

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

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After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

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Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time and effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

11. One Plan Update

Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

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Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

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Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

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It was moved that:

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Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time an effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

11. One Plan Update

Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

Mr Teal explained that there had been some difficulty in getting suitable experts prepared to act as technical experts that had the theoretical and practical technical knowledge, and prepared to present on agricultural industry issues.

Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

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Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

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A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

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4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

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interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

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As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

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Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

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WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

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4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

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There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time an effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

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Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

Mr Teal explained that there had been some difficulty in getting suitable experts prepared to act as technical experts that had the theoretical and practical technical knowledge, and prepared to present on agricultural industry issues.

Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

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It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

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It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

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It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

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Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

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Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

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The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

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Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

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It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

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Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

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Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
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Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koihiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time an effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

11. One Plan Update

Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

Mr Teal explained that there had been some difficulty in getting suitable experts prepared to act as technical experts that had the theoretical and practical technical knowledge, and prepared to present on agricultural industry issues.

Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore
Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore
Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock
Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

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There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

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WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

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HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

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Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

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It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time and effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

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Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

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Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

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Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

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It was then moved that

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Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

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Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

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The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

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It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

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Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

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Chairman _____ Date _____

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Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
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Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

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Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
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A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
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Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time and effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

11. One Plan Update

Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

Mr Teal explained that there had been some difficulty in getting suitable experts prepared to act as technical experts that had the theoretical and practical technical knowledge, and prepared to present on agricultural industry issues.

Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
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Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
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Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

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WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

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HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
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1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

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Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

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6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

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Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

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The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

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Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time an effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

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Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

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Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

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The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

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Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

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Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

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In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

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Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

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Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

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Chairman _____ Date _____

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A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 3.15PM AT THE PALMERSTON
NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 30 November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Richard Moore//Chris O'Meara

Carried

6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

Following a question from Councillor Duncan Thomas, Mr Teal clarified that the recommended limit for pheasants was unchanged from 2011/12 season - two cock birds per day per hunter.

Staff confirmed that following discussions with Ernslaw One staff that access for pheasant hunters would be for two months (until 26 June). It was noted that even though the sambar deer season was now open throughout the year, the forest was still balloted in an attempt to manage hunters. There were also plans to poison sites with ferratox within the forest from mid February to May.

7. New Zealand Council Business

Councillor Richard Moore presented an overview of the NZ Council meeting held on 3 February 2012.

He summarised that five guest speakers had attended the strategy workshop held in conjunction with the NZ F&G Council meeting:

1. Owen Cox (Federated Mountain Clubs) – discussed issues of access, commercial interests, water, DOC funding, and treaty implications;
2. Kay Booth (Chair of Conservation Authority) – lobbyist and advocate for recreation, had recently met with NZ Council CE;
3. Tony Ward-Holmes (Whitewater NZ) – Health & Safety implications from farmers;
4. Gary Taylor (EDS) – gave an overview of joint interests;
5. Mike Britton (Forest & Bird) – natural ally

Richard Thompson facilitated a session on strategic planning – covering the topics of building visions, RMA reforms, better inter-Council communication, potential more frequent Chairmen meetings, compliance goals.

The Department of Conservation representative discussed the reparation alternatives to infringement notices.

It was confirmed that Otago Council had reaffirmed their appointee, and that Otago Council’s appointee had also been sent a letter from NZ F&GC to abide by governance policy.

There was a motion to obtain information from Mai Chen on what instructions she had received from NZ Council regarding the CSI affair including (whom and when) and in particular instructions regarding lodging a complaint/report to the Ombudsman’s Office regarding CSI F&G Region.

Hamish Carnachan (Communications Manager, NZ Council) was thanked for his work in getting the new Fish & Game website on-line.

The Guide Licence was discussed with it noted that the Professional Fishing Guides Association are supportive of the NZ Council's approach agreed at the November 2011 meeting except using the Guides Licence as a restriction on guiding in certain areas. This had initially been proposed by West Coast appointee to deal with issues at a junior fishing area but it was resolved to remove that particular clause.

It was agreed that the Chairman send a letter to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how to deal with this issue.

There was still an issue of the penalty payment for late payment of levies for CSI region – which could be dealt with by leaving on the books as a liability for CSI region or reducing budget accordingly next year.

It was confirmed that the Chairman and CE had recently met with DOC officials to discuss relevant issues. The Chairman and CE had also met with their counterparts from Federated Farmers to discuss pertinent issues.

There were discussions on moving the meeting to starting on Saturday but was not pursued as it added significant costs for the meetings.

Councillor Andy Tannock asked for clarification as to the current status of the Mai Chen legal opinion on Conflicts of Interest and how they would be applied to NZ Councillors. This has not been released as NZF&G Councillor Bates had recently responded to her initial report in a right of reply, but she had not yet responded.

