

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 196th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 9th JUNE 2022 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Jay Tapsell, Kevin Coutts, Debbie Oakley, Ken Coombes, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, Alan Simmons, and Mark Sceats.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arash Alaeinia, Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matthew Osborne, Anthony Van Dorp, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish and Game Council); and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.10pm and invited Cr Jay Tapsell to perform the opening karakia. Ngahi then welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished to acknowledge the momentous occasion of farewelling Andy Garrick and welcoming Arash Alaeinia.

APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Geoff Thomas and Scott Nicol.

2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Debbie Oakley) that the apologies for the 196th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/06/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 APRIL 2022)

3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [22/06/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2022.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Murray Ferris - Acknowledgement
- Cr Lindsay Lyons - Meeting duration

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 *Health and Safety Report* – Arash Alaeinia commented on the good report and the positive history in terms of Health & Safety. After discussions with Andy, he acknowledged that there is opportunity for ongoing improvement to systems and processes which he was keen to continue.

8.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/06/8.2]*

- 8.3 *Finance Report – No questions*
- 8.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for March and April 2022 totalling \$212,442.08. [22/06/8.4]*
- 8.5 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the request for a new credit card facility to be applied for in the name of Arash Alaeinia, Chief Executive, with an approved spending limit of \$3,000. [22/06/8.5]*
- 8.6 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council approves the replacement of Andy Garrick with Arash Alaeinia, Chief Executive as signatory to Westpac and Bank of New Zealand bank accounts. [22/06/8.6]*
- 8.7 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the other signatories to the Westpac and Bank of New Zealand bank accounts being Kate Thompson, Office Manager, Nerida Evans, Office Administrator, and Carmel Veitch, Accountant. [22/06/8.7]*
- 8.8 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Jay Tapsell) that the signing rules for the Council's bank accounts and online banking facilities will comprise a combination of any two of the named signatories. All signatories will, however, be authorised to make enquiries on bank accounts and term investments independently. [22/06/8.8]*
- 8.9 Andy Garrick provided a brief background to the ballot holder Habitat Management Fee and its purpose in contributing to some of the habitat works required in the reserves where the ballot holder's hunt. He advised that this year some of the required habitat work in the reserves had been undertaken by another agency which meant that the habitat fees collected were not utilised. He said that because those fees were collected in good faith from licence holders, we felt it appropriate to carry over/accrue the unspent portion into a dedicated reserve for works in the year following and this could provide additional resourcing for work that could not have otherwise been undertaken in one year with the limited funds available.
- 8.10 Cr Mike Jarvie queried what would occur if the fees collected were not used in the year following? Andy Garrick advised that it is unusual not to have used them this year but there were some projects that require considerably more than we derive from the habitat fees in one year and next year there may well be a project that warrants the additional funds available.
- 8.11 Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on several hides not currently being utilised and whether it was worth spraying in these areas? Matt McDougall responded advising that these unused hides were not included in the spray programme.
- 8.12 Cr Debbie Oakley questioned whether Council should consider applying a maximum level for this reserve, for example \$10,000. Andy Garrick suggested that if this situation arises again next year, then this is something that could be contemplated then as he didn't believe it would be a regular occurrence. Ngahi Bidois suggested that Council reconsider this suggestion next year if unspent funds were to increase.
- 8.13 Arash Alaeinia queried the sum collected each year. Kate Thompson advised approximately \$6,000 was collected each year and currently a very small amount was carried over unofficially. She supported the establishment of a reserve so that licence holders who pay the habitat fee can see that it's not being absorbed within the general funds and that their contributions were being put back into the maintenance of the balloted reserves as they were originally intended.
- 8.14 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports the establishment of a 'Dedicated Reserve' for Ballot Holder Habitat Fees to ensure that unspent funds from one season are earmarked for habitat works in future seasons. [22/06/8.14]*

