

**MINUTES OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE ON MONDAY 16 MAY 2022 AT 6:00PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors Bates (Chairman) , Lumsden, Bowcock, Mackay, Newton, Slavin (Callum),  
Slavin (Blair), Williams, Niblett, Melville

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jesse Friedlander (Regional Manager), Sam Robinson (Governance Advisor)

**1 Welcome (6.00 PM)**

Cr. Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those in attendance that the meeting would be recorded.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies received from Cr. Duley

**3 Conflict of Interest Register**

Cr. Newton declared a conflict of interest as his name had been put forward as an option as interim manager at the previous informal meeting. Cr. Newton queried whether Council would like him to stay in the meeting and if so, if he should participate. There was general agreement that it would be beneficial for Cr. Newton to remain in the meeting and participate.

**4 Arrangements for interim management of Hawke's Bay Fish and Game**

Council had previously discussed interim management arrangements for Hawke's Bay Fish and Game. Cr. Bates has also written a paper on potential options. These include:

1. Advertise for a replacement manager. This could take up to two months and if successful leaves little flexibility for any potential merger, it would be difficult to employ someone with so much uncertainty around amalgamation
2. Wellington region provides management support. This option provides a seamless transition for staff and our current work schedule. This option could show how a future amalgamation may work.
3. A temporary manager is employed during amalgamation discussions. Councillor Chris Newton's name was put forward as a part time temporary manager.

Cr. Bowcock queried whether employing Cr. Newton as an interim manager was legal. This has been done before by the HBF&GC and NZC but was brought up in the HBF&GC audit. This is a perfectly legal arrangement and Cr. Newton would temporarily step down as a

Councillor while undertaking the role of interim manager. This would negate any perceived conflicts of interest.

Discussion centred around whether Cr. Newton should remain as a Councillor while interim manager. Cr. Newton stated that he would be more comfortable temporarily stepping down from his role as Councillor on the proviso that he could take up his role as governor once the management role had finished. Sam Robinson agreed that this would be the best approach.

CR. Bates has spoken to the Manager and Chair of Wellington F&GC. They were understanding of the fact that HBF&GC may want to keep their own manager as an interim solution rather than proceeding with management from Wellington prior to amalgamations.

Cr. Bowcock queried Cr. Newton on his role as Chair of the Turangi Trout Centre. The role does not take up too much time and Cr. Newton would cut back his other voluntary work to allow time for this role.

***That Chris Newton be appointed by the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council as Interim Manager for an undetermined period of time.***

***Williams/Slavin (Blair)***

Cr. Newton will spend two days in the office this week with Jesse as a handover.


The employment committee (made up of Crs. Bowcock, Melville and Bates) will meet with Cr. Newton and make arrangements for employment. The committee will report back to Council for its June meeting.

#### **5. Allowing council to start discussions with Wellington and Taranaki councils around potential amalgamation options**

Cr. Bates suggested that Council resolve to make arrangements for a meeting between the HBF&G, Taranaki and Wellington Councils in order to discuss the likely future amalgamation of regions.

Discussion centred around the need for Council to discuss the report on amalgamation options fully at a meeting of council before meeting with the other councils. It was decided to leave this until the June meeting.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6:45pm.**



**Bruce Bates – Chairman**



**Date**