and re-evaluated in five years to determine whether aerial transits can provide the level of precision required to determine population change in our region.**

**Kerr/Smith - CARRIED**

## **8. Canada Geese Policy Review:**

The Chairman thanked Mr Klee for his report.

Councillors discussed the report and agreed that taking back Canada geese as a game bird would impose a huge financial burden on Council.

It was moved;

**That Canada geese be returned to the First Schedule (wildlife declared to be game) only if sufficient external funding is provided to reduce and maintain numbers at manageable levels.**

**Sherrard/Shaw - CARRIED**

## **9. OSH Update:**

Mr Wilson introduced his report noting the ranging guidelines for various Covid 19 scenarios.

Councillor Juby enquired as to why there was not more ranging effort in conjunction with police. Councillor Kerr replied that recent joint patrols with police on opening weekend had not been successfully as they were reluctant to patrol areas where firearms were being used. Mr Wilson agreed but noted that Mr Dyer would be ranging with two constables on opening weekend.

## **10. General Business**

Councillor Shaw enquired whether the office was issuing DoC permits. Mrs Simmonds

replied that they were, but the permits had to be posted out.

Discussion took place on the tagging/mark-up regulations. Mr Wilson agreed that they weren't ideal but probably the best outcome from a very difficult situation, especially as there was no certainty as to the date of the season opening.

Councillor Cocks enquired about publicity effort in the final week before opening weekend and that licence holders should be reminded that Fish & game was entirely dependent on licence fees for income. Mr Wilson replied that he would arrange for an email to go out to previous licence holders before opening weekend

Councillor Juby asked whether the fishing season should be extended similar to what was being done by North Canterbury (who were opening up selected lakes and the lower reaches of large rivers to winter fishing, with these waters usually closing on 30<sup>th</sup> April). Mr Wilson replied that this option had been considered but rejected because waters in the Auckland/Waikato region would not be closing until 30<sup>th</sup> June and there was already ample waters open to winter fishing.

Councillor Cocks reminded Councillors that they needed to consider the recommendation of the Licencing Subcommittee in regard to the selection of a licence system provider and their negotiated contracts.

It was moved;

**that Council approves the contract between Fish & Game and Eyede, and agrees that the Chairman can sign the contract on behalf of Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game.**

**Annan/Cocks – CARRIED**

It was moved;

**That the Licencing Committee be thanked for their considerable efforts in negotiating the contract.**

**Juby/Smith – CARRIED**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 10:32pm.