

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton
on Saturday 12 December 2020 commencing at 11:30am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: G. Annan

Councillors: E. Williamson, C. Sherrard, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, G. Avery, A. Kerr, S. Smith,
N. Juby (By Zoom).

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

Visitors: P. Hardy (DOC).

1. APOLOGIES:

W. Howard, M. Davis, J. Atkinson.

It was moved;

that apologies be accepted

Smith/Kerr CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 17th OCTOBER 2020:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 17th October 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Cocks/Sherrard - CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Mr Dyer was asked for an update on Council's request that he organise the hunters in the Aka Aka wetland to form a user group. Mr Dyer replied that no progress had been made and that the Aka Aka hunters did not currently get together as a group.

Mr Wilson advised that there had not yet been a reply from the three letters sent by the Chairman to the NZ Fish & Game Chairman.

Concerns were expressed by Councillor Williamson over whether the recent MOU by the Waipa District for the Cambridge Wastewater treatment plant could be enforced. Mr Klee replied that the environmental compensation and offsetting were also conditions of the consent and were enforceable. He would be closely monitoring the implementation of the consent to ensure that the commitments were met.

5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

The three letters from the Chairman to the NZF&G Chairman were tabled.

The email from Ray Grubb, NZF&G Chairman, concerning Fish & Game's relationship with Federated Farmers was tabled. Mr Wilson had been by asked by Mr Grubb to meet with his local Federated Farmers counterparts to discuss areas where the two agencies could work more closely together especially wetlands, public access, and involvement in Catchment Care groups.

Councillors agreed that a closer working relationship with the farming community was desirable.

It was moved;

that Council supports the Chief Executive, Ben Wilson meeting with his Federated Farmers counterpart to discuss how the two agencies can work more closely together.

Smith/Cocks – CARRIED

Councillor Juby emphasized the considerable efforts by the current and previous NZF&G Chairmen, Mr Paul Shortis and Mr Ray Grubb, over the last year in a period of considerable challenge for Fish and Game.

It was moved;

that the current and previous NZ Chairmen, Mr Paul Shortis and Mr Ray Grubb be thanked by council for their considerable efforts on behalf of Fish & Game over the previous year.

Smith/Cocks – CARRIED

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

Discussion ensued over the new NES for freshwater and especially the lack of demarcation between exotic and indigenous vegetation.

Dr Daniel updated on the Whakapapa Intake Road access issue noting that he had met with the iwi landowner, who had also met separately with Martin Taylor. No progress had been made.

Mr Wilson advised that there were no major changes to the regulations for the 2021 game season. Leigh Barton, the Cambridge property with special conditions, would no longer be operating. Another property, Thornwood, releasing 400 pheasants, would be operating near Otorohanga. The season length for the 2021 game season would be five weeks, with closure at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Mr Wilson stated that the report from Concept Consulting on resource allocation within Fish & Game was recently completed. Hard copies of the report will be sent to Councillors.

Mr Wilson introduced his financial report. He expected fish licence sales to be down at the end of the year due to the lack of overseas anglers. It was noted that there had been a good response by overseas anglers to a recent request that they still buy a licence to show their support for Fish & Game.

It was moved;

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

Smith/Kerr - CARRIED

7. NZ COUNCIL MEETINGS OF 20th & 21st NOVEMBER 2020:

Councillor Juby introduced the minutes from the November NZ Council meeting. The NZ Council had agreed that commercial pheasant preserves would be phased out by the end of the 2025 season. Councillors agreed that this was a good result.

The meeting discussed the decision by the NZ Council not to provide any exemptions for black power hunters as a suitable non-toxic shot, especially bismuth, would be available for the 2021 game season.

8. DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE:

It was moved;

that the meeting schedule for 2021 be approved.

Sherrard/Cocks - CARRIED

9. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FRESHWATER, UPDATE:

Mischa Davies's report was discussed. Councillor Juby emphasised to the meeting the considerable efforts by Ms Davis and Mr Wilson on informing other regions on this issue. The impact of the NES on maimai construction and wetland maintenance were now seen as national issues and not just concerns specific to the Auckland/Waikato region.

10. PUBLIC ACCESS REPORT:

Councillor Juby expressed his appreciation for the high quality and usefulness of this report which will be of considerable benefit to Council in advocating our interest in access to rivers and wetlands.

It was moved;

that Ms Davis be thanked for the high quality of her reports on the NES and public access.

Annan/Smith - CARRIED

11. LAKE PUPUKE STOCKING REPORT:

Dr Daniel's report was discussed along with the recommendations of local anglers.

It was moved;

that the recommendations from the Lake Pupuke Stocking Report be supported.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 1:15pm.

Mr Klee, Dr Daniel and Councillor Juby left the meeting.

12. MOU LICENCE DATABASE:

It was moved;

that the draft MOU on the licence database as amended by the regional managers be approved.

Cocks/Sherrard – CARRIED

13. SPORTS FISH AND GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Mr Wilson updated the meeting noting that the plan had been sent to iwi contacts recommended by DOC but to date there had been no reply.

14. WARD RANCH UPDATE:

Mr Wilson had been preparing evidence for the case which would likely be held in March 2021. The Chairman had recently written to the Minister of Conservation expressing his disappointment that DOC had not allowed Fish & Game to withdraw from the proceedings.

15. OSH UPDATE

It was moved;
that the OSH report was approved

Kerr/Shaw – CARRIED

16. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Shaw expressed his appreciation to Mr Stan Bowen for his generous donation of bait stations to Fish & Game. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Bowen.

Mr Dyer recommended that the limits for the 2021 special shelduck in north Auckland be increased from 10 to 15 to act as an incentive to increase hunter participation, which was currently very low.

It was moved;
that the limit for the 2021 special shelduck season north of the Auckland harbour bridge be increased to 15 per day.

Smith/Shaw – CARRIED

Councillor Smith requested that the dates of the banding season be publicised to interested parties.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1:30pm.