It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

Carried

8. Review of NZ F&G Council Appointee

Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

as research into mallard numbers. Councillor Tannock also reiterated that the aspirations of licenceholders were not being delivered on with the distractions at NZ F&G Council.

Chairman Taylor also said he did not want to see the divisions at NZC in Wellington and ask if any Councilor had been in touch with any other NZC about Wellington's representation on the NZC. Councillor Tim Allen acknowledged that he had been in contact with Mr Witherow.

Councillor Morris commented that although the appointee can vote as they see fit, it would be normal protocol to follow Wellington Council's views or positions. Chairman Taylor considered that NZ Council had two issues affecting the functionality on NZ Council yet to be resolved: issues around CSI region governance, and perceived or actual Conflicts of Interests. Councillor O'Meara considered that changing Wellington's appointee would make little difference.

It was then moved that

There be a call for nominations for Wellington's appointee to NZ Council

Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

Carried

Against the motion Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Martin Taylor

Nominations were called for the appointee to NZ F&G Council

Andrew Morris

Tim Allen/Andy Tannock

Richard Moore

Chris O'Meara/Martin Taylor

The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

Councillor Tannock expressed a vote of thanks to Councillor Moore for the representation and efforts he had given as NZ Councillor.

9. Draft Game Season Condition Recommendations

Staff presented the results of the trend counts undertaken in January for paradise shelduck and black swan.

Mr Pilkington gave an explanation of the results for black swan counts and noted that as per Council policy adopted in the November 2011 Council meeting:

- 1) a “normal” season for Wellington East of 2 - 3 birds over the duration of the waterfowl season; and
- 2) a “liberal” season for Wellington West of 3+ birds for the duration of the waterfowl season.

After discussion it was moved that

The season conditions for black swan be as per recommendation and policy being a three (3) bird limit for black swan for the duration of the waterfowl season (8 weeks) over the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook
Carried

Mr Pilkington provided an explanation of the results from the paradise shelduck counts noting that Lake Wairarapa was significantly lower – which potentially may have been affected by helicopter cull operations. Chairman Taylor noted that Council had to consider the trends and make an appropriate management response.

After discussion it was moved that

A ten (10) bird limit per day be adopted for the waterfowl season (8 weeks) and special season with a five(5) bird limit for a two-week period (3 weekends) in mid-February primarily to disperse the birds.

Andy Tannock/Duncan Thomas
Carried

Mr Pilkington noted that although he had counted an extra 100 ponds, he found only 20 additional birds. It was agreed that staff would continue to look for additional moult sites.

It was noted from the previous meeting that it was anticipated that hunting could take place on Game Preserves for the month of April for a two year trial. Discussion ensued on how this would be made possible this year as other regional F&GCs were potentially using differing approaches to enable this. It was noted that the start of the season is recognised as the first Saturday in May.

After discussion Mr Teal was requested to write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.

Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

10. Rangitikei River Access Update

In response to Councillor Allen's request, Mr Teal gave a brief overview of actions taken in the preceding year to resolve or investigate access restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This involved involving the Walking Access Commission to negotiate access agreements with NZ Defence as a primary action, and gather intelligence regarding changes to access arrangements in the area.

Councillor Allen considered as we are unlikely to change the situation we should not spend time an effort trying to improve public access to this river and that there was no legal requirement for any landholders (including NZ Defence) to allow access to anglers on their land.

Chairman Taylor considered the legislative basis for maximising recreational opportunities meant that Council should still continue to seek improved access. Chairman Taylor noted that Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) had responded to NZ F&G Council via letter which referred to designated camping areas – which required further clarification.

With the next meeting being in Wellington it was requested that Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.

11. One Plan Update

Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

Mr Teal explained that there had been some difficulty in getting suitable experts prepared to act as technical experts that had the theoretical and practical technical knowledge, and prepared to present on agricultural industry issues.

Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
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A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
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NORTH RSA MEETING ROOM, 200 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON
NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Jim Cook, Duncan Thomas, Tim Allen, Andrew Morris, Richard Moore, Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann (part)

Licence holders: Paul Brown, Mark Flaws

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington.

3. Apologies:

Councillors Mark Grace, Strato Cotsilinis, Brad Johnson

Staff: Corina Jordan, Nic Cudby

Licenceholders: Malcolm Francis, Reg Cull

It was moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest

A list was distributed for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests not already registered.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 30 November 2011:

After brief discussion it was moved that:

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6. Matters Arising:

Councillor Andrew Morris sought clarification as to whether an “oath of office” had been pursued by all appointees at NZ F&G Council meetings to abide by rules. Councillor Richard Moore indicated that it wasn’t a formal requirement and was optional/voluntary.

