

HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 6:00 PM

PRESENT

Councillors Hern, Mackie, Williams, Duley (Chairman), Bates and Niblett.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick (Acting Regional Manager), Mark Venman (minute taker), Nathan Burkepile, (Hawke's Bay Fish & Game staff) and Carmel Veitch (Eastern Region).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Lindsay Morris, Bob Spain, Steve Perfect, Terry Yates, Wayne Vibert, Graeme Jobey and Barry Jones.

INTRODUCTION

1.0 WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Cr Duley.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr Lumsden and Christine Tuck (Hawke's Bay Fish & Game). No apologies were received from Cr McIntosh.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 October 2016)

Cr Niblett referred to p.12 of the minutes and the section pertaining to monitoring pheasant populations. Cr Niblett said that he disagreed with the sentence "Cr Niblett felt that we really do need to be able to identify the origins of populations that are being monitored..." Cr Niblett said that the minutes should have read "define the population that we were monitoring".

AGREED

- 3.1** *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on 18 October 2016 are a true and correct record. [16/11/3.1]*

Hern/Mackie

4.0 MATTERS ARISING:

Cr Williams: Oath of Office

Cr Williams said that he had spoken to Robert Sowman about NZ Council creating a universal Oath of Office document but it was up to each region to create their own. Cr Williams said that New Zealand Council has an Oath of Office and it has been signed by all members. The NZ Council version is the same as Eastern Region. Each region was encouraged to produce their own Oath of Office. Cr Williams said that it was simply a pledge to those who had voted Councillors in that they would do their best to govern in the interests of all anglers and hunters. It doesn't have to be progressed if Councillors don't want to sign up to it as it isn't mandatory.

Andy Garrick: Duck season

Andy said that he had signalled to NZ Council the idea raised at the previous Council meeting of bringing the start of the duck shooting season back by one week. A case could be prepared to take this further but Andy was advised that the prospects of the concept being adopted were remote as this had been considered previously.

Andy Garrick: Captive Reared Mallards

Andy has followed up with NZ Council regarding captive reared mallards and asked them to progress this with a little more urgency. Andy advised that Robert is working on that currently and is planning to circulate a paper to the Regional Managers shortly.

5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

No items raised.

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

No conflicts of interest were identified.

7.0 ELECTION OF REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON

Cr Duley said that he can't continue to do the role of Chairperson justice and was looking for another Councillor to replace him. There was a discussion around some Councillors preferring to keep the roles of Chairperson and NZ Council appointee separate rather than having just one Councillor doing both roles at the same time. However, a drawback of only having 7 Councillors means that having a joint Chairperson and NZ Council appointee may need to occur if there are no other suitable candidates to take up the role of Chairperson. Cr Hern added that he wasn't local enough to do the role justice and added that Cr Mackie was in his first term as a Councillor and simply too new to step up. Andy said that Cr Williams was a good replacement as Chairperson as he was able to give sufficient time and effort to the roles and was well read on topical subjects. Cr Williams was keen to take up the role of Chairperson but didn't want to relinquish his role as NZ Council appointee in order to do so.

Cr Williams added that he enjoyed his current role on the NZ Council and other Councillors added that he has done a great job in this current position.

Cr Bates said that having one Councillor doing both roles was risky and unhealthy as you end up with one voice while Cr Duley added that one Councillor could ultimately lead and represent the Council and the region nationally, possibly for their own personal agendas. Cr Duley added that it depended on the person. Cr Bates was opposed to the idea of Cr Williams doing both roles and suggested that if Cr Williams became Chairperson, that Cr Niblett could take over as NZ Council appointee. Cr Niblett expressed an interest in undertaking the role on the NZ Council at some stage in the future. Cr Williams responded that he wasn't comfortable surrendering this role as he felt that he could represent anglers and hunters better as a NZ Council appointee than as a chairperson if he was restricted to doing only one role.

Andy emphasised that a new Chairperson had to be appointed. Cr Bates said that the region needed support at this particular time with the recent advertisement for a Regional Manager. The Chairperson needs to liaise closely with this new manager moving forward. Cr Bates suggested that Cr Williams did it for a term to support the new manager and then revert back to NZ Council if he needed a change but Cr Williams remained reluctant to surrender his role as NZ Council appointee and suggested a round the table vote. Cr Williams started the discussion by saying that he believed that he could do both roles. Cr Mackie said that he thought that the two roles should be split. Cr Hern said that ideally it should be split but given the small number of Councillors in this region it would be best to have one person do both roles if they were keen rather than have someone do one role that they really didn't want to do. Cr Bates said that he believed that the roles should be split. Cr Niblett said that he felt that the role of Chairman was the most important at this particular stage and preferred Cr Williams to focus on that while Cr Niblett undertook the role of NZ Council Rep. Cr Bates said that he could become Chairman but added that he has done his time previously and felt that it was better to have some fresh blood at this particular time.

