

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 186th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2020 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs David Woolner, Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Laurance Tamati, Alan Baird, Adam Rayner, Debbie Oakley, Geoff Thomas and Ngahi Bidois.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matthew McDougall, Matt Osborne, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game); Zane Jensen (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board).

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr David Woolner (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.00pm, welcomed all present, and invited Cr Ngahi Bidois to open the meeting with a karakia.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Lindsay Lyons and Ken Coombes, and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation).

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that the apologies for the 186th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [20/12/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 OCTOBER 2020)

3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ngahi Bidois) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to an amendment to the "In attendance" record to include:*

Eben Herbert (Eastern Fish & Game) and Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game). [20/12/3.1]

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 David Woolner informed Council that, due to the tight deadlines for feedback on the Reserves Policy Consultation document, Andy Garrick had collated comments and feedback at hand including Carmel Veitch's comments from Council's October meeting, and forwarded a summary to the New Zealand Council for inclusion in discussion on the matter. David advised that he had received an email from Paul Shortis and Ray Grubb thanking Council for their effort. Andy Garrick commented that some Councillors may have wished to provide additional comment, and pointed out that this was not precluded as the policy would come back to Council for a further round of consultation in due course.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Geoff Thomas - Council lunch/fishing
- Cr Adam Rayner - Council photo
- Cr Murray Ferris - Letter – WBOP Fish & Game Club
- Andy Garrick - Acknowledgement – Brett Bosley

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

8.0 2019-2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT

8.1 The audited copy of the 2019-2020 Performance Report for the Eastern Fish & Game Region was tabled at the meeting. Cr David Woolner advised that the main body of the report had been reviewed at the October meeting and that this final copy incorporated some adjustments to the final result, as described within the agenda item, and the Audit Report.

8.2 Andy Garrick commented that he was comfortable with our year end position given the circumstances of this year. He was pleased to report an overall positive result considering such a significant decline in licence revenue which had resulted from the Covid restrictions. Project and operating expenditure had been reduced significantly, some additional contract income had been generated, and the Government Wages subsidy had all contributed to the positive result.

8.3 Andy informed Council that the final adjustment which had been made to the accounts since the draft that had been presented to the October meeting, was related to the revaluation of the forestry on the property with its value falling by \$40,000 due to disruptions within the industry and falling log prices. Andy advised that he planned to review the need to include the forestry asset within the accounts with the auditors as it meant that it had to be valued each year and the resulting cost of this outweighed any benefit the Council might gain from them. Cr Ngahi Bidois queried whether Council was receiving carbon credits for the forestry and Cr Laurance Tamati queried the fall in value when forestry he was involved with had seen increased values recently? Carmel Veitch advised that the valuation was based on log prices as at 31 August 2020.

8.4 Cr Debbie Oakley queried the unbudgeted wage cost for staff working for the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. Kate Thompson advised that there was also unbudgeted contract income for this work. Neither the income or the expense had been budgeted for as there was no formal agreement between the regions at the time the budget was produced.

8.5 Andy Garrick highlighted the auditor's suggestion within the audit management letter concerning improving statement of performance reporting, with more focus on reporting outcomes/impacts. He said that the adoption of new standards for performance measurement was being reviewed nationally and that Carmel Veitch was working with the auditors to address this.

8.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Alan Baird) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2019-2020 year. [20/12/8.6]*

9.0 2020 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

9.1 Andy Garrick advised that this agenda item followed up from where Council had got to in its October meeting, and that Matthew McDougall had added more background to the proposed recommendations and defined the criteria for the final conditions for the mallard/greylard season next year.

9.2 Cr Murray Ferris queried whether the restrictions that had been put in place for the Reporoa/Broadland area had had a positive influence on the population. Matt advised that it was extremely difficult to assess from aerial counts and to have a significant

impact the bag limit would need to be reduced to almost nothing and he felt that this would be unacceptable to licence holders.