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It was then moved that

That the report from Councillor Moore on NZ Council Meeting held on 3 February 2012 be received

Chris O'Meara/Tim Allen

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Councillor Tim Allen commented that while Councillor Moore was doing a good job representing licenceholders interests, he considered the “us and them” mentality of factions in NZ Council was an unnecessary distraction. He considered that new blood could help refocus issues to core activities such

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Andy Tannock/Tim Allen

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The vote was taken by show of hands with 5 for Councillor Morris and 3 for Councillor Moore. Councillor Morris was confirmed as NZ F&G Council appointee and Mr Teal indicated he would inform NZF&G Council of the change.

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Councillor Neumann arrived at 5.00pm

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11. One Plan Update

Mr Teal noted that formal mediation had continued through until the end of October and considerable effort had been made to achieve outcomes that would avoid taking issues to the Environment Court. It was almost certain that aspects of the plan regarding sections of biodiversity, land use, and water quality will not be resolved and will be heard in March/April.

Mr Teal explained that there had been some difficulty in getting suitable experts prepared to act as technical experts that had the theoretical and practical technical knowledge, and prepared to present on agricultural industry issues.

Mr Teal noted that the recent announcement that Hawke's Bay, Horizons and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, and DOC to form a strategic alliance, only serves to highlight the importance of the precedent value of the One Plan.

The Environment Court has set the timetable for the Court Hearings (starting in March), as well as the expert causing and evidence exchange that are now standard practice prior to reaching Court. These timetables are tight which

has required our evidence to be prepared over the late December and early January period.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had responded to the Federated Farmers requests for legal and planners costs relating to mediation.

12. Audit Report

After discussion it was moved

To accept Audit Report by Cotton & Kelly for the Financial Year Ended 31 August 2011

Martin Taylor/Richard Moore

Carried

13. Fraud Policy

After the reviewing the previous 2006 policy on fraud, it was agreed that this form the basis of an updated policy and it was moved

That Wellington Fish & Game Policy on Fraud be adopted

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

14. Management Report 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012

It was requested that staff contact the landowner and new guide managing access to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) to seek clarification on arrangements made.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The management report for 19 November 2011 – 31 January 2012 be received.

Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock

Carried

15. Fish Licence Sales Report as at 27 January 2012

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of licence sales as at 27 January 2012. After discussion on overdue payments by licence agents, it was agreed that a hard line be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced

After brief discussion it was moved

It was then moved

The Fish Licence and Game Licence Sales report as at 27 January 2012 be received.

Duncan Thomas/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Brown and Mr Pilkington left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

Discussion ensued on the national and regional licence sales over the last two decades with possible trends and explanations provided.

16. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

After brief discussion it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2011 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2011 be approved

Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris

Carried

Mr Teal informed Council that there were computer hardware updates to the server and two laptops – confirming there was provision in the budget.

17. Correspondence/Media

A letter from Jim Hale of NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers was noted that acknowledged the effort involved and success of the children's fishing day in November 2011 at Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North. It was also noted that considerable positive media outcome had been achieved.

A letter was received by Alisatair McGregor noting his concerns for the Mangatoro River (tributary of the Manawatu River) and his request for a more conservative management approach. This would be dealt with in the fishing regulations review and considerations in June.

A Letter to the Editor in the Manawatu Standard by John Barrow regarding salmon and trout effects on native fisheries was briefly discussed.

After brief discussion it was moved

the Correspondence and media reports be received

Jim Cook/Richard Moore

Carried

18. General Business

Meeting Date Changes–

After discussion it was moved that

the following meeting dates be confirmed:

18 April Wellington – Upper Hutt

4 December Palmerston North (& AGM)

Tim Allen/Richard Moore

Carried

J K Donald Wetland

It was noted that the gate was locked on the access to JK Donald Wetland with it being inferred that this occurred due to concern of potential

interference of the helicopter goose cull. Potential actions were discussed including issuance of coded padlock, or a trail camera which could be managed by F&G and/or Paula Gillett – noting that the car registration numbers must match, and informing Spot-X that a more restrictive note be given for that access point.

Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.

Councillor Allen informed Council that he had spoken to DOC about spraying the willows in the wetland and that they had been positive after meeting with Nic Cudby. They were currently measuring up areas for spraying this year and it was agreed that Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time which was budgeted.

It had been reported that a causeway had been constructed between Matthews Lagoon and Boggy Pond and the culvert removed. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had offered to assist with this project but had not subsequently been approached.

The management of the weir was discussed with acknowledgement that a longer term structure or water diversion was required. While the weir boards have not been installed in December, there was high water levels reported throughout summer – which resulted in extensive waterfowl use. There was a request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.

Mr Teal confirmed that there were two sites being balloted for the Wairarapa area in mid February, along with several in Pukepuke Lagoon, Himatangi.

Fishing and Hunting Internet Forum

Councillor O'Meara had been made aware that comments had been made on an internet discussion group forum regarding decisions at a previous Council meeting. He considered that Councillor Allen had made what he regarded as derogatory comments on how Councillors had voted.

