

**AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME**

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,**  
**on Saturday 17 June 2017 commencing at 11.00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** M. Young

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

**Staff:** B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee, A. Daniel (11.20)

**Visitors:** P. Hardy (DoC), R. Tyson.

**1. APOLOGIES**

M. Davis, A. Sintenie.

It was moved;

**that the apologies be accepted.**

**S. Smith/Howard CARRIED**

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

None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 8 APRIL 2017:**

A typo was noted on the date for the previous meeting; "113 February", it should be "11 February".

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 8 April 2017 as amended be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Annan/Juby CARRIED**

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

Councillor Juby thanked staff for organising the field trip which he found very informative.

The Chairman observed that most Councillors knew little about trout fishing and suggested that a field trip looking at trout fishing and management issues would be beneficial. Councillor Juby agreed to liaise with Dr Daniel to determine possible options.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil.

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

Mr Wilson updated the meeting on the proposed review by the Waikato Regional Council of the consents held for the Whangamarino weir. DoC had requested that the review be postponed until early next year and had also commissioned a consultant report that had rejected the concerns raised by the regional council to justify the review. This proposed postponement was supported by Fish & Game and we had also stated our disagreement with the reasons put forward by the regional council to justify the timing of the review.

General discussion on the impact of roadside mowing on waterfowl nesting, with it noted that district councils would require some persuasion to stop mowing in August/September.

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the Flax Block weir and the issues raised by local landowners with the recent flooding. The Waikato Regional Council was currently carrying out a review of the flooding which would include modelling the role of all structures in the Flax Block including the weir.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the decision by the NZF&G Council to take full responsibility for the decision to ban lead shot in subgauge shotguns. Councillors agreed that education over the negative impact of lead shot was crucial with recent research finding that ingestion of shot was much higher than previously thought.

Councillor Williamson enquired about the current application by Watercare for the Pukekohe Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr Klee replied that the Hearing had been deferred until the issue of the weir on the Parker Lane stream had been addressed. He noted that the plant was receiving 25% of their effluent from the new Pokeno Dairy Factory and that Watercare was seeking a 35 year consent.

Councillor Sherrard asked whether Fish & Game had been informed of the proposed new poultry farm near Lake Whangape. Mr Klee replied that no notification had been received.

Councillor Howard requested an update from staff on the Gamebird Harvest Survey. Mr Klee replied that returns had been mixed but generally those wetlands that hadn't shot well for years had had a very good season. However it would be some months before the survey report would be available. He also noted that in previous seasons, harvest rates were often low when there was a lot of water around since the birds were more widely distributed.

Mr Wilson briefly reviewed the ranging efforts over the season stressing the comparatively low numbers of active rangers compared to the 9,000 hunter out on Opening Weekend. The Police had expressed considerable interest in accompanying rangers next year. Councillor Kerr informed that the Police had been checking hunters at Hoods Landing during Opening Weekend.

It was moved;

**that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.**

**S. Smith/Cocks CARRIED**

## **7. 2017/18 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION:**

Councillors discussed the licence fee recommendations from the NZF&G Council. There was general agreement by Councillors that more should be done at a national level to seek other sources of funding especially bequests. Councillors also expressed surprise that other F&G regions were not seeking external funding for habitat restoration, but noting that there was little incentive to seek such funding due to the generosity of the recent Fish & Game budget round.

It was moved;

**that the NZ Council recommendation of a 2017/18 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$127, and the adult whole season game licence of \$94 be accepted.**  
**Cocks/Williamson CARRIED**

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.30pm and resumed at 1.15pm.

## **8. 2017/18 DISTRICT ANGLERS NOTICE:**

Councillors discussed Dr Daniel's report with informative contributions from Councillors Juby and Annan who had considerable experience from many years of fishing on the hydro lakes.

Councillor Kerr expressed his reservations over the proposed changes considering that the regulations should be tightened rather than relaxed due to the perilous state of the wild trout fishery.

It was moved;

**that Section 2.2 of the fishing regulations for the Auckland/Waikato region be amended to include the clause "or flooded backwaters of hydro lake tributaries not listed in Clause 2.2"**

**that the Tumai Stream is added to the list of waters in Section 2.2 where fishing is permitted.**

**Juby/Annan CARRIED**

Councillor Kerr voted against the above motion.

Dr Daniel's report on a change to the soft bait fishing regulations was discussed. Some reservations were expressed by Councillors regarding the potential to use large gap hooks to snag trout, but it was emphasised by Mr Wilson that there were no current regulations on hook size.

It was moved;

**that the fishing regulations be amended to allow for scented artificial lures to be used in all waters, other than fly fishing only waters, when actively retrieved so as to imitate a moving bait fish.**

**Juby/Annan CARRIED**

## **9. PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE: AERIAL USE OF 1080:**

Robust discussion took place with views strongly expressed both for and against the proposal.

It was moved;

**that Council's policy on the aerial use of 1080 be changed to "Council does not support the use of aerial 1080 in areas where alternative methods of pest control are feasible (practical)".**

**Howard/Sherrard CARRIED**

6 for, 4 against.

Councillors S. Smith, B. Smith, & Williamson voted against the motion.

It was agreed that staff were delegated to make such decisions in accordance with the policy.

## **10. OSH REPORT:**

Mr Wilson presented his report noting that influenza had significantly affected staff over the previous month. Next year funding would be allocated for influenza vaccinations on a voluntary basis.

It was moved;

**that the OSH Report for May be accepted.**

**Annan/Juby CARRIED**

## **11. NZF&GC MEETING 19-20 MAY 2017:**

Councillor Sherrard summarised the discussions held by the NZF&G Council at their recent meeting – including;

- The guide licence had gone back to the Minister with little progress being made.
- A bequest policy was being looked at
- A Governor symposium on “future proofing Fish & Game” would be held next year.

## **15. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Mr Klee asked Councillors whether there were any questions they would like to see asked during the gamebird harvest survey. In reply it was suggested that hunters should be asked whether the hunting of swan should cease with the closure of the dabbling duck season.

Mr Richard Tyson, former F&G Councillor, informed the meeting that there were considerable opportunities to promote coarse fishing to the large Asian community in Auckland. Dr Daniel reported that coarse fishing promotions were being considered and that there had recently been support from the NZF&G Council for such.

Councillor Juby informed that he would be speaking to the Auckland Freshwater Anglers Club on the 14<sup>th</sup> August and invited other Councillors to attend.

Mr Dyer suggested that the fishing regulations be changed to allow coarse anglers to use more than one rod. Mr Wilson replied that such recommendations to change the fishing regulations needed to be made to Dr Daniel several months before the June meeting so that an informed report could be presented to Council.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.15pm.

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