Andy suggested trialling Cr Williams doing both roles and monitor it to see whether it works and Cr Mackie suggested trialling it for a 6 month period.

AGREED

7.1 *That Cr Williams continues in his current role as NZ Council appointee and becomes the new Chairperson for a trial period of 6 months with a review undertaken after this period. [16/11/7.1]*

Hern/Duley

8.0 2015-2016 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Andy explained that the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year had been completed and audited by Owen McLeod and said that a draft Performance report had been circulated at the October Council meeting. Andy added that Carmel was available to answer any specific questions. Andy said that licence sales had been encouraging over the year and that hadn't been the case for a number of other F&G regions. Cr Bates thanked the Eastern Region for

assisting during the 2015-2016 year going above and beyond to get work done and make everything balance.

AGREED

8.1 That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year. [16/11/8.1]

Bates/Niblett

9.0 2017 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

There was a short discussion around season length and thresholds. Cr Williams said that there was more mallard breeding data available now. Andy added that a decision needs to be made, and if information is lacking it's better to err on the conservative side.

Cr Duley said that he felt that the Council didn't have all the information available to make a valid decision. Cr Niblett added that the science is not valid and that insufficient numbers of ducks are banded for the data to be statistically valid. Andy said that productivity is the key and setting bag limits and season lengths is less critical though care needs to be taken not to go overboard with the latter as that could have decimating effects. Cr Williams said that we have a statutory obligation to monitor populations. Cr Niblett said that migratory populations will always be easier to monitor than very localised populations.

Cr Niblett added that the limits don't make a difference unless lots of people reach them and the season length makes no difference until you start shooting breeding birds. Education of hunters not to shoot pairs late in the season is important to help maintain a larger breeding population to be more productive. A short discussion followed on previous attempts of shooting drakes only but it appears that some hunters struggle to tell drakes apart especially during low light conditions.

Cr Bates was keen to keep the game season conditions the same as last year. Andy added that there was no reason to make any changes this coming year.

AGREED

9.1 That Council approves a 6 week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck (unless monitoring in January reveals there has been a significant collapse in the populations in which case staff are authorised to reduce the bag limit to 3-4 birds if deemed necessary). [16/11/9.1]

Bates/Mackie

9.2 That Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species. [16/11/9.2]

9.3 That if Hawke's Bay mallard and grey duck population is predicted to be equal to, or below 100,000 then a restricted set applies. Above 100,000 and below 200,000 the intermediate set applies, and above 200,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [16/11/9.3]

9.4 That the 2017 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for six weeks. [16/11/9.4]

- 9.5 *That paradise shelduck thresholds and conditions remain as they are and the 2017 regulations be based on January 2017 monitoring results. [16/11/9.5]*
- 9.6 *That Council increase the length of the pukeko season to coincide with that for pheasants. [16/11/9.6]*
- 9.7 *That the black swan threshold remain the status quo (limit of three) but the bag limit if restrictive conditions apply be increased from none to one, and the 2017 regulations be based on January 2017 monitoring results. [16/11/9.7]*
- 9.8 *That the remaining conditions for 2017 are as per those that applied in 2016 and/or are set out in Appendix 2. [16/11/9.8]*

Hern/Mackie

Andy mentioned that the two upland game properties, namely Glencoe and Thurlsholm Farm, should not have been included in the proposed schedule for 2017 and will be removed from the list. Nathan said that he would update the upland game property details. Cr Bates said that the boundaries for Ngamatea Station were also incorrect (but were correct in last year's game season conditions).

Nathan started a discussion around shooting hours and updated the Council on the results of an online survey of Hawke's Bay licence holders that he undertook using Survey Monkey. Councillors asked Nathan to publish the survey results on Facebook and in Both Barrels newsletter to provide support for Council's proposal to modify the shooting hours in 2017. There was a general consensus that you can't see properly in the dark after 6.15 pm with several older hunters already stopping shooting voluntarily at 6.00 pm.