- 8.15 *Management Report* – Cr Mike Jarvie wished to know whether damage to the floodgate in the Awaiti reserve by contractors had been repaired at their cost? Andy Garrick was unable to answer as John Meikle was dealing with the issue, but he understood it was the Regional Council undertaking the work there. Cr Ngahi Bidois asked Andy to follow up on this for Mike’s information.
- 8.16 Cr Mark Sceats asked if staff could provide an update on the situation at Waikaremoana. Anthony Van Dorp advised that he and Matt Osborne had been undertaking work in Waikaremoana this week and noted that angler use appeared to be very light presently, but the fishing was very good. Mark queried why anglers were not returning. Anthony was not aware but commented on the Hopurahine access road which was currently in a poor state needing some maintenance but advised that access via Mokau was alright. He said that over summer there had been reduced angler numbers and believed the camping restrictions and issues with the huts were likely to be contributing factors.
- 8.17 *Licence Sales Report* – Cr Murray Ferris felt that the licence sales performance was looking pretty good considering the potential for negative impacts from Covid. Cr Ngahi Bidois also commented on the number of Auckland anglers that he had encountered at the Awahou Stream mouth recently.
- 8.18 Cr Ngahi Bidois confirmed that Council had received the Management and Licence Sales reports.

9.0 2022-23 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 9.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that this 2nd draft of the 2022-23 Operational Work Plan once accepted at today’s meeting would be shared with other stakeholders for comment before final consideration and approval was needed at the August meeting of Council.
- 9.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons highlighted an issue with the wording of the second priority bullet point which reads “Increasing revenue – through increasing participation (as opposed to increasing licence fees) and developing alternative sources of income”. While the intention of the wording was to look at other sources of revenue in preference to increasing licence fees it was acknowledged that it is not clear and highlights the expectation that licence fees will not increase for which there are no guarantees. Arash Alaeinia suggested removing the words “as opposed to increasing licence fees” from the priority to remove this ambiguity.
- 9.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the second draft of the 2022-23 Operational Work Plan subject to the proposed amendment to the ‘Increasing Revenue’ priority detailed above, and approves its circulation to other parties for comment. [20/06/9.3]*

10.0 2022-2023 LICENCE FEES

- 10.1 There was considerable debate over the proposal to increase licence fees. Matters discussed included the following:
- Perceived value of the licence to hunters of this Region who are subject to more restrictive season conditions than other Regions e.g. many of those in the South Island.
 - It’s difficult to justify the same fees across an organisation where environments and resources are so different- though it was noted that licences purchased in one region can be used in all others with the exception of the Taupo fishery.

- Will more opportunity through more relaxed regulations, make licence holders hunt more?
 - We cannot be compared with South Island regions where hunter density is low and duck numbers high, it is the total opposite in the Eastern Region where the resource is very limited.
 - Positive comments on social media about local management of duck populations and successful opening weekend.
 - Would be useful to consider family and local area Game Bird licences, and how these might impact revenue.
 - Targeting the wrong market with these licence prices, we should be aiming to get the younger generation into the sport.
 - The younger generation will readily pay \$145 for a sweatshirt.
 - Inflation is at an all-time high, as seen with price increases at the supermarkets.
 - People are hurting now and may start buying shorter term licences, or not buy a licence at all on principle.
 - The cost to those who buy a Taupo and Fish & Game licence.
 - Fish & Game licences cover all of NZ and there is a local area licence available at a reduced fee for those who wish to fish in one Fish & Game region only.
- 10.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern over the level of the licence fee increase considering some significant financial reserves he was aware of being held in regions across the country. He felt it more appropriate to cut costs rather than increase licence fees.
- 10.3 Cr Debbie Oakley advised that once the responses were received from all regions the New Zealand Council was then tasked with making the final decision based on those responses and what is best for the organisation. She compared the organisation to a business where presently there is insufficient income to support the activities. The costs will not go down unless we remove something, so what are we going to stop doing to reduce costs? We need to understand that we are running a business, we need to create more income, to continue or try to create other revenue opportunities but now we need to consider how we are going to meet our expense budgets. The recommendation to the Minister needs to be supported with a very strong reason to increase licence fees.
- 10.4 Arash Alaeinia commented on the work put into establishing the proposed fees, noting that the increase is not about increasing profit it is about maintaining the work that we are currently doing and being able to continue doing that. He said life has become more expensive, than five years ago. People that are interested in an activity will pay if they feel they are getting value for money. We need to create an environment where people enjoy the experience, so they are prepared to come back. He asked that Council make an informed decision based on the environment we are in and the realities of other events happening in the world that we are also a part of.
- 10.5 ***Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mark Sceats) that Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2022-2023 of \$145 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing Licence, and \$107 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Season Game licence (which includes \$5 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust), with proportional changes to remaining licence fee categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon endorsement. [22/06/10.5] Motion passed 4 in favour 3 against and 3 abstained. Crs Alan Simmons and Lindsay Lyons asked for their vote against this motion to be recorded.***
- 10.6 Council went on to consider the proposal to draw \$500,000 from regional reserves to fund the implementation of the Ministerial Review. Cr Murray Ferris understood that

