

# AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton**  
**on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022 commencing at 11:00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** N. Juby.

**Councillors:** D. du Preez, G. Dickey, M. Barker, C. Sherrard, P. Shaw, B. Barnes, D. Cocks,  
G. Annan.

**Staff:** B. Wilson, D. Klee, A. Daniel.

**1. APOLOGIES:**

T. Clark, J. Dyer.

It was moved;

**that apologies be accepted.**

**Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED**

The Chairman spoke on the recent passing due to a tragic accident of Councillor Guy Ralph and called for a minute silence.

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

Councillor Barnes tabled a list of his possible conflict of interests due to his commercial activities (attached).

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022:**

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meetings of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be accepted as true and correct records.**

**Sherrard/Barker – CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

The Chairman informed that he had attended a meeting of the Eastern Council and discussed joint publicity efforts and the proposed structural review.

Dr Daniel left the meeting at 11:16am.

Councillors discussed Mr Dyer's audit of buildings on Fish & Game land in the Waikato

Delta. Concerns were expressed at the potential liability of Council ownership. It was agreed that further discussion would be deferred until the audit report was tabled at the next meeting.

**5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil

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

**6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report**

Councillor Annan reported on the Arapuni fishing day. He noted that there was no significant difference yet between the growth rates of sterile and non-sterile trout, which was to be expected. Any difference in growth rate should become apparent in the next 12 months.

The Whangamarino weir consent review was discussed. Mr Klee explained that:

- There were issues with the latest Lidar dataset and thus a new survey was planned for August this year.
- Consultants were looking at the potential issues with the option of using the flood gates for water level control, including whether to retrofit one gate to allow fish passage or construct a fish bypass around the gates.
- There was five years left on the existing consents for the weir.

The Chairman acknowledged the significant work on wetland restoration carried out by Mr Klee.

Councillors also spoke in appreciation of the considerable efforts by the Office Manager Roslyn Simmonds with the band returns, especially the return form on the website.

**6.2 Financial Statements**

In reply to a question Mr Wilson acknowledged the high overall cost of prosecutions this financial year. Unfortunately, due to Covid delays, prosecutions from the 2021 game season were still progressing through the court system.

It was moved;

**that the Chief Executive's bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.**

**Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED**

**7. PIGGOTT WETLAND:**

The report from Mr Dyer was tabled.

Dr Daniel returned to the meeting at 12:23pm.

## **8. FEEDBACK FROM WETLAND ASSOCIATIONS:**

Councillors discussed the current situation where two ponds on the Piggott wetland were balloted out every 5-years by the Frankland Acclimatisation Society. This situation was considered to be undesirable because in the final year of the tenancy the ponds were not adequately maintained.

It was moved;

**that control of the Franklin ponds on the Piggott wetland be taken back by Council.**

**Dickey/Cocks – CARRIED**

Mr Klee spoke on his concerns that some ponds in the Fish & Game wetlands were not utilized on Opening Weekend. He also emphasized that in the week prior to Opening, many hunters were looking for somewhere to shoot.

It was agreed that pondholders would be informed in 2023 before Opening (sometime around pegging day) that if they were not going to use their pond on Opening that they should inform the office so that the pond could be used by other hunters.

Councillor de Preez informed the meeting that regretfully he had to resign from Council due to his acceptance of a job offer in South Africa. He enjoyed his time on Council and regretted that his contribution had been for only a short duration.

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 1:30pm.

Councillor du Preez left the meeting at 1:30pm.

## **9. NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL MEETING:**

The Chairman expressed his concern that the NZ Council was delegating too much decision making to an executive committee. This practice might suggest poor governance practice with too many late papers and inadequate information for the full council to make a decision.

Councillor Barnes disagreed and stated that the executive committee was generally only used when a final decision had to be made on an issue once additional information became available.

Councillor Williamson expressed his concern that the Wildlife Act review had been delegated to a working group of NZ Councillors who were finalizing approval of a staff paper to the Department of Conservation. Councillor Williamson considered that the paper should be circulated to the regions for review and comments.

