

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 9 December 2017 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: D. Cocks

Councillors: G. Annan, C. Carey, W. Howard, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, B. Smith,
S. Smith, E. Williamson.

Staff: B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee, M. Davis, A. Sintenie, A. Daniel.

Visitors: G. Carter (President, NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers).

1. APOLOGIES

M. Young, N. Juby, A. Kerr, I. Browning, R. Tyson.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

Annan/ S. Smith CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 14 OCTOBER 2017:

Councillor Shaw noted that it was the February 2018 Council meeting when he and Councillor Annan would probably be banding mallards in the morning and not the April meeting.

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 14 October 2017 as amended be accepted as a true and correct record.

Shaw/Carey CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

The letter to pondholders from the Chief Executive of 15 November 2017 was tabled.

In reply to a question Mr Wilson stated that he had received feedback from only one pondholder in reply to this correspondence. The Chairman advised that he had received several phone calls from pondholders on this matter.

8. REPORT: USING STERILE TROUT TO IMPROVE HYDRO LAKE FISHERIES

Dr Daniel introduced his report emphasising that the initiative to use sterile trout arose from concerns over the stocking of Lake Arapuni with hatchery fish and the subsequent collapse of the wild rainbow trout fishery. The triploid process involved pressure shocking trout eggs and not genetic manipulation. Extensive publicity requesting comment had been undertaken including articles in the preseason Fish Newsletter and Reel Life. Support for the use of triploid trout had been received from the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club, NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers, and individual anglers. No negative feedback had been received. This would be a 2 year trial, with all the triploid fish tagged.

In reply to a question Dr Daniel stated that the triploid trout were not known to be any more or less aggressive than non-triploid fish.

Mr Graham Carter informed Councillors that he had circulated the proposal amongst the member clubs of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers and no concerns had arisen.

It was moved;

that the trial of triploid trout in Lake Arapuni involving up to 2,000 tagged fish proceed.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

Mr Carter left the meeting at 11.20am.

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

Mr Wilson provided an update on the Ward Ranch action noting that a Statement of Defence had been lodged with the High Court by Susan Hughes QC on behalf of Council.

Extensive discussion ensued on the recent work by the Waikato Regional Council on the Flax Block Wetland with concern expressed at the decision of the regional council, supported by DoC, to lower the weir to 1.5m rather than the previously agreed level of 1.7m.

Councillor B Smith advised that the regional council was currently monitoring the impact of the Flax Block on flood levels on the Hauraki Plains. Councillors agreed that no action could be taken until after this report had been received.

Mr Klee informed Councillors that the mallard banding programme would start before Christmas at a new banding site on the Hauraki Plains.

Dr Daniel described the recent Tokoroa fishing competition as a fantastic day. The competition was held at Lake Moananui by the Tokoroa Sports Fishing Club and had attracted 320 young competitors. Ten 2-year old rainbow trout (tagged) had been released

prior to the competition and 3 of these fish were caught by competitors. The largest fish entered in the competition was about 3kg.

It was moved;

that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.
S. Smith/Carey CARRIED

7. OSH REPORT:

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for December 2017 be approved.
S. Smith/Carey CARRIED

9. 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE:

It was agreed that the last meeting in 2018 should be scheduled for Saturday 8th December.

Councillor S. Smith inquired as to the impact of the 2018 Fish & Game election on the timetable. Mr Wilson agreed to check the requirements regarding the newly elected Council.

It was moved;

that the 2018 Meeting Schedule be approved.
Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

10. NZF&GC MEETING 24-26 DECEMBER 2017:

Councillor Sherrard summarised the main points arising from the recent meeting of NZF&G Council.

- Mr Martin Tylor was the new Chief Executive
- The Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage, had attended the meeting and Councillor Sherrard had raised with her the issue of the Whangamarino Weir and the Ward Ranch action.
- The South Island publicity officer was to be issued with a new vehicle.
- The Mallard research fund was accumulating.

General discussion ensued on the mallard research fund with it noted that the current mallard research projects needed to be completed before any new projects were initiated.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS:

It was agreed that Martin Taylor be invited to the February meeting of Council.

Dr Daniel distributed Councillor Juby's proposed schedule for a field trip to the Taumarunui area. Dr Daniel emphasised the importance of the Whanganui/Whakapapa Rivers, noting that this was the second most heavily fished catchment in the region. Councillors expressed their enthusiasm for the field trip but several Councillors advised that February/March was unsuitable due to other commitments, including the mallard banding project. At the suggestion of Councillor Williamson it was agreed that a November date would be more suitable.

Councillor Annan invited Councillors and staff to attend the Te Awamutu Fish & Game club's children's fishing day at the Eastern Fish & Game hatchery on Sunday 10th December.

Councillor Shaw informed the meeting that local farmers no longer tested for copper in cows because low copper levels were no longer considered to be an issue of concern, possibly due to the high levels of copper in palm kernel.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 12.40pm.