from the outset the Department of Conservation said Fish & Game needed to undertake this review and that Mervyn English had indicated that the department could pay for it so questioned now why Fish & Game was not going back to the Department of Conservation to fund this? Cr Debbie Oakley advised that there was no formal paper written on this proposal as it was a last-minute addition to the New Zealand Council agenda. Realising that with a new CE coming on board and limited staff numbers in the New Zealand Council office, the question came about 'who was going to undertake this work?' Debbie commented that the Department of Conservation had been approached to fund the implementation work, but that request had been declined.

- 10.7 Cr Lindsay Lyons informed Council that the Director-General of Conservation had originally approved \$500,000 to get the review underway but acknowledged that wouldn't be sufficient to complete the process. He suggested that the New Zealand Council write to the new Director-General, Penny Nelson, advising that we are initiating this review as per the Minister's request and now require additional funding to progress the implementation of the review.
- 10.8 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the NZC's proposal to draw \$500,000 from regional reserves to fund the implementation of the Ministerial Review. [22/06/10.8] Motion passed 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstained.***
- 10.9 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Mike Jarvie) that Council requests that the New Zealand Council write to Penny Nelson, Director-General of the Department of Conservation seeking funding for the ongoing costs relating to the implementation of the Fish and Game Governance Review which we understand to be in the order of \$500,000. [22/06/10.9]***
- 10.10 The proposal to increase the non-resident licence fee was considered and the following comments were made:
- When non-resident licences were introduced, many non-residents started using residential addresses to avoid the higher fee.
 - Lodges may be able to extract those sorts of fees but for small guides attracting everyday anglers from overseas will be a real struggle.
 - South Island regions where the pressure on fisheries from international anglers is significant are using it as a tool to restrict numbers and it will do that. We don't have that pressure up here.
 - One of our operational work plan objectives is to investigate ways to increase licence sales to non-resident anglers. Increasing the licence fee is not going to do that.
 - This is approximately a 35% increase for international anglers. 40% of our tourism market is from Australia. Kiwis can go to Australia and not face any penalty for being an overseas angler.
- 10.11 Andy Garrick understood the focus to be on back country waters in the South Island which were popular with resident and non-resident anglers alike. He noted that no work had been done to identify what effects this increase might have on other regions' fisheries, e.g. Eastern's lakes' fishery.
- 10.12 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Kevin Coutts) that Council does not support the NZC's proposal to increase the non-resident licence fee to \$250 for the 2022-2023 Season and recommends that this proposal is reviewed by the licence working group to determine potential impacts on revenue before an increase of this level is considered. [22/06/10.12]***
- 10.13 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that there are currently no designated waters in the Eastern region and no plans to create any are being considered at this time. The

proposal on the table for a Designated Waters Licence was again an approach by South Island regions, not to increase revenue but, to reduce pressure on sensitive waters.

10.14 Andy Garrick added that it is recognised that there are pressure sensitive fisheries that warrant some additional controls, there is a process underway which has had a lot of resources and effort go into it to do this, and this needs to be seen through to completion.

10.15 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Kevin Coutts) that Council does not support the NZC's proposal to introduce a Designated Waters Licence available as a free season endorsement for resident anglers and as a day licence costing \$50 for non-resident anglers; and does not have any Eastern region waterways if wishes to recommend be classified as a Designated Water for the 2022-2023 Season. [22/06/10.15]*

11.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

11.1 No additional feedback or correspondence had been received since the April meeting of Council regarding the 2022-2023 Anglers Notice.

