

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME
FARM ON TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017 AT 6.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Venman (Manager), Nathan Burkepile (Hawke's Bay Fish and Game staff), Glenis Phillips (minute taker)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Steve Perfect, Bob Spain, Red Hooper (Hastings Anglers Club), Lindsay Morris and Blair Slavin.

INTRODUCTION:

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Williams opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed the members of the public and guest - Mr Don Rood, Communications Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council, Wellington.

Cr Williams advised Councillors that this meeting will be recorded.

2.0 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Cr Lumsden. John's father passed away on Friday and the Council held a minute's silence in respect. Apology received from Christine Tuck (Hawkes Bay Fish and Game staff). No apology was received from Cr McIntosh.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 April 2017)

AGREED

- 3.1** *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 are a true and correct record. [17/06/3.1]*

Bates/Niblett

4.0 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING (1 May 2017)

AGREED

- 4.1** *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Monday, 1 May 2017 are a true and correct record. [17/06/4.1]*

Bates/Niblett

At this point Council asked Mark where he was at with the Wildlife Fund. Mark told Council that he was currently in discussions with Nathan and some ideas will be presented at the August council meeting.

Mark indicated that staff were looking to apply for funding from the Game Bird Habitat Trust to build an educational wetland in the neighbouring paddock here at the Game Farm. However, we need to know whether we are successful first. If a wetland can be formed, then we can look at what educational things we may need that could be funded by the Wildlife Fund.

Council expressed that the fund was available to be spent on suitable projects.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

Nothing was tabled.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

It was expressed by Council that it is time to start thinking about the number of councillors required at the next election.

A quick discussion started regarding the signing of the Conflict of Interest register. The question was asked – “is it a general rule that everybody sign?” The Chairman made the call that this will be discussed further in General Business.

The Chairman stated that Don Rood, Communications Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council Wellington was going to talk at this meeting about what is happening in the communications area and this will be covered at the beginning of General Business (16).

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Conflict of Interest Register was passed around and no conflicts of interest were identified.

8.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-2018 OWP

Mark stated that following on from the last meeting, a couple of changes have been made to the Operational Work Plan as shown in the Papers for Information.

1. Mark explained that a small section had been added about promoting predator control on existing and future habitat. He added that staff would also apply for funding from at least one external source for predator control.
2. The other change that was made was on angler and hunter training. Mark explained that a number of performance measures had been added so that we could track how well we are doing with juniors and getting juniors involved in hunting. These performance measures include:
 - hold at least one game bird hunting workshop
 - organise at least one youth shoot at a game preserve and ensure one forestry block available for game hunting
 - organise a paradise shelduck shoot for juniors
 - organise at least 3 separate ballots for novice hunters

Carmel has also prepared an update in terms of the changes between last year's workplan and this year's document.

The Chairman asked Council if there was any further discussion on the OWP.

Council asked Mark what the process was from this point. Mark explained that the two main changes were following on from feedback received at the April meeting and added that comments on increased compliance activities had already been incorporated in the draft OWP. Mark said that he was seeking feedback at this stage before circulating a draft to the various clubs and interested parties for comment by the end of July so that it could get signed off at the next Council meeting in August.

Mark then asked Council if there were any thoughts or comments on the juniors or anything else in the draft OWP that they wished to know. Council were happy with what was proposed for the Juniors.

Mark also informed Council that what we have proposed is achievable and the performance measures are an incentive for us to plan them earlier and get the work done. He believes that this ties us into trying to do all of those things and if we do more, then that is a bonus.

Mark also asked Council if they were happy for it to be circulated wider to get some more feedback and then at the August meeting to report back any changes or suggestions, and then sign it off for the 2017/18 season.

