

**UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND EASTERN REGION OFFICE, ROTORUA
26TH NOVEMBER 2014**

Present

Crs Murray Ferris (Chairman), Lindsay Lyons, Michael Little, Neal Hawes, Barry Roderick, Terry Wood, Terry Sutton, Steve Luscombe.

In Attendance

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Anthony van Dorp, Lloyd Gledhill, Mark Sherburn, Matt McDougall, Lynne Sands, Eben Herbert, Nigel Simpson, Carmel Veitch (F&GNZ); Colin Paton, Ray Bushell, Maurice Mitchell.

1.0 Welcome

The Council Chair, Cr Murray Ferris, opened the meeting at 4.00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

2.0 Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Steve Scragg, Peter Storey, Annaka Davis, and Laurence Allingham; and Brian Sampson.

2.2 *Agreed (Terry Wood/Steve Luscombe) that the apologies for the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council are sustained.*

3.0 Report from the previous Annual General Meeting (27 November 2013)

3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Terry Wood) that the report of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 November 2013 be confirmed as true and correct.*

4.0 Matters Arising from the previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2013.

5.0 2013-2014 Annual Report

5.1 *Audit:* Murray Ferris reported to Council and staff that Eastern Fish & Game Region had again received a favourable audit, and read the Audit Management Letter to those present.

5.2 *Operational Highlights:* Andy Garrick (Regional Manager) advised that customarily the manager provides an overview of the Annual Report and key achievements for the year, but given that he had not taken office until after the year had concluded, he felt it was more appropriate for the staff involved to provide a summary of highlights in their respective areas of interest.

5.2.1 Mark Sherburn commented on the year's successful hatchery breeding programme, and the ongoing work being undertaken to alleviate water supply issues. Mark also summarised fisheries highlights on behalf of Matt Osborne, commenting on the Anglers Notice process, trap runs, drift dive results, liberation programmes, and angler satisfaction.

5.2.2 Kate Thompson spoke of work undertaken by Carmel Veitch including development of the Health & Safety Manual which had subsequently been adopted by other Fish & Game regions, her co-ordination of the National Staff Conference held in Rotorua, and

the ongoing financial support provided to the Hawke's Bay Region. Kate also commented on the relatively smooth transition to the updated licensing platform hosted by Eyede, and the increase in its use across the region. She said that the Public Toilet project had been completed early in the year, and that the administration team had updated Council's accounting system package in preparation for transferring to Xero on 1 September 2015. She noted we were fortunate to have Carmel as our onsite trainer. Kate also thanked Lynne Sands for her great work in the administration office.

- 5.2.3 Matt McDougall spoke of game bird population monitoring efforts and research into methods for enhancing populations. He was pleased to report that the productivity study initially commenced by Eastern Region was making progress. Colin Paton queried whether the initial funding approved for the Mallard Research Programme had been exhausted, and whether further funding was being sought. Matt advised that David Klee from the Auckland Waikato Region managed the resources for the project but confirmed they were looking for additional funding.
- 5.2.4 Maurice Mitchell, a licence holder of 44 years from Kawerau, voiced his concern over reduced duck numbers and the impact that this was likely to be having on licence sales. He said he had observed high mortality, predator problems, and commented that paradise shelduck duck were becoming more dominant, and dominating mallards. He felt that Council should consider breeding ducks to re-establish populations as outcomes from the research would be a few years away. He suggested also, that reparation for Fish & Game offences could include participation in projects such as duck breeding which would be more productive than imposition of fines.
- 5.2.5 John Meikle provided an overview of habitat work, noting in particular, the reduction in the number of consents coming through as a result of pre-planning work undertaken by Eben Herbert. He also commented on the shift in effort from habitat creation to a greater focus on habitat quality and productivity. John was pleased to report the Ohaaki and Waitapu oxbows projects were nearing completion.
- 5.2.6 Eben Herbert commented on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Innovation Funding which had been obtained for implementation of the solar power driven Awakaponga water supply project. Eben discussed Rotorua District Council and Whakatane District Council's proposed rules around maimai construction, and the collaborative approach being used in Regional Council pre-planning processes. He noted a highlight of the year was finalisation of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.
- 5.2.7 Anthony van Dorp spoke of access maintenance and signage, and ongoing work with the Walking Access Commission and the Department of Conservation to enhance angler and hunter access. He discussed the Compliance programme and noted that the region's 12 honorary rangers were very active and doing a great job for Fish & Game. Anthony advised the region's compliance rate was maintained at 98% with 3,600 anglers and hunters having been checked. He highlighted the recent prosecution of poachers who had decimated a Rotoiti spawning stream this year. Anthony continues to be national compliance co-ordinator, and commented on North Island ranger training, development and adoption of a National Prosecution Policy, application of the Search and Surveillance Act, and updating of the Rangers Manual for Fish & Game staff.

6.0 Questions from the Public

- 6.1 There were no questions from the public on the Annual Report.

6.2 Cr Murray Ferris thanked staff on their achievements and noted that they were highly regarded throughout the country. He said Council had a great team that they could rely upon and this was proven by the seamless transition to the new manager. Murray thanked Rob Pitkethley, noting that he was a big loss to the Council. He wished him well in the future, and he looked forward to working with Andy Garrick.

6.3 Terry Wood noted the minimal public presence at the Annual General Meeting, and queried whether timing of the meeting was contributing to this. Murray Ferris made the comment that the Annual Public Meeting was a good opportunity to showcase what we do and had been well advertised, but there may not be a lot more we can do to encourage participation.

8.0 Closure

8.1 Murray Ferris wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 4.45 PM.