**TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2020 COMMENCING AT 7:00PM.

In the absence of the Chairman, Paul Blewman, the Manager, Glenn Maclean, called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

The Manager noted that due to the restrictions placed on us by Level 4 – COVID-19 the Government has made changes to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 which enables Council to move motions and accept resolutions for this teleconference meeting.

**RATIFICATION OF ACTING CHAIRMAN IN PAUL BLEWMANS ABSENCE**

MOVED BRIGHT / NANCARROW

THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR CHRIS DONALD ASSUME THE CHAIR FOR THIS MEETING

CARRIED

**1. PRESENT**

Councillors Alan Flynn, Romon Sargeson, Cory Potroz, David Potroz, Chris Donald, John Nancarrow, Gerard Karalus, Daniel Gordon, Chris Bright, Craig McEwen and Steve Hugo.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Manager Glenn Maclean, Senior Field Officer and Secretary Jilli Steedman.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Paul Blewman.

MOVED BRIGHT / NANCARROW

THAT THE APOLOGIES RECEIVED BE SUSTAINED

CARRIED

**3. CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR 2020 GAMEBIRD SEASON**

The manager noted the necessity to hold a meeting at very short notice to specifically address a paper received from National Office regarding possible options for a 2020 Gamebird season during the current COVID-19 response. This paper has been sent to all regions for consultation under urgency.

There was lengthy discussion on options Fish and Game could consider. Given the rapidly changing circumstances and immediate uncertainty around when Alert Level 4 might be reduced to Level 3, and also what Level 3 might mean for hunters and hunting opportunity, then Councillors considered retaining the status quo at this point was the preferred option. However if no hunting was possible anywhere in NZ until after Opening Weekend then it was suggested that it may be appropriate to review options at this time. It was noted that under Alert level 3 there was likely that some landowners would be uncomfortable about allowing access and there was general support for promoting a second ‘opening weekend’ later in the season when things had hopefully settled somewhat.

Councillors also requested that information to hunters provide helpful guidance regarding how to maintain social distancing and any other COVID-19 response requirements.

MOVED D POTROZ / FLYNN

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT;

1. THE 2020 GAMEBIRD SEASON PROGRESS AS GAZETTED
2. IF AFTER MAY 4TH ALL OF NZ REMAINS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 4 THEN EACH F&G COUNCIL MAY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS TO THE GAMEBIRD SEASON FOR EACH REGION
3. INFORMATION TO HUNTERS PROVIDE HELPFUL GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HUNT EFFECTIVELY, SAFELY AND CONSISTENT WITH ALERT LEVEL REQUIREMENTS.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUSLY

The acting chairman thanked all councillors for their participation in this meeting and thought that during the lockdown and leading up to the gamebird season that regular informal teleconference catchups should be held. Councillors supported that the Manager look into opening a ZOOM account to see if this would overcome some of the problems Councillors were having using the current teleconferencing tool.

**4. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm.

**APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

**CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**