AGREED

8.1 *That Council reviews the draft 2017-18 OWP and identifies amendments or issues needing to be addressed prior to circulating the draft more widely. [17/06/8.1]*

Bates/Niblett

8.2 *That Council circulates a revised draft, with any amendment required to interested parties to comment on before final consideration and approval of the plan at the August meeting. [17/06/8.2]*

Bates/Niblett

9.0 2017-2018 LICENCE FEES

At the NZ Council meeting on 19th May 2017 the NZ Council considered licence fee recommendations for the coming 2017/2018 fishing and hunting seasons, and the licence fees are -

- Fish Licence has gone up by \$2.00 - \$127 (including gst) - adult full season
- Game Bird Licence up by \$1.00 - \$94 - (including \$3 to The Habitat Trust)

Mark commented that there is a supporting paper that Alison Lyall did that is in the agenda summarising general discussions held at the last managers meeting regarding what was funded and what wasn't, and a bit of background as to why they were proposing an increase.

AGREED

9.1 *That the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fee for the 2017/2018 season of \$127 (AWS Fish) and \$94 (AWS Game, inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp). [17/06/9.1]*

Duley/Bates

10.0 2017-2018 ANGLER NOTICE

Mark reported to Council that following on from the April Council meeting where the four submissions were discussed, that no new submissions had been received.

Mark mentioned that he had spoken with Robert Sowman regarding this region pushing for a ban on the use of treble hooks. Robert suggested putting forward a proper paper to NZ

Council that would go out to all regions for comment. Mark added that Robert needs the regulation details by the end of June and so it is not worth trying to rush something through for the 2017/18 season. We will get a paper out to all regions, signed by the Chairman, to get feedback and see whether we can get a change to Schedule 1 of the regulations.

At the last meeting, we spoke about minimum and maximum size limits and the need to do more drift dives and more monitoring and so no new size limits are proposed for the 2017/18 season. In terms of changing the headwaters to fly fishing only, Councillors reinforced that they wanted to undertake more monitoring and compliance before recommending any changes to the regulations.

Council discussed treble hooks under Schedule 1 and asked whether that can apply only to trout as opposed to including salmon. If it doesn't apply to all regions then it will be very difficult to make a change.

Mark said we have a good plan for monitoring next year and will know more in a year's time.

AGREED

10.1 *That Council considers and approves and Anglers Notice for the 2017-2018 year [17/06/10.1]*

Hern/Mackie

11.0 THEFT AND FRAUD POLICY

At previous meetings, it was resolved to look at our governance policies. The Chairman talked about what the NZ Council has come up with recently in terms of a Theft & Fraud Policy and Mark has put this forward to Council to have a look at.

Mark said that the version included in the agenda was the one that came from NZ Council. Mark has since redrafted a new version to take into account the regional changes. The last revision of this particular policy for the Hawkes Bay dates back to 2007.

Mark told Council that he has amalgamated both versions and will circulate the draft to Councillors for comment. Councillors decided that we would review governance policies at future meetings.

The Chairman let Council know that one of the NZ Councillors has put some suggestions through for audit functions and we could relate to having those as governance policies. These included: -

- InsuranceHealth and Safety
- Theft and Fraud Policy
- Data and asset security
- Staff; Employment contracts, employment appraisals, training and personal development
- Delegations
- Remuneration

We really do not have a staff policy so a lot of this could be discussed. Mark commented that a lot of these potential policies should be discussed at NZ Council and then filtered down to the regions for them to amend and adopt so that we are not reinventing the wheel

and ensuring some consistency. We should be trying to align ourselves with NZ Council policies.

Mark will circulate what he has done to the Theft and Fraud Policy. Reviewing existing policies may just involve some minor updates. The Council discussed a Repairs policy and suggested that it was timely to review it.

12.0 REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON AND NZC APPOINTEE

At Council's November 2016 meeting, it was agreed that Cr Williams continue in his current role as NZ Council appointee and become the new Chairperson for a trial period of 6 months, with a review undertaken after this period. A period of 6 months has now elapsed and Councillor Niblett asked for a review to be an agenda item at the June 2017 Council meeting.

Robust discussion took place with the majority of Council member's preference being two people i.e. one as Chairman, and the other as NZ Council appointee.

Council discussed the options and Councillors Bates and Lumsden were discussed as possible new Chairmen. Cr Niblett nominated Cr Bates as Chairman.

