

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton**  
**on Saturday 17 October 2020 commencing at 11am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** G. Annan

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

**Staff:** B. Wilson, C. Robertson, D. Klee

**Visitors:** P. Hardy (DOC), F. Bartholomew (Waikato Conservation Board)

**1. APOLOGIES**

P. Shaw, N. Juby, A. Daniel, J. Dyer, D. Klee (lateness)

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 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020:**

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Howard/Sherrard - CARRIED**

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

The chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance at the meeting with the Ministerial Review Committee.

**5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter was tabled from the Chief Executive of the NZ Fish & Game Council, Martin Taylor, informing that the NZF&GC had rescinded the previous motions on non-resident

fish levies and agreed that the levy be treated as licence income for the budgeting process and that all non-resident reserves become general reserves.

A letter was also tabled on this issue from the Chief Executive of the Otago Council, Ian Hadland, to the NZF&GC. The Otago Council had expressed concerns at the lack of consultation on the decision by the NZF&GC. The Otago Council had agreed to retain the non-resident reserve and declined to amalgamate these funds with general reserves.

Councillors expressed concern at the lack of consultation by the NZ Council and supported the views expressed in the Otago letter.

It was moved;

**that the Chairman of the NZ Council is informed that Council will be retaining the non-resident reserve, and that Council is concerned over the lack of consultation by the NZ Council regarding their decision to treat the non-resident levy as licence income.**

**Williamson/Cocks - CARRIED**

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

Mr Wilson provided an update on the Cambridge WWTP consent application noting that an MOU had been signed with the Waipa District Council. He agreed to forward the MOU to Councillors.

Mr Klee joined the meeting at 11:40am.

Mr Klee informed the meeting that the MOU committed the District Council to spend \$800,000 on environmental mitigation over the next six years.

Mr Wilson noted that an email newsletter had been sent to both former and current fish licence holders. He agreed to send a summary report to Councillors on the success of this newsletter campaign in terms of fish licences sold to lapsed participants.

Mr Wilson provided a brief summary of his financial report.

It was moved;

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

**Smith/Kerr - CARRIED**

#### **7. NZ COUNCIL MEETINGS OF 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2020:**

The minutes of the NZ Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 were tabled.

Concern was expressed by Councillors over the decision by the NZF&GC to amend the

Wildlife Order 2019 to remove its expiry date thereby allowing pheasants and red-legged partridge to remain on Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for commercial game preserves.

Councillors noted that this was not one of the options that regions had been consulted on and that they had been under the impression that commercial preserves would have to cease operations after three years.

It was moved;

**that the Chairman of the NZ Council is informed of the concerns of Council over the NZ Council's decision to allow commercial preserves to continue and the lack of consultation over this decision.**

**Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED**

It was agreed that a copy of this letter be sent to the Minister (DOC) and all Fish & Game regions.

Councillors discussed the NZ Council decision to rescind their previous motion on the mallard research levy and to discontinue the separate mallard research fund. Councillors expressed surprise of the lack of consultation with regions on this decision and the impact on current and planned research projects.

It was moved;

**that the Chairman of the NZ Council is informed of Council's disappointment at the discontinuation of the mallard research levy and the lack of consultation with regions over this decision.**

**Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED**

Councillors discussed the decision by the NZ Council to fund independent research on the risk profile of different types of trout farming. Councillor Cocks considered that Fish & Game should not be funding this research. He remained strongly opposed to commercial trout farming.

#### **8. DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE:**

It was noted that the proposed meeting schedule did not consider the impact of the 2021 Fish and Game elections and especially the requirement to have a meeting of the new council no later than three weeks after the appointment of new councillors. It was agreed to delay deciding on the 2021 agenda until the next council meeting.

**9. DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON RESERVES:**

The paper prepared by Ray Grubb, Chair standing Finance Committee, was tabled. Councillors agreed that at this stage they would not provide feedback on this discussion paper.

**10. DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON SALMON RELEASES:**

It was agreed that it was inappropriate for Council to comment due to the absence of salmon fisheries in the North Island.

**11. GOVERNANCE REPORT:**

It was agreed that the Governance Report did not highlight or find any areas of particular concern.

**12. POLICY REVIEW:**

Councillor Cocks informed the meeting that a policy decision should be included on mitigation funding, as had been discussed at previous meetings.

It was moved;

**that where possible when negotiating mitigation agreements staff advocate for at least 50% of funds to be spent on environmental initiatives anywhere within the Auckland/Waikato region.**

**Cocks/Smith – CARRIED**

It was moved;

**that current policies are reaffirmed.**

**Smith/Williamson – CARRIED**

The meeting rose for lunch at 1:00pm and resumed at 1:40pm. David Klee left the meeting.

**13. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS:**

The letter from the chair of the NZF&GC, Paul Shortis, was discussed.

Mr Wilson summarised the impact of the new National Environmental Standards noting that the NZ Council had agreed that changes need to be advocated for especially in regard to maimai.

**14. AKA AKA WETLAND AUDIT:**

The report by John Dyer was tabled.

It was moved;

**that Mr Dyer contacts pondholders in the Aka Aka wetland and establish an association of pondholders to manage the Aka Aka wetland.**

**Cocks/Howard – CARRIED**

**15. HEALTHY RIVERS UPDATE**

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on Healthy Rivers, which was now at the Environment Court. He expected court-assisted discussions to start soon between the various parties to determine where there was consensus and to define the disagreements.

**16. WARD RANCH UPDATE**

Mr Wilson provided an update on this ongoing High Court case.

**17. OSH UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson introduced his OSH report.

It was moved;

**that the October 2020 OSH report be approved.**

**Smith/Kerr – CARRIED**

**18. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The proposed landfill at the Gleeson Cox quarry near Huntly was discussed with it noted that considerable publicity had been given by local media on the possible impacts on Lake Puketirini. Mr Wilson emphasised that Lake Puketirini had minimal values for game bird hunting or freshwater fishing and therefore they had not been involved in consultation regarding this consent. However, he understood that the application had not yet been publicly notified and he had not seen any environmental impact assessments for this proposal. But they would certainly be reviewing this documentation when publicly available.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2:45pm.