11.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council confirms its recommendations relating to the 2022-2023 Anglers Notice made at its April meeting and approves these being forwarded to the New Zealand Council office for communication to the Minister of Conservation. In doing so this concludes the Anglers Notice Review process for the 2022-2023 Season. [22/06/11.2]*

12.0 SENSITIVE EXPENDITURE POLICY UPDATE

12.1 Council received the updated Sensitive Expenditure Policy. Kate Thompson pointed out two further adjustments to be undertaken, the first to Appendix V where any reference to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council will be replaced with Eastern Fish and Game Council, and the second to Appendix VI where numbers 5 and 6 referring to reimbursement of phone, stationery, and postage expenses for the New Zealand Council Chair should be removed.

12.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Mark Sceats) that Council approves the 2022 Sensitive Expenditure Policy update including the two further changes noted above relating to reference to the New Zealand Council, and reimbursement of expenses to the New Zealand Council Chair. [22/06/12.2]*

13.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 *Report from the New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley provided an update from the New Zealand Council (NZC).

- Carina Jordon, new CEO for the New Zealand Council commences 1 August 2022.
- Wildlife Act to be rewritten, Greg Duley and Brian Anderton nominated for panel.
- The Remuneration Committee continues its work with Strategic Pay with current focus on aligning regions with appropriate and consistent pay scales.
- Interviews to occur for the role of Communications Manager for the New Zealand Council replacing Steve Doughty.
- Next meeting for NZC is via zoom on 16 June 2022 where main task is to ratify 2022-23 budgets.
- The Review Implementation Strategy Group is working on a public consultation document on the Ministerial Review prepared for the Minister. An update will be provided to the Minister about the review progress to date and changes required to legislation to enable the merging of regions.
- Governance training was undertaken at last NZC meeting in Wellington, and it is intended to roll this out to all regional Fish and Game Councils.

- Discussions about 3-year organisational plans and budgeting.
- Review distribution of licence revenue and where reserves sit. Need a strategic plan for this which will go out for consultation.
- Appointment of replacement for Andy Garrick on the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee. NZC Chair Ray Grubb had volunteered for this, and it was decided that Matt Osborne (EFGC) should also be involved.
- Consistency in Policies within the organisation e.g. Sensitive Expenditure Policy

Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Debbie Oakley for all of her hard work and her representation of Eastern Fish & Game at the New Zealand Council table, and Carmel Veitch for her role as well.

14.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

14.1 Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Ken Coombes) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.05pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to approve draft meeting minutes and analyse structural review options for the Eastern Fish & Game Council. [22/06/14.1]

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Confirmation of public excluded minutes from Council meetings on 9 December 2021 and 7 April 2022.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)
Critically assess structural review options for the Eastern Fish & Game Council.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii): That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.		hold its information in confidence.	
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Note:

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

14.2 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Murray Ferris) that Council moves the planned discussion on the structural review options for Eastern Fish and Game Council out of Public Excluded to the full public meeting. [22/06/14.2]*

14.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.15 pm. [22/06/14.3]*

14.4 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Jay Tapsell) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.16pm. [22/06/14.4]*

15.0 STRUCTURAL REVIEW

15.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois provided an overview of the process to date and detailed how the proposal for the seven regions, rather than the recommended six regions, had come about i.e. Eastern Region to stand alone rather than form part of the proposed mega region with the current Auckland\Waikato and Northland regions.

15.2 Ngahi informed Council that when he attended the NZC meeting in Wellington in April, he had advised them that he had no mandate to speak on behalf of the Eastern Council as the Council had not been fully consulted on the outcomes proposed in this final report. He had been given the impression that there was still time to do this by the NZC Chair and in fact there were months left to do this. Ngahi confirmed that the New Zealand Council supported the seven-region scenario being put out for consultation.

15.3 Cr Kevin Coutts questioned why this was not discussed at the April meeting. Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council of the dates and very tight timelines and said that in hindsight a draft may have been able to be discussed at the April meeting. She added that Andy and the team had done a very good summary from this Region’s point of view and Ngahi had provided feedback to the NZC on this Council’s preferred options. Debbie confirmed that we are now looking at seven regions but that this was not a fait de compli and explained the next steps in supplying recommendations to the Minister, after which it will go out for consultation with other stake holders.