Cr Williams expressed he was happy to continue in the role as New Zealand Council Appointee and Chairman. He said that as of now we have a new Council of which we probably do not have enough Councillors, a new Regional Manager who needs the help and guidance of the Chairman and sees that continuing as Chairman for another six months would be helpful in this current situation. Mark said to Council that he still had a lot to learn and added that he was looking for some consistency and stability.

All Councillors expressed their own personal view and opinions as to what they felt would be best for the Fish and Game Council overall.

Council indicated six months ago that it would be preferable to have a separate Chairperson and a separate NZ Council appointee. Cr Williams at the time was the only one that was prepared to take on the Chairman's job and he did not want to relinquish the NZ Council job.

In summary Council members decided that they now have an opportunity to go back to what their preference was at the November 2016 Council meeting and Cr Niblett put forward a motion that Cr Bates becomes the new Chairman. The Councillors then voted.

AGREED

12.1 *That Cr Bates become the new Chairman and Cr Williams remains as the NZ Council Appointee. [17/06/12.1]*

Niblett/Hern

Cr Williams stepped down as Chairman and Cr Bates continued as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

13.0 EVALUATION OF COUNCIL

Councillors were issued assessment forms at the extraordinary meeting held 1 May 2017 and the Cr Williams was asked to report on the results which are as follows: -

- Cr Williams stated there were some areas where we are falling down and one of the areas he thought was rather concerning was "*Financial statements are ensured to be true and fair*".
- The second area of concern identified by Cr Williams was, "*Confidential information is well managed and not disclosed to others*". Three Councillors voted "unsatisfactory" and one voted "totally unsatisfactory" and so we should address this area as well.
- The "*Annual appraisal of the managers performance reviewed with recommendations actioned*". This was rated very low but can easily be addressed.
- Council agreed to review the Manager's performance annually after a period of 12 months has elapsed.

Mark talked about some of the averages scoring under 3 "satisfactory" and suggested these could perhaps be the ones that need to be looked at and which require immediate attention. He also asked how were the results interpreted. Is it something that should be done on a regular basis? He pointed out that it is all very well and good to have these results but what are you going to do with them.

14.0 LIASON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board

Nothing tabled.

14.2 Reports from other Agencies

Nothing tabled.

14.3 Reports from the NZ Council

Council asked Cr Williams if Robert Sowman prepares a bullet point meeting summary after each NZ Council meeting and Cr Williams responded by saying that Robert has only just started to produce an informal outline of what was discussed at the meeting. He pointed out to Council that they are not minutes and cannot be taken as minutes – they are just an informal summary.

Council commented that they approved of the summary being attached to the agenda for them to read prior to the Council meeting and hoped that Robert continued to provide a summary of future NZ Council meetings.

Discussion took place around the timeline for the appointment of the new Chief Executive to replace the retiring Bryce Johnson. There is a short list and NZ Council will make the decision through the executive committee.

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 Management Report

The two juvenile trout in Maraetotara Stream were caught and seemed to be in good condition. They were wild fish and they were at Taurapa Station. Two adult brown trout

were also spotted. Staff plan to undertake some spawning counts over the next couple of months to identify key areas of spawning in this stream.

Mark informed Council that some of the existing rangers have been getting out on the rivers checking game bird hunters and have seized a couple of shotguns after encountering hunters hunting without licences. These offenders have all paid their reparation of \$350 within 4 weeks; a quick turnaround. Discussion on this took place and Council were not sure about the fines. The Council did not think it was a great enough deterrent and felt that the fines need to be a higher. Mark pointed out the biggest deterrent would be losing the shotgun even for 3-4 weeks during the season. We cannot confiscate the firearm permanently. Forfeiture has to go through the Courts. Robust discussion took place around reparation.

Steve Perfect asked a question regarding Lake Tutira and funding already received by the Maungaharuru Tangitu Trust. Mark said that money received by MTT is going alongside the funding that they have asked for along with the Regional Council. Collectively, they have asked for over \$1 M and they have committed the previous funding received to boost that as well. Hopefully we will hear in the next couple of months whether that funding is approved but it is certainly encouraging to see what is proposed and for us to piggy-back on that is the best way to get any quick fix at Lake Tutira.

