

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton
on Saturday 12 June 2021 commencing at 11:00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: G. Annan

Councillors: E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, A. Kerr, N. Juby, W. Howard, C. Sherrard,
S. Smith.

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

1. APOLOGIES:

C. Robertson.

It was moved;

that apologies be accepted.

Sherrard/Smith – CARRIED

The Chairman requested Councillors to observe a minute's silence in memory of the late Mr John Atkinson, former Auckland/Waikato Councillor for many years.

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 20th March and 13th May 2021:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meetings of 20th March and 13th May 2021 be accepted as true and correct records.

Shaw/Kerr – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Councillor Kerr reported that no action had been taken since the previous meeting on the funds held by the recently defunct Te Kauwhata Fish & Game Club.

General discussion over the state of Lake Waikare and the various consents held by the Waikato Regional Council for the lake. It was agreed that staff be asked to prepare a

report providing background on these consents and the recent advocacy work by Fish & Game.

Councillor Williamson stressed the importance of keeping the lake's issues in the "public eye" with an ongoing publicity campaign.

Mr Klee advised that the raising the lake, whilst a step in the right direction, would not improve the overall water quality parameters in the short to medium term. It needs to be recognised that restoration of Lake Waikare will be an intergenerational endeavour.

It was moved;

That the Minister of the Environment, Hon David Parker, is informed of Councillors concerns with Lake Waikare and that he is invited to visit the lake with Councillors.

Sherrard/Williamson – CARRIED

Councillor Shaw enquired as to whether Mr Klee had contacted the maimai owner on Lake Ngaroto regarding their firing zone in relation to the adjacent walkway. Mr Klee replied that he had contacted the hunter who had shot there for many years and was aware of the walkway.

Staff advised of the complaints and issues that had arisen over the duck season regarding drift shooting on the region's rivers, and especially hunters shooting under power. Staff were asked to prepare a report on the issues and any required changes to the game regulations.

5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- A letter was tabled from Ray Grubb, Chair NZF&GC, in reply to Council's letter of 23rd March regarding the current budget process.
- An email was tabled from Brendon Masters on the change in shooting hours. Councillors agreed that more publicity should be given to the change to a 6pm closure, and reaffirmed that the change was made so that hunters could clearly identify their target.
- An email was tabled from Geoff Dickey nominating Gary Fraser for a Fish & Game Merit Award for his efforts as President of the Blythen Wetland Society in running and organising the wetland to maximum its potential for the members and other licence holders.

It was moved;

that Gary Fraser be awarded Council's Merit Award for his leadership and many years of work on the Blythen wetland.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

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

Councillor Juby enquired about the sterile fish project in Lake Arapuni. Dr Daniel replied that sterile fish were being caught at a much lower rate than their non-sterile counterparts, which was encouraging and presumably due to the non-sterile fish reaching early maturity and congregating below the Waipapa dam where they were vulnerable to anglers.

Mr Klee summarised the technical work that was currently being carried out by consultants on the impacts of the Whangamarino Weir on the hydrological regime, sedimentation, land drainage and ecosystem response as part of the S128 review being undertaken by WRC.

Councillor Cocks expressed his concerns over the impacts of Koi carp on the stock banks upstream from the Weir.

Mr Wilson reported that they had received imbursement from the insurance company for Council's legal expenses for the Ward Ranch proceedings.

It was moved;

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

Cocks/Smith – CARRIED

7. WARD RANCH UPDATE:

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the Ward Ranch case noting that he had not yet heard back from the Environment Court as to whether Council could withdraw from the proceedings.

8. LICENCE FEE RECOMMEDATION:

The recommendations of the NZF&GC on the 2021/22 licence fees were tabled.

Councillors expressed their disappointment that the non-resident licence had not been substantially increased. Councillors also agreed that the Licence Working Group should have met to consider the proposed increase to the non-resident licence.

Councillor Sherrard expressed his disappointment at the removal of the \$1 dedicated to game bird research funding. He emphasised that it was crucial that licence holders could see that Fish & Game was active with research. Other Councillors expressed similar views, and it was agreed that these concerns should be conveyed to the NZF&GC.

9. NATIONAL CONSULTATION: CHANGE FREEZE

Councillors agreed that expenditure already approved, especially asset replacement, should not be affected by the change freeze. Therefore, while the freeze should apply to extraordinary expenditure, otherwise it was “business as normal”.

It was moved;

that there be no change to the existing budget and approved expenditure.

Williamson/Smith – CARRIED

10. NATIONAL CONSULTATION: OPENING OF THE FISHING SEASON:

The proposal from the Eastern Fish & Game council regarding the concept of ‘Saturday-ising’ the opening of the fishing season was considered.

Mr Wilson observed that it was a tradition for many anglers to take the day off work, but that generally “Opening Day” was not the big event that it was in the Eastern region.

It was moved;

that there be no change to the existing date for the opening of the fishing season.

Cocks/Smith – CARRIED

Councillor Kerr requested that his vote in opposition be recorded.

11. NATIONAL CONSULTATION: SEA RUN SALMON COMMITTEE:

Councillors agreed that this was a matter for the South Island Councils to consider given the immediate relevance to them.

12. NZ COUNCIL MEETING 17-18 APRIL:

Disappointment was expressed that the minutes for this meeting had still not been distributed.

Councillors discussed the current budget process and the potential impact of proposed changes under the organisational review.

13. OSH UPDATE:

Mr Wilson advised that the OSH documentation was currently being reviewed and updated.

It was moved;

that the OSH report for June 2021 be accepted.

Shaw/Kerr – CARRIED

14. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Shaw advised that he was already seeing large broods of ducklings. David Klee noted that this was a positive sign as early nesters often had large clutch sizes and could double clutch (i.e., two nests in a season). It was possibly due to some hens not laying last season due to adverse conditions.

The Chairman complimented Mr Dyer on his article in the pre-season magazine on pheasant hunting. The chairman also recommended the recipe for the skinless gamebird sausages.

15. GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillors discussed the recommendation in the recent Governance Review that the Auckland/Waikato region amalgamates with Northland region. It was emphasised that there had been no analyse of the financial implications of the proposed amalgamation nor their impact on the delivery of services.

It was moved;

that the Acting Minister of Conservation be informed of Council's concerns regarding the proposed amalgamation of the Northland and Auckland/Waikato councils.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

Councillor Juby requested that it be recorded that he had abstained from the vote.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1:25pm.