

**AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME**

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,**  
**on Saturday 19 August 2017 commencing at 11.00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** M. Young.

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

**Staff:** B. Wilson, J. Dyer

**1. APOLOGIES**

C. Carey, M. Davis, D. Klee, A. Sintenie, A. Daniel.

It was moved;

**that the apologies be accepted.**

**Annan/Shaw CARRIED**

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

None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 17 JUNE 2017:**

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 17 June 2017 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**S. Smith/Kerr CARRIED**

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

Councillor Juby suggested a field trip for Councillors in February 2018 to Taumarunui in conjunction with the February Council meeting, staying at the Owango Hotel. The objective would be to give Councillors an appreciation of the Whanganui/Whakapapa system.

After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Juby would bring a further update to the next meeting of Council.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil.

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

Councillor Juby updated Councillors on the Moakurarua River access issue noting that there was an access sign on the road above the river but that access was difficult and not practical. Mr Wilson agreed to pass the information on to the local field officer for the Walking Access Commission.

Councillor Shaw described his mallard and teal nesting boxes, which had been very successful with low predation rates.

Councillor Annan commented that the Te Awamutu sewage treatment plant is already struggling and simply does not have the capacity to take effluent from the Waikeria Prison.

Councillor Shaw asked for clarification of the rules regarding harrier hawk. Mr Dyer replied that the law applies to Fish & Game activities, such as mallard duck banding.

Discussion was held on the proposed clean-fill site near Pokeno with it noted that the application is currently on hold while the applicant provides further information.

Councillors S & B Smith updated the meeting on the recent flooding in the Piako/Waitoa system and the impact of the weirs installed to maintain wetland conditions and hunting opportunities.

It was moved;

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

**S. Smith/Annan CARRIED**

**7. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPORTS FISHING:**

Councillor Juby described the proposed Code of Conduct as very South Island centred especially in regards to limiting the number of fish caught and released.

It was agreed that Councillor Juby would provide written comments to Mr Wilson to forward to NZ Council.

**8. CONFIRMATION OF 2017/18 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:**

Mr Wilson stated that the budget and OWP had been updated to take into consideration the recent National Budget round.

It was moved;

**that the 2017/18 OWP and Budget of \$789,339 be approved.**

**Williamson/S. Smith CARRIED**

## **9. BUDGET POLICY FOR CONSULTATION AS NATIONAL POLICY:**

The Memorandum on budget policy by Alison Lyall, NZF&GC Financial Manager, was discussed.

Councillors expressed their opposition to the proposed policy emphasising that it was against the principle of autonomy of the regions and reduced the incentive for regions to seek external funding. Councillors were especially concerned that expenditure from restricted and dedicated revenues would have to be approved as part of the budget round and that interest from such revenues would be included as income in the budget process.

It was moved;

**that the proposed changes to the national budget policy are opposed.**

**Williamson/Cocks CARRIED**

## **10. AERIAL TRANSECT COUNTS OF MALLARD AND GREY DUCK 2017:**

The high variability observed in the aerial transect counts were noted with agreement that several more years of data was required before any trends could be determined. Councillors then discussed the mallard banding programme and agreed that this was providing valuable data that couldn't be provided by aerial transects.

## **11. NZF&GC MEETING 21-23 JULY 2017:**

Councillor Sherrard summarised the discussions held by the NZF&GC at their recent meeting:

- Issues regarding biodegradable wads for shotgun shells
- The standardisation of fish regulations throughout all F&G regions
- The appointment of Mr Martin Taylor as Chief Executive of F&G.
- NZF&GC Councillors greatly appreciated David Klee's research reports.

In reply to a question, Councillor Sherrard updated Councillors on the situation regarding trout releases into the Kai Iwi Lakes in Northland. The District Council had agreed to releases being continued while native fish monitoring was being carried out.

It was noted from the NZF&G Council's Environmental Scan that lead contamination has become an issue with the Clay Target Association and concern for apiculture in Wairarapa.

The meeting rose for lunch at 1pm and resumed at 1.45pm.

## **12. OSH REPORT:**

It was moved;

**that the OSH Report for August 2017 be accepted.**

**Annan/Kerr CARRIED**

### **13. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Sherrard observed that swan numbers in the north Waikato were well up from previous winters. Other Councillors agreed and it was suggested that swans had moved out onto farmland as there was little food available in wetlands due to the impact of recent floods.

Councillor Annan informed that at a recent Ward 6 meeting it was reported that anglers fishing the Upper Awakino River were catching a lot of spent fish and the question was asked as to whether the season length was too long. Mr Wilson replied that long-term monitoring by the drift dive surveys had shown no decline in the trout fishery due to the extended season and that recruitment was directly related to autumn floods.

Councillor Sherrard thanked David Klee for attending a recent meeting of gamebird hunters at Huntly.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1.50pm.