AGREED

- 9.9 *That shooting hours are changed to start at 6.30 am and finish at 6.15 pm. [16/11/9.9]*

Bates/Niblett

10.0 HUNTING STAND CLAIM TAG

A member of the public raised a concern that a number of firearms have been stolen and that by having personal details visible on a hunting stand claim tag, it advertises the fact that that person is the owner of a firearm. However, only a name and licence number is on the tag – not a physical address. Andy added that the regulations require the name, address and licence number of a hunter and that this was not negotiable and asked how we could manage this situation digitally. Cr Bates said that tagging several stands could be used as a way of clearing space for shooters around their own hide. He added that the marketing of tags was a great business opportunity. F&G could contact hunters and hunters could potentially purchase a licence and get their tag several weeks earlier. Carmel said that the ballot system works in a similar way by getting money banked earlier. Andy said that there is a push for anglers to buy a licence early and although several anglers take up the offer there are still many who leave it to the day before the season starts. Although everyone gets issued with a tag, Cr Duley thought that approximately 90-95% of hunters don't use them. Cr Duley thought that hunters should opt in to get a tag sent out to them to save F&G sending out plastic tags to all hunters and not all of them being used. Councillors decided on the following recommendations for NZ Council to consider further.

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|----|--|---------------------------------|
| a. | No one (outside of Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region) under the age of 16 is entitled to claim a hunting stand. In the Auckland/Waikato region no one under the age of 18 can claim a hunting stand. | Yes |
| b. | The wording of Wildlife Regulations 9 b. be added to the information on the tag - <i>no person shall claim more than one stand.</i> | Yes |
| c. | As an interim step, hunters when completing online licence applications can opt out of receiving plastic licences and plastic stand claim tags, accepting just the receipt or digital licence version. | No to opt out but yes to opt in |
| d. | Longer term (in two-three seasons time) make provision for just one tag per licence – the digital tag. | No |
| e. | A digital hunting claim tag to be made available for printing with hunters encouraged to ‘mark-up’ a stand utilising the printed tag. | No |
| f. | Make writing the name of the claimant and the number of their licence, as was once the practice, an acceptable peg claim method. | No |

Cr Niblett queried whether we needed to discuss magazine restrictions but Andy said that we had discussed that at the last meeting and unless there was a change of thinking, what was agreed at the last Council meeting in October should stand.

11.0 PROGRAMMES TO ENCOURAGE JUNIOR/NOVICE HUNTERS

Cr Bates and Duley briefly discussed junior shoots that they ran previously at Lake Lopez and explained that although these worked well, Councillors ran out of steam and couldn't give the events the time that they needed. Nathan was looking for some direction from the Council as to where to go from here and how much time and money should we commit to youth development. Andy said that programmes should be extended to novice hunters too and Cr Mackie suggested running a survey to see who was keen. Andy added that it is hard to attract people and running hunting courses can be labour intensive. Nathan said that F&G could work in with local shooting clubs to help get people involved to help share the workload. Cr Duley suggested using mentors within the clubs with only the novice hunters shooting. Nathan said that some of the most successful programmes have involved mentors but there is some training involved in getting mentors to deliver the correct messages and it can be a long time commitment over at least a couple of seasons. The issue of having a guardian there was briefly discussed. Andy said that Eastern Region have held open days that are attended by over 100 people and these events cover most of what you need to know to get into the sport and this is a productive way of capturing a lot of people. Hunters often bring along their kids or novice hunters to these events and Andy said that this is a very cost effective way of reaching a lot of would be hunters.

Cr Duley asked Nathan to investigate whether such events could be run at different locations throughout the Hawke's Bay Region (Napier, Hastings, Central Hawke's Bay). Lindsay from Hawke's Bay Sporting Shooters Association said that the club would be prepared to hold a shoot for junior shooters and Cr Hern said that it would be good if F&G could talk to Lindsay and follow this opportunity up to see whether F&G could get people to sign up as novice shooters. Cr Bates said that there had been a NZ Council paper written 5-6 years ago on recruiting new and novice hunters into the sport. Nathan added that both stands at Peka Peka could be balloted out to novice hunters or 1st year licence holders.

12.0 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO UTILISE FUNDS FROM COUNCIL'S WILDLIFE FUND

Cr Bates asked how much money was in the account and was advised that there was approximately \$22,000 in the fund. Andy queried whether it was actually a trust or simply a dedicated fund. Councillors Bates and Duley were recorded as being trustees. Cr Bates asked whether F&G could purchase some land for juniors to hunt somewhere and have some control over. The wetlands being restored were to be used for breeding habitat but Cr Duley asked whether they could also be used as areas for junior hunters to learn for just 2 weekends each year (opening weekend and Queens Birthday weekend). Nathan said that he would ask the land owner whether this would be possible.

