**TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON 28TH MARCH 2020 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM.

In the absence of the Chairman, Paul Blewman, the Manager, Glenn Maclean, called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

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

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

MOVED BRIGHT / NANCARROW

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

CARRIED

**1. PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Paul Blewman, Daniel Gordon and David Potroz.

MOVED BRIGHT / KARALUS

THAT THE APOLOGIES RECEIVED BE SUSTAINED

CARRIED

**3. WELCOME TO GUESTS**

The chairman welcomed Councillors and Fish & Game staff to the meeting.

**4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were none that hadn’t already been notified at previous meetings.

**5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 22ND FEBRUARY 2020**

MOVED KARALUS / SARGESON

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY 2020 IN RAETIHI, BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CARRIED

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Karalus enquired about the progress of the possible dam removal on the Kaupokonui River. The consenting process is underway but work to remove the weir may not happen until after 1 November 2020.

Allen Stancliff updated the councillors on the ammonia leak at Silver Fern Farm’s abattoir into the Tawhiti Stream. It had no effect on the hatchery but fish life was killed in the stream down to the Tangahoe River confluence. TRC staff reported that no dead trout were found.

**7. AGENDA MANAGEMENT & 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

Councillor McEwen updated Councillors on progress installing a fishing platform at Lake Mangamahoe. The platform is now nearly complete.

**8. REVIEW 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

A project to address the identified need for diversity of membership on this Council has been included.

The Manager noted that in light of the current COVID-19 situation, this plan will need to be reviewed once we have a better idea of the opportunities and constraints moving forward.

MOVED MCEWEN / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME ENDORSE THE 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2020/21 TO 2024/25.

CARRIED

**9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Manager noted the measures that have been taken to ensure staff safety as the risk from COVID-19 virus has developed. The manager also discussed a near miss report and measures taken to address this.

MOVED SARGESON / NANCARROW

THAT THE MANAGERS HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

**10. CORONAVIRUS DISCUSSION**

The Manager advised Councillors that Fish & Game generally does not come under essential services and all staff are now self-isolating at home. Staff were continuing to work from home where possible.

The hatchery however will be looked after by the younger volunteers as our obligations to animal welfare means this is an essential service in this case. Two year trout were released from the hatchery into the lower Patea River in the days prior to going to Alert Level 4 to reduce demands on the hatchery.

Councillors discussed the upcoming 2020 Gamebird Season, and the impact Level 4 restrictions will have;

* The financial loss to Fish and Game that will most likely occur with the reduced sale of Gamebird licences.
* The need to cut all non-essential spending
* The likelihood of having to use reserve funds
* Changes to pegging day
* The possibility of refunds to hunters who have already purchased a licence.
* Taranaki Fish & Game does qualify for the government wage subsidy and has already applied.
* A commitment to retaining staff if at all possible

The Chairman noted that we need to encourage hunters to play their part with the Level-4 restrictions.

The Manager noted how quickly things have and can change and we may need to have more teleconference meetings in the future.

**11. DRAFT 2020/2021 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

The Manager noted that the budget balances to our current indicative income and given current circumstances there will be no contestable fund bids applied for in this budget. He recommended that until we know what we are likely to face in the aftermath of the COVID-19 virus that there is no point at this stage making any changes.

The Manager highlighted that while at this stage future income looked likely to reduce it was still an unknown situation and other scenarios might see F&G not impacted so badly.

MOVED NANCARROW / HUGO

THAT THE DRAFT 2020/2021 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

**12. REVIEW OF FISHING COMPETITION POLICY**

This policy was discussed at the last council meeting and changes around the cash prizes and resource rentals have been included. Council discussed cash prizes and preferred that these were permitted at the Council’s discretion.

MOVED HUGO / MCEWEN

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL APPROVE THE SPORTS FISHING COMPETITION POLICY WITH THE INCLUSION OF PERMITTING CASH PRIZES AT THE COUNCILS DISCRETION

CARRIED

**13. TROUT RELEASE SCHEDULE**

Councillors discussed organised fishing opportunities consistent with R3 objectives and branding.

Councillors discussed the ability to grow larger fish at the hatchery for release into the Patea River.

MOVED BRIGHT / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL RECEIVE THIS RELEASE SCHEDULE

CARRIED

**14. DRAFT NATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Councillor Sargeson noted that we need to retain our own regional voice, which was agreed by all Councillors.

MOVED MCEWEN / KARALUS

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL;

* SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION PLAN
* REQUESTS THAT THE DRAFT PLAN BE AMENDED SO AS TO ACHIEVE CO-ORDINATION OF REGIONAL FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEDIA ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO DIRECT THESE ACTIVITIES
* SUPPORTS LOCAL SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND ACCOUNTS RATHER THAN A SINGLE NATIONAL PAGE

CARRIED

**15. LAKE WIRITOA CLOSURE PLAN**

This item was discussed in general business at the last meeting.

MOVED SARGESON / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL FORGO SEEKING CLOSURE OF LAKE WIRITOA FOR GAMEBIRD HUNTING AND INSTEAD ERECT SIGNS WARNING THAT DUCK HUNTING MAY BE OCCURING.

CARRIED

**16. LICENCE SALES REPORT**

MOVED KARALUS / BRIGHT

THAT THE FISH LICENCE SALES TO 17 MARCH 2020, WITH COMPARISON TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

**17. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

In the absence of Paul Blewman, there is no Chairman’s report.

**18. NATIONAL COUNCILLORS REPORT**

In the absence of Paul Blewman, there is no National Councillor’s report

**19. WORK PLAN AND BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT TO 29 FEBRUARY 2020**

The Manager noted that work and expenditure is tracking well, however, there will be projects that will now not be able to be completed this financial year due to the developing COVID-19 crisis and response.

MOVED SARGESON / BRIGHT

THAT THE BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS TO 29 FEBRUARY 2020, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

**20. PROFIT & LOSS AND BALANCE SHEET**

MOVED KARALUS / C POTROZ

THAT PROFIT & LOSS AND BALANCE SHEET TO 29 FEBRUARY 2020, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

**21. CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED SARGESON / C POTROZ

THAT INWARDS AND OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULES TO 16 MARCH 2020, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

**22. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Councillor Karalus noted his intention to submit on the Opunake HEPS & Waiaua River consent applications and he encouraged others to do so as well. Allen Stancliff noted aspects of the application and that F&G will have a submission to TRC before 14th April 2020.

**23. NEXT MEETING 23RD MAY 2020, WAITARA**

It was noted that this may be another teleconference

**24. CLOSURE**

In the absence of the Chairman whose phone link had dropped out the Manager thanked all councillors and staff for making this meeting possible in such trying circumstances. There being no further business the Manager closed the meeting at 11:30am.

**APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

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

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