Chairman Taylor indicated that a decision had been made at that meeting where one resolution was lost and a subsequent resolution carried and accepted. Councillor Moore noted that Councillors should take collective responsibility for decisions made.

Councillor Neumann stated that it was a public meeting and as such could be reported so there was nothing wrong in that but was a 'style' issue. Chairman Taylor noted that no Council policy/rule on conduct had been broken but he would not expect Councillors to take an overly critical tone.

As there were no hard copies of the forum discussion and the exact details could not be ascertained, it was agreed to get a copy of this for the next meeting to allow the issue to be considered.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

Next Meeting to be held: to be confirmed, Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt, Wednesday 18 April 2012, at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

Actions from 7 February 2012 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Concluded
a letter be sent to NZF&GC Chairman to seek clarification whether the guide licence will preclude private capture as was intended and if so how deal with this issue.	Phil/Martin	Pending
inform NZF&G Council that Councillor Morris was confirmed as Wellington F&GC's NZ F&G Council appointee	Phil	Completed
write a letter to Rathmoy Game Preserve to encourage all hunters on Game Preserves to purchase a wholeseason licence.	Phil	Completed
Ric Cullinane (Operations Manager, Walking Access Commission) be invited to give an overview of progress made.	Phil	Completed
Seek clarification as to the designated camping sites referred to in a letter from Bruce Bates (for Ngamatea Station) to NZ F&G Council	Phil/Martin	Completed
seek clarification on arrangements to the Mangamaire River (a tributary in the Upper Rangitikei River) from the landowner and new guide managing access	Phil/Steve	Pending
Inform licence agents that reduced tolerance would be taken for all overdue payments and that a 2% monthly penalty payment be enforced	Phil	Completed
Staff were requested to contact Paula Gillett to get facts on the access restriction and make an offer of trail camera which would be put in prior to the season until the end of the season.	Phil/Nic	Completed
Fish & Game reaffirm an offer of provision of spray and helicopter time to spray willow in the JK Donald Wetland	Phil	Completed
Consider and action request to install the weir boards with a view to maintain water levels from February until May.	Phil/Nic	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action		Responsibility	Concluded
Distribute timetable for the 2012 Fish & Game elections to Councillors (and website) once this was known	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Investigate branded clothing options such as jackets that Councillors could use when representing Council.	November 2011	Phil	Completed
Staff to seek clarification for access to Waiterere and Santoft forests for duration of game season	October 2011	Phil/Steve	Completed
Mr Teal to maintain a list of contact details that could be given to landholders of licenceholders willing to assist in reducing Canada goose nuisance events	October 2011	Phil	Underway
Seek a meeting with DOC Area Manager Wairarapa to discuss strategic management issues.	October 2011	Phil	Pending/Alternative
Offer to be made for Wellington Fish & Game Council's assistance in dealing with oiled wildlife near Tauranga	October 2011	Phil	Pending
A report on current stand tenure at Lake Koiitiata be developed to be able to consider request for extension of tenure.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
Discuss with hunters and Greater Wellington Regional Council options for lake management in general and around the duck hunting season in	August 2011	Phil	Pending

particular			
Hunters that had previously been involved in organised goose hunts would be contacted with the option to initiate contact with Mr Fred Kent as a willing organiser.	August 2011	Phil	Completed
A sub-committee of staff and Councillors Tannock, Neumann, Morris and Allen to meet to discuss research strategy and projects for mallard management.	August 2011	Phil	Pending
A letter be sent to NZ Fish & Game Council asking for their involvement in undertaking a substantive critique of the research paper Surface Water Allocation (NZ) and Retention of Adequate Flows to Protect Salmonids and its implications for (mis)use in the resource management forum.	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate DoC Masterton being a potential site for hunters to pick up a key for Kilmore Lodge	June 2011	Phil	Not Completed
Investigate opportunities to provide weekly roundups on radio shows	June 2011	Phil	Partially completed
Lake Wairarapa Management Committee to meet, and start communicating with permitted hunters	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A letter be sent to Councillor Laidlaw seeking his position on the issue of Reserve Management and activities (including retention of hunting and fishing)	June 2011	Phil /Martin	Not Completed
A formal letter be sent to Rathmoy Game Preserve outlining the deadlines and issues regarding transparency	June 2011	Phil	Completed
A detailed brief to be prepared that identifies research in the factors affecting duck populations , and hunter participation including social aspects, and aspirations;	April 2011	Phil	Completed
Further information be sought on numbers of Australasian harriers in NZ since their increased protection in 1986	April 2011	Phil	Pending
Establish precise potential landing sites, camping sites and potential beats on the Upper Rangitikei River Staff and Councillor (Cotsilinis) to fly the river and establish potential beats.	April 2011	Phil	Pending