AGREED

12.1 Providing that juniors can hunt at the two wetlands on the Wedd property for two weekends each year, Council approves the use of \$5,000 from the wildlife fund. [16/11/12.1]

Bates/Duley

13.0 DATE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017

Andy explained that there was not much flexibility with the proposed dates given the NZ Council meeting dates had already been set for 2017. Cr Duley said that Tuesdays seemed to work well and added that meetings should start no later than 6pm in the evenings.

AGREED

13.1 That Council agrees to the proposed time, dates and locations at which it meets in 2017. [16/11/13.1]

Bates/Niblett

14.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Andy said that Cr Mackie was still looking for additional material as the earlier advice he had produced in relation to recent prosecutions was not relevant to the issue raised in relation to the proposed H&S Policy. The option to approve it as it is and amend it later was put forward to try and progress the matter. Each region has their own separate policy and a national policy wouldn't be practical. Cr Mackie questioned whether \$1M cover was sufficient as a number of his clients had recently increased their cover to at least \$2M. Andy said that this could be explored. Carmel added that each region needed to have their own insurance cover rather than one overarching one for all F&G regions. Cr Mackie said that if you were a trustee on any board you could be deemed liable. Andy said that Councillors have a duty of care and can be taken to task but cannot be fined in contrast to the Regional Manager who can be.

AGREED

14.1 That Council approves the Health and Safety Policy. [16/11/14.1]

Williams/Hern

15.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 EAST COAST/HAWKE'S BAY CONSERVATION BOARD

No report received

15.2 REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

No reports received

15.3 REPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL

Cr Williams discussed the licence agreement with Eyede and said that it had been extended for another two years. Cr Williams advised that the Fish & Game magazine had been purchased by Fish and Game New Zealand from Fairfax for \$30,000 and the Fish & Game logo had been bought for \$1. He added that they have to honour the subscriptions but that the magazine breaks even at approximately \$240,000 per year.

Cr Williams then spoke about changes to the resource management legislation amendment bill and how F&G needs to prepare for it. The F&G magazine could be a good platform for keeping people informed. He added that F&G needs to prepare keystone documents and document the science relating to resource management but aim to make litigation the last resort. A lot of money gets spent undertaking advocacy work that could be better spent improving habitat.

Cr Williams finished by saying that the degradation of back country fisheries will be discussed at the March meeting at Lake Tekapo.

16.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

No comment

16.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

No comment

16.3 FINANCE REPORT

Carmel clarified what was meant by internal and external costs. Carmel added that hours are relatively meaningless until closer towards the end of the year i.e. after 10 months have elapsed. The style of reporting was questioned where it was reported that it was under budget when actually it was well over budget when hours are taken into account. There was a general discussion around the fact that hours are only indicative and that although there are hours set in the Operational Work Plan, new opportunities or issues arise that require hours to be allocated to them. Andy said that the critical costs were the external costs and we didn't want to exceed those. The hours are much harder to predict and that salaries were a fixed cost. Carmel said that she would expand upon the table shown on p.62 in future reports with expanded details quarterly throughout the year and make more comments on the variance of hours.

AGREED

That Council approves the following payments:

<i>September 2016</i>	<i>77,324.53</i>
<i>October 2016</i>	<i>38,941.87</i>
<i>Total to approve</i>	<i>116,266.40</i>

[16/11/16.3]

Williams/Bates

That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of financial Position and Statement of Financial Performances and Cash flow for the 2016-17 financial year with Deficit of \$8,801, and approves the purchase of fixed Assets valued at \$4,000. [16/11/16.3.1]

Niblett/Hern

17.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

No General Business to report.

18.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

The meeting went into recession at 8 pm for a publicly excluded session that commenced at 8.05 pm and concluded at 8.15 pm.

There being no further business to attend to at the conclusion of the public excluded session, the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

CONFIRMED

Date: 14 / 2 / 2017



CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18 OCTOBER 2016)

- 3.1 *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on 18 October 2016 are a true and correct record. [16/11/3.1]*

Hern/Mackie

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- 7.1 *That Cr Williams continues in his current role as NZ Council appointee and becomes the new Chairperson for a trial period of 6 months with a review undertaken after this period. [16/11/7.1]*

Hern/Duley

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- 8.1 *That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year. [16/11/8.1]*

Bates/Niblett

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Hern/Mackie

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Bates/Niblett

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Bates/Duley

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Bates/Niblett

14.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

14.1 That Council approves the Health and Safety Policy. [16/11/14.1]

Williams/Hern

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Niblett/Hern