15.4 Arash Alaeinia suggested that Council review the item put together by Andy Garrick provided in the Public Excluded Agenda which captured everything already discussed and would help to give focus and a framework for the discussion. The discussion needed to be robust, give reasons for decisions, and deliver the best outcomes for Fish & Game licence holders into the future.

15.5 Cr Debbie Oakley had liaised with a couple of the members of the review panel and provided Council with some context as to how the initial six region proposal was arrived at particularly regarding distribution of income and balancing out the levies and grants system. She understood that the proposal to incorporate Eastern Region with Auckland/Waikato and Northland was the most controversial. Debbie advised that there were some areas that were concentrated on in the review which may not actually

be the case going forward particularly if licence revenue were to be centralised or a different approach taken to the reserves policy. Debbie felt the focus should be on activity and work carried out in the Regions rather than revenues as we know that licences can be purchased anywhere and not necessarily where participants undertake most of their fishing and hunting. Looking at the stand-alone regions reviewed alongside Eastern they are all similar in activity levels, Eastern would still be a large region if it was to stand alone.

15.5 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Lindsay Lyons) that Council extends the meeting end time to 3.30pm. [22/06/15.5]*

15.6 Cr Ngahi Bidois asked for Councillors view and requested that discussion is kept concise advising he would give all the opportunity to speak.

15.7 Cr Lindsay Lyons had recently been speaking with a member of the Hawke's Bay Council advising that some were keen to meet with the Eastern Council regarding the proposal to merge with Eastern. Cr Murray Ferris felt that Hawke's Bay was a much easier fit, commenting on the manageability of the distances involved with an Auckland Waikato/Northland/Eastern merger.

15.8 Cr Ngahi Bidois advised that Northland Council had indicated to him that there was no interest in merging with Eastern. Cr Kevin Coutts questioned whether the iwi from Eastern, Auckland/Waikato and Northland could work together? Ngahi believed that this would be an area to work on. Cr Barry Roderick then questioned the iwi relationships with Hawkes Bay. Ngahi could not comment on Ngāti Kahungunu of Hawke's Bay but understood them to be very peaceful people.

15.9 Cr Murray Ferris questioned what might occur if the Hawke's Bay and Eastern merger was considered the best fit for our licence holders, but the iwi groups didn't concur, would this mean the Minister would not support this? Ngahi believed that the process with iwi would be tough but had faith in our new CE to help foster working relationships.

15.10 Cr Alan Simmons came back to Fish & Game because of support from anglers unhappy about the process. While the merger of regions was not of great importance to them, the proposed voting and appointment structure is going to be the big issue. After consultation with several anglers and organisations such as the Federation of Freshwater anglers he said it is their preference to see Eastern stand alone or to work with the Hawke's Bay region. He was concerned about how little involvement the ordinary angler has had in this process and the unhelpful rumours surfacing as a result. Alan supported Eastern as a standalone region and the option for merging with Hawke's Bay. Cr Ngahi Bidois confirmed that everyone, anglers included, would have opportunity to give feedback on the proposals. Cr Murray Ferris had also had comments from anglers and advised it's our role to minimise the options to be put back in front of licence holders.

15.11 Cr Lindsay Lyons said we need to bear in mind that next year is an election and the mandate for the National Party was to change the whole of Fish and Game putting the organisation under a Sports Federation of New Zealand. Lindsay believed we needed to get things into place to demonstrate that we are willing to change and see that change through now.

15.12 Cr Ngahi Bidois commented on the discussion of chairs who noted that Ngahi was new to his role, Eastern had just appointed a new CEO, and Eastern has a good team so should be given a bit of space to move forward.

15.13 Matthew McDougall asked whether the numbers have been done for the various merger proposals, in terms of overheads and cost savings? Cr Debbie Oakley advised that the

review was primarily about governance, there was no expectation to see immediate changes on the ground. Matthew felt that the duplication of costs would be one of the key things that the New Zealand Council should be considering when determining the number of regions there should be. Debbie confirmed that there will be zero budgeting meaning starting from scratch. Carmel Veitch understood that the Hunt report had utilised figures from annual reports and amalgamated them, there had been no consideration of additional costs or cost savings. She said there will be new expenses associated with paying Governors and travel expenses are likely to be higher, there had also been no consideration if offices will close for example. Andy Garrick agreed there has been a glaring omission in the analysis to date in that there has been no in-depth analysis of financial implications or logistical implications of the various merger options. The Hunt report focuses on two criteria - current activity levels and current licence revenue, both of which could change in the future. What happens if the canal fisheries collapse, what about the effects of global warming on habitats and resources, there is going to be change, we need to be looking into the future. This is why he had suggested that one of the critical things we do before debating structural changes was to agree on what the principal criteria should be to evaluate the merits of the various amalgamation options.

