

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held on Zoom
on Saturday 16th October 2021 commencing at 10:00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: G. Annan

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

Visitors: B. Barnes, G. Ralph, D. du Preez, G. Dickey, M. Barker

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

1. APOLOGIES:

Councillor Sherrard advised that he would only be able to attend until 11am.

Councillor Juby advised that his internet connection to the meeting was likely to be intermittent.

It was moved;
that apologies be accepted.

Shaw/Cocks – CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 14th August 2021:

It was moved;
that the minutes of the previous meeting of 14th August 2021 be accepted as true and correct records.

Sherrard/Cocks – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The Chairman noted that the issues arising from drift shooting were discussed further in the Chief Executive's bimonthly report.

Councillor Cocks asked for an update on Lake Waikare. Mr Wilson replied that under the new legislation (National Policy Statement for Freshwater) the Waikato Regional Council must include Lake Waikare in a FMU (Freshwater Management Unit) that will identify environmental outcomes/targets to be achieved. Fish and Game will have ample opportunities to take part in this process.

Councillor Cocks enquired whether hunters on commercial game preserves required a game licence. Councillor Juby replied that the preserves had a code of conduct that required all hunters to have a licence. He understood that having a code of conduct was a prerequisite for being listed in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act.

5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillor Cocks expressed his concern that the Minister of Conservation's action in placing pheasants and partridge on Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for commercial pheasant preserves was illegal.

Councillors agreed that Ms Davis is asked for her legal opinion on the legality of placing pheasant and partridges on Schedule 3.

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

The Chairman admired the new sign at the Murry Young Wetland. Councillor Cocks noted that the Williamson Wetland required similar signage.

In response to a question, Mr Dyer undated the meeting about the commercial sale of pheasants on Trademe. He emphasised that legal sales could only be between permit holders.

The results of the National Shoveler study were discussed with Mr Klee agreeing that the long-term trend indicated that the population was stable.

Mr Barker enquired as to whether the results of the banding programme could be produced earlier in the year. Mr Klee explained that the report from the banding programme was based on both the annual harvest survey and band returns, and thus could not be produced any earlier.

Financial Report

Mr Wilson introduced his report observing that the surplus for the previous financial year was some \$200k greater than budgeted; however, fish licence sales for the new financial year had been slow due to the lockdowns in Auckland and Hamilton with revenue down 30%.

Mr Wilson reported that because of the high price achieved with the recent sale of a Ford Ranger Ute, he had moved forward the purchase of another Ranger to take advantage of the current prices. Councillor Williamson enquired as to whether it would be desirable to replace any other vehicles. Mr Wilson replied that he would investigate but was unsure whether they could be purchased before the surcharge was imposed.

It was moved;

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

Smith/Cocks – CARRIED

7. WHANGAMARINO WEIR, SECTION 128 REVIEW:

Mr Klee updated the meeting on the ongoing Section 128 review of the consents held by DOC and Fish & Game for the Whangamarino weir. Mr Klee stated that they were waiting for data from ICM on the impact of other structures, especially the Whangamarino flood gates on water levels in the wetland.

Mr Klee observed that Fish & Game had a good understanding of the water levels that would enhance waterfowl productivity in the wetland. He emphasised that it made good sense to operate all structures in a coherent manner to optimise habitat values rather than solely concerning on flood relief.

8. HEALTHY RIVERS UPDATE:

Mr Wilson reported that he had not yet heard back from the Waikato Regional Council as to whether they were going to proceed with the current Environment Court proceedings for Healthy Rivers.

Councillor Sherrard left the meeting.

9. FISH & GAME REVIEW:

Councillor Cocks expressed his concern that there had been no consultation with licence holders and that the whole process was being rushed.

Other Councillors agreed and expressed concerns as to how the committee had been formed.

It was moved;

That the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and other Fish & Game regions be informed of Council's concerns that:

1) the process was being unduly rushed.

2) with the way that committee had been setup and the composition of the committee.

3) the need to consult with licence holders and adjacent regions.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

Councillor Juby left the meeting.

10. OSH UPDATE:

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for October 2021 be accepted.

Smith/Kerr – CARRIED

11. POLICY REVIEW:

It was moved;

that existing policies be reaffirmed.

Cocks/Shaw – CARRIED

12. AUCKLAND/WAIKATO COUNCIL GOVERNANCE REPORTS:

It was moved;

that the Governance Reports be accepted.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

13. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Shaw updated the meeting on his efforts to repair the banding cages and he suggested that the “legs” on the runnels be removed. Mr Klee observed that some sites, such as silage pits, required the tunnels to have legs but they were a nuisance on hard ground. It was agreed to remove the legs from half of the tunnels.

Councillor Shaw requested that name tags be available for the next in-person meeting. Mr Wilson agreed to arrange.

14. NZ COUNCIL MEETING 27TH & 28TH AUGUST

Councillor Juby introduced the minutes noting that the NZC had supported the Auckland/Waikato Council’s concern that the status of pheasant preserves was a regional issue.

Concern was expressed that the implementation committee was proceeding in a direction that differed from the messaging of the minister.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:30am.