

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the Huntly Fish, Game and Target Club
on Saturday 26th February 2022 commencing at 10:15am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: N. Juby
Councillors: E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, G. Annan, G. Ralph, B. Barnes,
D. du Preez (by Zoom).
Staff: B. Wilson, D. Klee, A. Daniel.
Visitors: D. Taylor (CE of NZFGC), M. Martindale, P. Hardy (DOC).

1. APOLOGIES:

G. Dickey, M. Barker, T. Clark, J. Dyer, C. Robertson, R. Grubb.

It was moved;
that apologies be accepted.

Cocks/Annan – CARRIED

The Chairman thanked the Huntly Fish, Game & Target Club for allowing the use of their club rooms. The Chairman then welcomed Di Taylor NZFC Chief Executive and thanked her for attending the meeting.

The Chairman congratulated Clare Robertson for completing her Master's degree, and Mischa Davis for the recent birth of a daughter.

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 13th NOVEMBER AND 16th DECEMBER 2021:

It was agreed that "black beaked gulls" in the November minutes, should be "black backed gulls".

It was moved;
that the minutes of the previous meetings of 13th November and 16th December 2021 as amended be accepted as true and correct records.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The Chairman reported that he had called the Chairman of the Northland Fish & Game Council, Phil Durham, to discuss the Regional Structure Review. Mr Durham was adamant that Northland was not interested in any merger.

The Chairman had also met with Councillor Debbie Oakley and staff from the Eastern Fish & Game Council. This was an excellent meeting, and although Eastern was not interested in merging with Auckland/Waikato it was agreed that both councils would continue to work together constructively. The Chairman noted that he will try and attend the next Eastern meeting.

5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was tabled from the Minister of Conservation, Kiri Allan, approving the Auckland/Waikato Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.

Mr Wilson advised that Auckland/Waikato was the first regional F&G Council to have a plan approved since the Otago plan in 2015.

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

Mr Wilson gave a brief update on Healthy Rivers advising that the process had been overtaken by national legislation. The various parties to the appeals were trying to arrive at a consensus as to a way forward. The starting point for resolving the points of appeal requires identification of the relevant national regulations. It is then a question for mediation of whether there is sufficient justification within the bounds of PC1 to adopt a more stringent standard or whether the PC1 rule should be removed to allow the national regulation to prevail.

The Chairman congratulated David Klee on his recent publicity efforts regarding Lake Ngaroto. Mr Klee replied that he was receiving much positive feedback from other agencies. Dr Daniel observed that the lake managers are looking at treating the symptoms of lake eutrophication and not the causes. Councillor de Preez passed on feedback that he had received from one of the district councillors who had attended the meeting at Ngaroto who believed that it had been effective.

Councillor Williamson emphasised that Council needs to put more effort into publicising the state of Lake Waikare. Mr Klee agreed to work on a publicity initiative for Lake Waikare.

The Chairman thanked Dr Daniel for his successful efforts in obtaining donations via CAF America.

The efforts of Councillor Geoff Dickey for co-ordinating predator trapping on Council's wetlands with Predator Free Franklin were acknowledged by the Chairman.

Councillor de Preez left the meeting.

It was moved;

That the Chief Executive's bimonthly report be accepted.

Sherrard/Shaw – CARRIED

The CE of the NZ Fish & Game Council, Di Taylor, then addressed the meeting. She thanked Council for the invitation, and then updated councillors on recent issues including governance training, risk assessment, and health & safety compliance. She informed that the NZ Council were actively looking for her replacement. Work has also been contracted out on promoting the Fish & Game brand among the general population, and a subcommittee had been set up to look at staff remuneration.

In reply to a question, she expressed her optimism that there would be considerable interest from suitable candidates for the appointed governance roles on regional councils. The challenge would be matching skills with those held by current councillors.

7. NZ COUNCIL MEETING OF 4TH DECEMBER 2021:

The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the summary provided by Councillor Barnes.

8. LAND AND WATER HABITAT TRUST:

It was moved;

that the Annual Report for Land and Water Habitat Trust for the year ending August 2021 be tabled.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

Mr Wilson was asked how Council's reserves were invested. He replied that they were invested in term deposits that were usually 9 – 12 months duration. Councillors agreed that returns from term deposits had been low compared to other investment opportunities in recent years.

It was moved;

that Mr Wilson prepare a report for the next Council meeting on alternative investment options.

Williamson/Ralph – CARRIED

9. SPORTS FISH REGULATIONS:

Dr Daniel's report on proposed changes to the sports fish regulations was tabled. Discussion ensued over the treble hooks issue. Councillor Barnes considered that there were social licence aspects especially regarding animal welfare. Dr Daniel emphasized that research had shown that there was no difference in the mortality rate between treble and single hooks. He was concerned that a ban on treble hooks would be a barrier to entry due to the extra cost involved.

The Chairman suggested that the recommendation on the use of two assembled fly rods could refer to the “possession” of two assembled fly rods rather than “use of”. Dr Daniel agreed. However, after discussion it was agreed that the rules regarding multiple fly rods didn’t require change, but the issue was how the existing regulations were interpreted, so requiring a policy change rather than a change in regulations.

The Chairman informed the meeting that individual Tasmanian anglers could purchase two licenses, which allowed for the use of two rods at any one time.

It was moved;

that the recommendation in the Sports Fishing Remits staff report be accepted.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

10. OHINEMURI RIVER REPORT:

Dr Daniel’s report was discussed. Mr Wilson noted that Council had put considerable efforts in promoting the Ohinemuri fishing in 1992 because it was fishing exceptionally well that year. However, 1992 was the coldest year in the last 70, and probably 2°C colder than current temperatures, which was a considerable difference for a trout fishery. In reply to a question Dr Daniel agreed that trout fisheries in many of our northern rivers would be equally affected by warmer temperatures.

It was moved;

that the Ohinemuri River Report be tabled.

Cocks/Annan – CARRIED

11. ACCESS TO TROUT RIVERS:

It was agreed to leave this agenda item to the next meeting.

12. OSH UPDATE:

It was moved;

that the February 2022 OSH report be tabled.

Ralph/Annan – CARRIED

13. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillors considered the request from the NZ Council for nominations for representatives on the Research Strategy Sub-Committee of NZ Council. Councillors agreed that Mr Klee would be excellent in this role due to his extensive experience in co-ordinating Fish & Game research projects.

It was moved;

that Council nominates David Klee as representative on the Research Strategy Sub-Committee of NZ Council.

Ralph/Shaw – CARRIED

Councillor Cocks asked whether the sex-based regulations for mallards would be introduced for 2023, and what publicity would this initiative be given. Mr Wilson replied that the 3-yearly review of the game regulations would be coming out later in the year including consultation with licence holders. Mr Klee advised that there would be publicity on why there should be sex-based limits in the pre-season magazine.

Councillors discussed the draft report on the future regional structure of Fish and Game Councils. Concerns were expressed over conflicts of interest by the report authors and how these had been managed. The Chairman offered to write to the implementation group asking for details as to how COI was handled by the regional structure panel.

It was moved;

that Mr Wilson be requested to prepare a report on the recommended options and schedule a Zoom meeting before the closure date for submissions (16th March).

Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 12:17pm.