- 9.3 ***Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Debbie Oakley) that the Reporoa/Broadlands area should be subject to the same mallard and grey duck regulations as the rest of the Eastern Region for the 2021 season. [20/12/9.3]***
- 9.4 Cr Adam Rayner questioned whether the special swan shoot proposed for 26-27 February 2022 could not be extended for a longer period as he felt that most hunters would not bother for just two days. He said swan were perceived to be a problem and this would show Fish & Game was being proactive in responding to this and controlling the population. Matt McDougall advised that he had found that people tended to hunt less in a longer season and that not many others outside of the Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club took part. The club had requested the specific dates to take into consideration the tides on the Tauranga Harbour and he said that consideration also needed to be given to other users at this time of year. However, in saying this Matt was not averse to considering a longer season if this is what Council wanted to implement. Cr David Woolner queried the practicality of making a change for this season, and after some discussion Council supported making a commitment to reviewing the pros and cons of extending the special season the following year.
- 9.5 ***Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that a special swan season be scheduled for the weekend of 26-27 February 2022 in Management Area A1 and that Council commits to reviewing how long the special swan season will be, if there is one, in the 2022 Game Season. [20/12/9.5]***
- 9.6 Council discussed the proposed special pukeko season and queried whether it could be moved back as pukeko damage to many crops was generally occurring well before the special season. Matt McDougall advised that if we did so we run the risk of impacting on duck productivity if there was more widespread shooting being undertaken during their breeding season. He noted however, that we issue permits to disturb pukeko in response to requests received for dealing with impacts they're having which occur outside the seasons set aside to hunt them.
- 9.7 ***Agreed (Alan Baird/Geoff Thomas) that a special pukeko season be scheduled for the weekend of 26-27 February 2022 for the Eastern Region. [20/12/9.7]***
- 9.8 The follow recommendations were agreed with little additional discussion or comment.
- 9.9 ***Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Adam Rayner) that there will not be an open season for brown quail in the 2021 season. [20/12/9.9]***
- 9.10 ***Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Murray Ferris) that no person shall within the Eastern Fish & Game Region, in or on any public place, or in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier, with intent:***
(a) deposit any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game.
(b) having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.
(c) for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned. [20/12/9.10]
- 9.11 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that the extension to the upland game season on designated upland game properties for junior hunters be dropped. [20/12/9.11]***
- 9.12 ***Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that the use of drones to disturb game birds is not permitted. [20/12/9.12]***
- 9.13 Matt McDougall advised that the proposed amendment to the first schedule is for clarification and to align with the Arms Act.

9.14 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Murray Ferris) that the Council write to the New Zealand Council suggesting that Section 3 of the First Schedule (Magazine Shotguns) of the Open Season for Game Gazette Notice notes there is a 5-shell limit imposed by the Arms Act. [20/12/9.14]*

10. 2020 UPLAND GAME PROPERTY REPORT

10.1 Council received the summary results for the Equine Upland Game Property's 2020 season.

11.0 INTRODUCE A MATE TO HUNTING & FISHING

11.1 Andy Garrick described the current "Take a Mate Hunting" programme offered by the Auckland/Waikato Region adding that while there had not been a great uptake with their programme, they acknowledged that they had not widely promoted the opportunity. Andy wanted to put the idea to Council to see if it had any appeal as an R3 initiative for trialling in the Eastern Region this coming season.

11.2 Cr Murray Ferris felt that it was worth a trial, adding that it would need promotion and monitoring. Cr Geoff Thomas queried whether there was a precedent for a trout fishing programme too? Andy Garrick outlined the current dispensations that Fish & Game offers for school groups, disabled persons, and the likes of "Casting for Recovery" groups, but noted that the Minister's approval would be required to offer this kind of dispensation. He suggested it might be worthwhile putting a request to the Minister of Conservation via the NZC to operate a similar programme for fishing, the objective being to increase participation in the longer term.