Mr Wilson noted that staff often provided advice to Government departments on proposed legislation, but this was not usually considered a governance issue.

Councillor Williamson emphasized that the review of the Wildlife Act was a sensitive issue, and if the NZ Council considered it to be a governance issue then the paper should have been circulated to the regions for comments.

It was agreed that the Chairman write to the NZ Council with Council's concerns over the Wildlife Act review.

#### **10. LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The licence fee recommendations were discussed

It was moved;

- **That the 2022/23 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$145.**
- **That the 2023 adult whole season game licence fee is set at \$107 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp).**
- **That the non-resident adult whole season sports fish licence is set at \$250.**

**Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED**

#### **11. DESIGNATED WATER LICENCE CATEGORY:**

The designated water licence category was discussed with Councillors considering whether the Whakapapa River was suitable for this classification.

It was moved;

**that Council supported a \$50 day licence for non-resident anglers and a free endorsement for resident anglers on designated waters.**

**Cocks/Sherrard – CARRIED**

It was agreed that staff prepare a paper on whether the Whakapapa River should be a designated water.

Brief discussion ensued on a "rod licence", allowing up to three rods in certain waters. Dr Daniel was requested to prepare a paper for Council.

#### **12. STRUCTURAL REVIEW AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROJECT:**

It was agreed that consultation with the Northland Fish & Game Council should take place regarding amalgamation.

It was moved;

**that Councillors Matt Barker and Nigel Juby represent Council in discussions with the Northland Council regarding any potential amalgamation of the two councils.**

**Dickey/Cocks – CARRIED**

### **13. GOVERNANCE TRAINING:**

The Chairman updated Councillors on governance training that would be funded by the NZ Council in the 2022/23 financial year.

### **14. OSH REPORT:**

It was moved;

**That the OSH report be accepted.**

**Sherrard/Shaw – CARRIED**

### **15. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The following questions from Councillor Clark were tabled;

1. Season length to stay as this season:

Councillors agreed that the game regulations would be reviewed at the November meeting of Council.

2. Whangamarino weir can come up another approx. 700mm:

Mr Wilson circulated to Councillors a graph showing the cross-section levels of the weir from surveys undertaken in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020.

Mr Klee informed that another would be carried out in this year.

Councillor Williamson observed that while the V notch was some 7cm below the consented level, the overall weir profile was flat so that the actual reduction was some 15cm.

Mr Klee noted the weir consent also had a condition based on the “Burke curve” which impacted on the weir profile. The Department of Conservation would be carrying out extensive repairs to the weir later in the year, including raising the weir to the consented height.

3. Look at how we can get water from the Waikato River into the Te Onetea to Waikare then into the Whangamarino:

Mr Klee reminded Councillors that for most of the year the Waikato River was at a significantly lower level than Lake Waikare and thus there could be no natural flow from the river to the lake.

Councillor Cocks considered that the only viable solution was to pump water from the river to the lake using solar power.

4. How do we get more rangers on deck to help out?

The Chairman requested that this question be placed on the agenda for the August meeting of Council.

The Chairman informed Councillors that both he and Councillor Barnes had approached two local anglers who had successful Youtube channels on trout fishing. They had agreed to carry the logo of Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game and we would provide links to these channels on the Fish and Game website.

There was general agreement by Councillors to proceed.

The Chairman raised his concern that there was little awareness within the current NZ Council of the catastrophic decline in waterfowl habitat in the lower Waikato River catchment.

It was moved;

**That the new NZC CE, Corina Jordan and NZC Chairman Ray Grubb be invited to a meeting of Council.**

**Sherrard/Williamson – CARRIED**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3:20pm.

Councillor Dickey invited Councillors and staff to partake in a glass of 20-year-old port, provided by pondholder Craig Sapich to celebrate 20 years since the establishment of the Blythen Wetland.