

HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 13th April 2021 at 6.00 PM

PRESENT:

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Bowcock, Lumsden, MacKay, Niblett, Hern, Pinker and Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

Jesse Friedlander (Manager), David Stoney (Napier Freshwater Anglers Club President)

APOLOGIES

Cr. Duley, Cr. Nimon, Wayne Taylor (East Coast Conservation Board), Tipene Cottrell, Sam Robinson (HBF&G Governance Advisor)

WELCOME

Cr. Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those attending that the meeting would be audio recorded.

This meeting of Council was delayed as we expected the review of Fish and Game to be able to be discussed by this date. Unfortunately, the Conservation Minister has stepped down after being diagnosed with cancer and the release date of the review was understandably delayed. The review will now be released on Friday 16th April.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

*That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th February 2021 are a true and accurate record.
(21/04/3.1) Mackay/Hern*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict of interest register was signed by all Councillors present. No conflicts were tabled.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr. Mackay requested to discuss councillor attendance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

That the health and safety report is accepted.(21/04/7.1) Mackay/Niblett

IWI LIAISON ADVISOR

Unfortunately, Tipene could not make it to our meeting tonight. This agenda item is postponed until our June meeting.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Jesse asked Council for feedback on four proposed projects for the 2021/22 year.

- 1) Upskilling staff on farm environment planning in order to help landowners tap into on-farm funding for wetland development, riparian planting and fencing.

Jesse has been in contact with the Massey University course coordinator. Discussion centred around the costs of the course, value for money and whether this is our core business.

That one staff member is to complete the intermediate farm planning course. (21/03/9.1)

Pinker/Hern

2) Junior Pheasant Hunt

Previously the junior pheasant hunt caused an increase in junior licence sales as landowners who would not normally need to purchase a hunting licence, did so in order to enter their children in the ballot draw.

Council agreed that staff are to follow up with pheasant preserve owners as to whether they would be willing to hold junior hunts on their properties this season.

Cr.s Bates and Niblett abstained from voting on this matter.

3) Central Hawke's Bay fishery for school trout fishing days.

A Central Hawke's Bay landowner has approached staff and requested that trout be released into his irrigation pond. These fish would then be used for school fishing days for the Central Hawke's Bay community. The landowner is not interested in opening the pond for fishing to all members of the public.

Council discussed the potential for unintentionally creating a closed private fishery. The cost of supplying fish also outweighs the benefit of holding a small number of fishing days. We should instead focus on creating these opportunities in our own Fish and Game wetland.

4) Investigate location for new anglers hut.

Glenfalls hut has been almost fully booked out over the summer period and staff believe there is enough demand to justify having another hut on one of our major rivers.

Discussion centred around a previous suggestion that the Council use its backcountry fisheries fund to purchase toilets to put in popular but remote angling areas.

Staff will investigate potential locations for a new hut and toilets and report back to Council.

5) Potential new sites for development for junior/novice hunting stands in Waitangi controlled shooting area.

Jesse has been to look at potential sites in the Waitangi controlled shooting area which could be developed to provide further hunting opportunities. This requires further investigation and liaison with the Waitangi Shooters Assn. and HBRC.

Cr. Bates suggest that staff look into potential impacts of allowing cultural harvest of certain gamebirds or eggs. It is believed that this will be a reality in the future management of gamebirds, and we should look into allowing and/or encouraging this practice in certain instances.

It was discussed that we should now get on with a report on the effects of beach raking on trout and native fish habitat. Expenditure for this project was approved by council from the Hawke's Bay backcountry fisheries reserve but was delayed due to covid-19 budgetary restrictions. We should now get on with this.

That Council reviews the draft operational work plan for the 2021/2022 year and identifies any changes required.(21/04/9.1)
Niblett/Hern

Discussion centred around whether we should apply for funding from the licence fee or from our own reserves to make up a loss of interest revenue for the 2021/22 year. General agreement that this should come from our reserves.

That Council approves the contestable fund bid for \$8081 from Hawke's Bay Fish and Game general reserves.(21/04/9.2)
Williams/Niblett

ANGLER NOTICE REVIEW

One submission has been received from the Central Hawke's Bay Anglers Club. Jesse provided council with a summary of the submission and the requested changes to the family licence. There have been recent changes to the family licence provisions and therefore two of the requested changes have already been made.

Jesse is to send a letter to the CHB Anglers Club thanking them for their submission and notifying them of the changes that have already been made. Council considered the remaining request (that two adults be listed as primary licenceholders on the family licence) but did not consider it merited the requested change.

4.1 That Council identifies any issues for further discussion at the June meeting.(21/04/10.1)
Mackay/Lumsden

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

This policy is due to be reviewed and therefore requires consideration by council. The Hawke's Bay Fish and Game audit recommended that a local government policy on this matter be incorporated into our policy.

That the local govt. policy mentioned in the audit of Hawke's Bay Fish and Game along with the NZC conflict of interest policy are to be brought to the next meeting and consideration given to incorporating aspects of these into our own.(21/04/11.1)

Hern/Bowcock

Management Report

The Chair and Manager provided Council with an update on the HBRC Water Security Programme.

Discussion centred around how accurate our swan/paradise duck trend counts are. Should we be using threshold limits to decide on season conditions?

That staff are instructed to provide Council with further information on alternatives to replace our threshold management system for setting gamebird season conditions.(21/04/13.1)

Hern/Bowcock

Rubber jetboats are becoming an issue in some of our headwater fisheries. Currently there is only a 5knt speed limit above Pakaututu on the Mohaka River, however Jesse has approached the HBRC harbourmaster and local DOC staff and is investigating whether this could be changed to exclude motorised craft.

Finance Report

That the payments for January and February 2021 totalling \$61,318.38 be approved.(21/04/13.2.1)

Hern/Williams

6.2 That the Finance Report be accepted for the 2 months ended 28 February 2021. (21/04/13.2.2)

Hern/Williams

Licence Report

That Council accepts the licence sales report.(21/04/13.3)

Niblett/Bowcock

GENERAL BUSINESS

There are a few councillors who have not attended many of the last meetings. The below excerpt from Council standing orders was read out:

10.2 Attendance at meetings

Councillors re expected to attend meetings – after all they have been elected by their peers to manage the resource. If a member cannot make a meeting they should present their apologies. If a member knows he or she will be unable to attend meetings for a period of time – travel, sickness, work etc, then they should ask for leave of absence from the Council. Failure to attend three meetings in a row without the leave of the Council may constitute neglect of duty. In such cases the Minister of Conservation has asked to be informed. The Minister may then write to the absent member and if they do not respond in a satisfactory manner by a specified date, dismiss them from the Council.

That a letter is to be written by the Chair reminding all councillors to attend meetings or request a leave of absence.(21/04/13.4)

Bowcock/Lumsden

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.(21/04/14.1)
8.00pm *Mackay/Hern*

That the public meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council resumes.(21/04/14.2)
Mackay/Williams

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.



Bruce Bates

Chairman



Date