11.3 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Adam Rayner) that Council supports a trial of the "Take a Mate Hunting" programme in the Eastern Region during the 2021 season. [20/12/11.3]*

12.0 USE OF LICENCE DATA

12.1 Cr David Woolner advised that the New Zealand Council had passed a resolution a while back regarding access to the licence holder database and had subsequently drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and put that out to the regions for consultation. A number of regional managers had reviewed that and produced an amended version accompanied with reasons justifying the proposed changes to the original draft. Both versions have been provided with this agenda item. Andy Garrick advised that the MOU was all about privacy and appropriate use of data between the regions and by the New Zealand Council.

12.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois advised that the Te Arawa Lakes Trust retains data on its members who have an interest in trout fishing and that this could be a useful tool in our R3 programmes.

12.3 Cr Laurance Tamati was not aware of the national licence database and was concerned that his personal information could be being shared more widely. Andy advised that there was very limited access to the licence database, and the purpose of the MOU was to ensure data was not shared outside of Fish & Game nor used inappropriately or by unauthorised persons within the organisation. There were occasions where Fish & Game needed to communicate with licence holders who had agreed they were happy to be contacted, and we needed also, to analyse trends such as licence churn or demographics associated with the various licence categories we offer, or verify information provided to us by persons who had been caught committing an offence or

who wanted a refund or had some other licence query. Individual's privacy was uppermost in our mind at all times, and personal details were not shared with anyone beyond one or two individuals who needed specific information for a specific and justifiable purpose.

12.4 Cr David Woolner said the revised draft appeared to address issues that had been raised with the first version and the revised version appeared to be well put together.

12.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that Council supports the revised version of the MOU governing the use of licence sales data. [20/12/12.5]*

13.0 PRESENTATION BY MATT OSBORNE "2020 WAIKAREMOANA FISHERY SURVEYS"

13.1 Matt Osborne provided an informative power point presentation of work currently being undertaken by staff within the Waikaremoana catchment.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Department of Conservation*

Andy Garrick welcomed Zane Jensen to the meeting representing the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. Cr Barry Roderick had seen Zane in action working under his Sport Bay of Plenty role and felt that there would be a lot to gain from getting Zane involved in our R3 programmes. Putting his Sport Bay of Plenty hat on Zane said their current focus was active recreation and there were opportunities for game bird hunting and fishing to become a big player in outdoor recreation with the Government focus being on wellbeing. Zane advised that he had been newly appointed to the Conservation Board having been nominated by Sport Bay of Plenty to represent recreational interests, and that he was excited to co-share the Fish & Game liaison portfolio with Mark Copeland. Zane provided an update on the CMS which had been notified in early November and was open for public consultation until 21 January 2021. Cr Barry Roderick commented he was concerned about activities being undertaken by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council that were impacting not only on the habitat of species of interest to Fish & Game, but on species such as whitebait as well, and asked if Zane could provide feedback to DOC on this. Zane said he was happy to do this and looked forward to working with Fish & Game. Cr David Woolner thanked Zane for his attendance.

14.2 *Te Arawa Lakes Trust*

Nothing to report.

14.3 *The New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Debbie Oakley spoke on behalf of the New Zealand Council having attended the recent meeting with Lindsay Lyons. She said that taking on the role of Eastern appointee to the NZC will be a great challenge, and felt she could add value to the Council. She had been welcomed by its current members, and provided an overview of topics addressed at the last meeting which included the following:

- Pheasant preserves – the earlier decision had been revisited and a finite extension of time to the current Schedule 3 arrangement made which would mean all commercial operations would have to cease by end of 2025. This would enable them time to phase out. Captured access is an unintended consequence of these operations and an access toolkit needs to be developed.
- Pressure sensitive fisheries – domination by guides and non-residents.
- Council voted on opposition to importation of trout, and trout farming. The Council will write to MPI and propose a group be established to investigate the impacts of trout farming.

- Use of Non-Resident Levy – There had been no consultation with regions, and she had requested that this topic be added to the agenda of the next NZC meeting.