Cr Williams passed comment to Council regarding what a fantastic job has been done on this report. Things are getting done and a lot of work has gone into this report. A big thank you to the Manager.

Discussion around the Kennels Gun Club and the training days. Nathan informed Council things are just at the planning stage. Letters have not been done yet, but they will be sent out to all clubs this winter, ready for summer.

Tabled and accepted.

15.3 Finance Report

Mark reported that licence sales are slightly behind this year - \$493,002 this year compared to \$513,393 last year, total value. It was a slow start to the fishing season this year after many of the rivers and streams were flooded during October 2016. **AGREED**

15.3.1 *That Council approves the following payments:*

<i>March 2017</i>	<i>\$47,809.61</i>
<i>April 2017</i>	<i>\$33,382.75</i>
<i>Total to approve</i>	<i>\$81,192.36</i>

Duley/Mackie

15.4 Licence Report

Mark let Councillors know that the table on page 69 was still fairly accurate with only a few sales made since the table was created in the Adult Day category. Tabled and accepted.

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Don Rood spoke to the Council and gave a quick overview of what was happening at present.

He stated that the biggest thing facing Fish and Game as a national organisation and the regions as well, is the removal of non-toxic sub-gauge lead for sub gauge shotguns which will be phased out over the next 4 years. We are getting quite a lot of push back and there seems to be a little bit of disconnect between Fish and Game and licence holders.

Councillors and members of the public had a robust discussion on this subject.

Council moved on to discuss the Conflict of Interest Register. The question was raised by Cr Duley as to "do we have to sign it every time, and is there actually a Policy on it?". It was decided that further discussion is required and this is to be put on the August Agenda.

Councillor numbers. The question was raised as to how did this happen last time. Do we in fact need a paper or do we just vote on it again. This topic was also to be included in the August Agenda.

Nathan informed Councillors about what is happening with the Waitangi Shooters Association. The Shooters Association lease is an illegal lease so the Hawkes Bay Regional Council has decided that Fish and Game will work with Waitangi Association to make it legal. We are still working through this with the Regional Council and a letter will be going out within the next few months.

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION


There was no public excluded session this meeting.

18.0 MEETING

There being no further business to attend to, the meeting closed at 8.07pm.

CONFIRMED

Date: 8/ 8 /2017



CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 April 2017)

- 3.1 *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 are a true and correct record. [17/06/3.1]*

Bates/Niblett

4.0 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING (1 May 2017)

- 4.1 *That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council held on Monday, 1 May 2017 are a true and correct record. [17/06/4.1]*

Bates/Niblett

8.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-2018 OWP

- 8.1 *That Council reviews the draft 2017-18 OWP and identifies amendments or issues needing to be addressed prior to circulating the draft more widely. [17/06/8.1]*

Bates/Niblett

- 8.2 *That Council circulates a revised draft, with any amendment required to interested parties to comment on before final consideration and approval of the plan at the August meeting. [17/06/8.2]*

Bates/Niblett

9.0 2017-2018 LICENCE FEES

- 9.1 *That the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fee for the 2017/2018 season of \$127 (AWS Fish) and \$94 (AWS Game, inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp). [17/06/9.1]*

Duley/Bates

10.0 2017-2018 ANGLER NOTICE

- 10.1 *That Council considers and approves and Anglers Notice for the 2017-2018 year [17/06/10.1]*

Hern/Mackie

12.0 REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON AND NZC APPOINTEE

- 12.1 *That Cr Bates become the new Chairman and Cr Williams remains as the NZ Council Appointee. [17/06/12.1]*

Niblett/Hern

15.3 Finance Report

15.3.1 *That Council approves the following payments:*

<i>March 2017</i>	<i>\$47,809.61</i>
<i>April 2017</i>	<i>\$33,382.75</i>
<i>Total to approve</i>	<i>\$81,192.36</i>

Duley/Mackie