- 15.14 Cr Ken Coombes believes that Eastern is a good region that runs on its own, why should we change something that is not broken.
- 15.15 Cr Jay Tapsell said it was still early in the process and a lot of consultation was yet to occur.
- 15.16 Cr Mark Sceats felt that it was good to get that seventh region option whether it is to be Eastern stand alone or merging with Hawke's Bay. He said there were a lot of pros for the merger with Hawke's Bay as set out in feedback document put together by Andy Garrick and Kate Thompson in December last year.
- 15.17 Cr Mike Jarvie thoughts are initially for Eastern region to stand alone and if required bring in Hawke's Bay. That option makes sense because they are right beside each other, have worked together before, and boundaries haven't changed.
- 15.18 Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the floor for comments from the Public.
- 15.19 Barry Roderick always felt Eastern should go with Hawke's Bay, we use to work with them, had personality issues at governor level but we had a good relationship with staff, it's a natural fit.
- 15.20 Matt McDougall's final comment was that he was surprised we were not doing the basics first, in terms of financial and logistical implications. Personally, he had no issue with working with any of the other regions.
- 15.21 Agreed (Mark Sceats/Alan Simmons) that at this juncture, subject to consultation with the public at large, it is our preference for Eastern region to stand alone but if we are to amalgamate then it should be with the Hawke's Bay region. [22/06/15.21]**
- 15.22 Council also believed that the potential financial implications needed to be well understood before any final decisions were made.

- 15.23 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Carmel Veitch and Cr Debbie Oakley and for all of the work they have been doing behind the scenes and acknowledged Debbie for representing the Region very finely at the national level.
- 15.24 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked about the offer of the Hawke's Bay Council meeting with Council at some stage? Cr Ngahi Bidois felt that we have heard through Lindsay some of the views of the Hawke's Bay Council and our position is going to go to the Implementation Steering Group and following that anything that happens will be a matter of consultation.
- 15.25 Andy Garrick advised that the next stage is to communicate this Council's resolution back to the Steering Group and it would be beneficial to advance the reasons why Councillors decided it's in the best interest of licence holders of the future for Eastern to stay on it's own, why it's not a good idea to merge with Auckland Waikato/Northland, and why merging with Hawke's Bay is a secondary consideration.
- 15.26 Cr Debbie Oakley suggested that Arash Alaeinia could put together a background document to support the Council's view utilising some of the information already on hand and submitted by Andy Garrick and Kate Thompson. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested that the Executive could also contribute as necessary.

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16.1 Cr Mike Jarvie wished to acknowledge Anthony Van Dorp for his work and preparation of the submission he had prepared for proposals under Arms Act. He felt it was very clear, concise and to the point.
- 16.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked if Council could meet an hour earlier if we have a large agenda such as today's. After much discussion it was agreed that future meetings would start at 11.00am, lunch at 12.30 for half hour, and close at 2.30pm unless the agenda requires an extension of time.
- 16.3 While we acknowledged Andy Garrick's contribution to Fish & Game prior to lunch, Cr Debbie Oakley wished to have it officially minuted Council's thanks to Andy for his service to Fish & Game. Cr Ngahi Bidois also wanted to minute that we welcome Arash to Fish & Game and we look forward to working with him as a Council.

17.0 MEETING CLOSED

- 17.1 The meeting closed at 3.26pm with a closing karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.



Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Debbie Oakley) that the apologies for the 196th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/06/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 APRIL 2022)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [22/06/3.1]*

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 8.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/06/8.2]*
- 8.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for March and April 2022 totalling \$212,442.08. [22/06/8.4]*
- 8.5 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the request for a new credit card facility to be applied for in the name of Arash Alaeinia, Chief Executive, with an approved spending limit of \$3,000. [22/06/8.5]*
- 8.6 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council approves the replacement of Andy Garrick with Arash Alaeinia, Chief Executive as signatory to Westpac and Bank of New Zealand bank accounts. [22/06/8.6]*
- 8.7 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the other signatories to the Westpac and Bank of New Zealand bank accounts being Kate Thompson, Office Manager, Nerida Evans, Office Administrator, and Carmel Veitch, Accountant. [22/06/8.7]*
- 8.8 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Jay Tapsell) that the signing rules for the Council's bank accounts and online banking facilities will comprise a combination of any two of the named signatories. All signatories will, however, be authorised to make enquiries on bank accounts and term investments independently. [22/06/8.8]*
- 8.14 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports the establishment of a 'Dedicated Reserve' for Ballot Holder Habitat Fees to ensure that unspent funds from one season are earmarked for habitat works in future seasons. [22/06/8.14]*

9.0 2022-23 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 9.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the second draft of the 2022-23 Operational Work Plan subject to the proposed amendment to the 'Increasing Revenue' priority detailed above, and approves its circulation to other parties for comment. [20/06/9.3]*

10.0 2022-2023 LICENCE FEES

- 10.5 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mark Sceats) that Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2022-2023 of \$145 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing Licence, and \$107 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Season Game licence (which includes \$5 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust), with proportional changes to remaining licence fee categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon endorsement. [22/06/10.5] Motion passed 4 in favour 3 against and 3 abstained. Crs Alan Simmons and Lindsay Lyons asked for their vote against this motion to be recorded.*
- 10.8 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the NZC's proposal to draw \$500,000 from regional reserves to fund the implementation of the Ministerial Review. [22/06/10.8] Motion passed 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstained.*
- 10.9 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Mike Jarvie) that Council requests that the New Zealand Council write to Penny Nelson, Director-General of the Department of Conservation seeking funding*

- for the ongoing costs relating to the implementation of the Fish and Game Governance Review which we understand to be in the order of \$500,000. [22/06/10.9]*
- 10.12** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Kevin Coutts) that Council does not support the NZC's proposal to increase the non-resident licence fee to \$250 for the 2022-2023 Season and recommends that this proposal is reviewed by the licence working group to determine potential impacts on revenue before an increase of this level is considered. [22/06/10.12]*
- 10.15** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Kevin Coutts) that Council does not support the NZC's proposal to introduce a Designated Waters Licence available as a free season endorsement for resident anglers and as a day licence costing \$50 for non-resident anglers; and does not have any Eastern region waterways if wishes to recommend be classified as a Designated Water for the 2022-2023 Season. [22/06/10.15]*
- 11.0** **ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**
- 11.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council confirms its recommendations relating to the 2022-2023 Anglers Notice made at its April meeting and approves these being forwarded to the New Zealand Council office for communication to the Minister of Conservation. In doing so this concludes the Anglers Notice Review process for the 2022-2023 Season. [22/06/11.2]*
- 12.0** **SENSITIVE EXPENDITURE POLICY UPDATE**
- 12.2** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Mark Sceats) that Council approves the 2022 Sensitive Expenditure Policy update including the two further changes noted above relating to reference to the New Zealand Council, and reimbursement of expenses to the New Zealand Council Chair. [22/06/12.2]*
- 14.0** **PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**
- 14.1** *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Ken Coombes) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.05pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to approve draft meeting minutes and analyse structural review options for the Eastern Fish & Game Council. [22/06/14.1]*
- 14.2** *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Murray Ferris) that Council moves the planned discussion on the structural review options for Eastern Fish and Game Council out of Public Excluded to the full public meeting. [22/06/14.2]*
- 14.3** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.15 pm. [22/06/14.3]*
- 14.4** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Jay Tapsell) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.16pm. [22/06/14.4]*
- 15.0** **STRUCTURAL REVIEW**
- 15.5** *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Lindsay Lyons) that Council extends the meeting end time to 3.30pm. [22/06/15.5]*
- 15.21** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Alan Simmons) that at this juncture, subject to consultation with the public at large, it is our preference for Eastern region to stand alone but if we are to amalgamate then it should be with the Hawke's Bay region. [22/06/15.21]*