Cr Ngahi Bidois queried the trout farming opposition and asked whether the NZC was going to do research. Debbie advised that based on the current information at hand the Council did not support trout farming, but acknowledged that there was not enough up to date information available and as a result would work with MPI to get more research undertaken. It was not appropriate for NZC to say ‘no’ unless there was a good research-based argument against it. Cr Geoff Thomas provided a brief list of the reasons trout farming had been declined in the past:

- (i) trout farmed fish taste awful;
- (ii) making trout a commodity attracts unscrupulous behaviour (poaching);
- (iii) disease - NZ trout fisheries are some of the cleanest in the world; and
- (iv) why take the risk for so little benefit?

Cr Alan Baird asked whether the NZC would support the Game Alliance request to change the Act in support of pheasant preserves? Andy Garrick advised his understanding was that the NZC recognised that the Game Alliance may wish to pursue that option but it was up to them to do so. Cr Alan Baird asked that Debbie be provided with a copy of the minutes relating to this Council’s previous discussions on pheasant preserves for her information,

In addition to the above Andy noted that Paul Shortis had recently resigned as NZC Chair, and that Ray Grubb had been confirmed as the new NZC Chair.

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

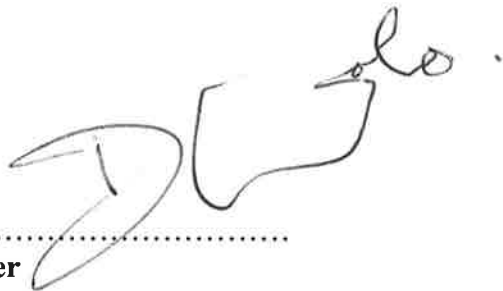
- 15.1 Angler behaviour on Lake Tarawera on the evening before opening of the fishing season in past years was briefly discussed.
- 15.2 Cr David Woolner queried progress on access initiatives to the Whirinaki River. Anthony Van Dorp advised that he was still awaiting a response from DOC on a specific proposal he had put to them some months before. He had communicated with Ngati Whare and hoped that in time we can get this walking track open. He said there had been issues with access across private land. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested it might be useful for Fish & game to make contact with his forestry trust.
- 15.3 ***Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Management Report. [20/12/15.3]***
- 15.4 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [20/12/15.4]***
- 15.5 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2020 totalling \$233,520.43. [20/12/15.5]***
- 15.6 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2020-2021 financial year. [20/12/15.6]***
- 15.8 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [20/12/15.8]***

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16.1 Cr Geoff Thomas confirmed Wednesday 10 February 2021 as the date for Council to get together for lunch and an afternoon fishing on Lake Tarawera. This would also be an opportunity for a group photograph as had been suggested by Cr Adam Rayner.
- 16.2 Cr Murray Ferris was concerned about a murmur expressed in the Western BOP Fish & Game Club letter that game bird hunting was to be taken over by DOC, and asked where do these types of rumours come from? Andy Garrick advised we would address this in our response to their letter.
- 16.3 Andy advised that this time a year ago we became aware that Brett Bosley of Lake Tarawera had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and regrettably he now had to inform Council that Brett had passed away on 16 November. Andy wished to acknowledge, and put on record, Fish & Game's appreciation for the contribution Brett had made as an honorary ranger for 23 years. He was one of our longest serving honoraries and not only had contributed greatly to us in that role and as a Fish & Game ambassador, but to his local community having served on the voluntary rural fire force and emergency response unit, been an advisor to Search and Rescue, Police and Coastguard, a JP, and a lake warden amongst other things. Andy had attended his farewell service with two other staff members a fortnight ago, and in addition to delivering a personal tribute to Brett, had spoken on behalf of Council and acknowledged the contribution he had made to Fish & Game.
- 16.4 Cr Murray Ferris advised Council of the passing of Adele Lyon's brother in Australia.

17.0 MEETING CLOSED

- 17.1 The meeting closed at 2.30pm with a closing karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.



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David Woolner
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that the apologies for the 186th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [20/12/2.2]

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 OCTOBER 2020)

3.1 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ngahi Bidois) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to an amendment to the "In attendance" record to include:

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