

## **WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,  
HELD ON TUESDAY 19 FEBRAURY 2013 AT 3.15PM AT COACHMAN HOTEL  
PALMERSTON NORTH, 140 FITZHERBERT AVE, PALMERSTON NORTH.**

**1. Present:**

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Andy Tannock, Eric Neumann, Jim Cook, Andrew Morris, Simon Muckley, Mark Grace, Brad Johnson, Chris O'Meara

**2. In Attendance:**

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington, Nic Cudby, Alex King

Licenceholders Paul Browne, Mark Flaws

**3. Apologies:**

Councillors Strato Cotsilinis, Richard Moore,  
Staff: Corina Jordan

**It was then moved that:**  
*the apologies be accepted.*

**Chris O'Meara/Andy Tannock**  
Carried

**4. Conflicts of Interest**

A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests declared.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 4 December 2012:**

After a brief discussion it was moved that:

*the Minutes of the last meeting of the previous Wellington Fish & Game Council of 4 December 2012 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris**  
Carried

After further brief discussion it was moved that:

*the Minutes of the first meeting of the new Wellington Fish & Game Council of 4 December 2012 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Chris O'Meara/Brad Johnson**  
Carried

6. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal informed Council of the current progress of the mallard research programme, following a meeting in mid December of the working group.

Mr Teal confirmed that a new electric fishing machine (EFM) has been purchased which will allow for more robust quantitative assessments of fish abundance.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had confirmed to the Department of Conservation that Wellington Fish & Game Council were neutral in response to the proposed reduction in marginal strip width near Mana (two sites) and Porirua (one site).

Mr Teal confirmed that he had forwarded Council's recommendations on the Game Season Conditions made at the December Council meeting (with supporting documentation) to Department of Conservation via NZ Council in January.

7. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris indicated that there had not been a NZ Council meeting since his report given at the December Wellington F&GC meeting.

Chairman Taylor indicated he was interested in how Councillor Morris voted on different issues at NZ Council meetings to understand what view other NZ Councilors have of Wellington's position on any issue.

Mr Teal alerted Council to a recent email from Southland F&GC indicating that they had resolved to continue a course of action to remove the sub 12 gauge non-toxic shot exemption. Discussion ensued on the extent of 20 gauge use for waterfowl hunting, with initial investigations suggesting up to 2% based on sales of ammunition. Councillor Tannock reaffirmed his view that such decisions should be based on research (not hearsay) including the planned regional hunter survey information, and how much lead shot 20 gauge (including pellet size) ammunition is imported.

8. **Game Season Conditions:**

Mr Pilkington gave an overview of the trend counts undertaken by staff in January and the staff recommendations relating to black swan and paradise shelduck.

In reference to the regulation setting policy for black swan, the numbers counted indicate a "normal" season for Wellington East (2-3 birds) and a restrictive season for Wellington West (1 bird per day).

Mr Pilkington indicated that the numbers of paradise shelduck were up slightly on the previous year but still similar to two years ago. It was recommended that the season conditions remain largely unchanged.

It was then moved that

*The season conditions for black swan be as per policy being:  
Wellington East area of Wellington Region being two bird limit for the  
duration of the waterfowl season;  
Wellington West area of Wellington Region being one bird limit for the  
duration of the waterfowl season.*

*The season conditions for paradise shelduck be a ten (10) bird limit per  
day for the duration of the waterfowl season;*

*A special season with a five bird limit for a two week period (3  
weekends) in mid February 2014 – with public waterways being  
excluded from the special summer season.*

**Andrew Morris/Brad Johnson**  
Carried

The season conditions for all other species recommended at the 4 December 2012 Council meeting would be confirmed as final advice to the Minister of Conservation.

**9. Meeting Timetable:**

After brief discussion it was moved that

*The meeting timetable for the remainder of 2013 be adopted:*

*9 April 2013 – Wellington*

*18 June 2013 – Masterton*

*21 August 2013 – Palmerston North*

*15 October 2013 – Wellington*

*10 December 2013 – Masterton*

**Andrew Morris/Chris O'Meara**  
Carried

**10. Potential Annual Plan Projects:**

After discussion of the annual planning process involving identification of contestable fund projects, the following potential projects were considered worthy of further consideration at the budget meeting to be held in April:

- JK Donald Wetland Reserve
- Transmitters for mallard research – either as regional or national project support
- Wetland/habitat advice in conjunction with Biodiversity Advice Funds
- Novice hunting and fishing opportunities and co-ordination, and how to co-ordinate in with nationally focused initiatives to increase participation.

Mr Teal was requested to draft a brief discussion paper on material applications for consideration at the April meeting.

**11. Lake Wairarapa Update:**

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of planning and physical projects considered for the JK Donald Wetland. There appears to be support from DOC and Regional Council as part of the Wairarapa Moana collective to match funding for continuance of diverting the Ohakura Stream into the wetland.

Mr Cudby informed Council that the consents for the weir had been renewed, and that the boards would be placed in the weir in the near future.

Chairman Taylor referred to an email sent to Mr Teal by Philipa Chrisp (GWRC) on behalf of the Wairarapa Moana group to seek permission to remove 'exotic fish' from Barton's Lagoon on the edge of Lake Wairarapa. Council considered that the email lacked enough detail for an informed decision to be made

Councillor Tannock noted that while there was an historical inference that exotic fish be kept out of the lake, it was doubtful that it was the intention to have acclimatised fish specifically in this part of the lake (Barton's Lagoon). While he was open to the principle of this exercise, he didn't want it to set a precedent in a wider context.

Mr Teal indicated that he had sought information from DOC Waikato Conservancy regarding the benefits and costs of rudd removal from a small Waikato lake undertaken by DoC/Regional Council undertaken at significant cost over the last ten years. Councillor Tannock considered that considerable funds could be spent for little gain and would be more beneficial putting it into habitat management.

Councillor Muckley considered that we needed more detailed information on the project and implications.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Wairarapa Governance Group indicating the following:

- That Fish & Game would accept in principle the management proposal being advanced in planning context but would not provide final agreement until final scoping of the project plan had been defined.

- It was agreed that Fish & Game must be a party in the project in some form – including observers, co-sponsors, or contributor, to show a commitment to management of the environment;
- That Fish & Game has good institutional knowledge on similar projects;
- That Fish & Game be represented in some capacity on the Wairarapa Moana as an observer status at Wairarapa Moana governance meetings, and on the management group for this project;
- That keeping recreational access for anglers and hunters was still a priority
- Indicate a willingness to work with and contribute to the project

**12. Management Report 20 November 2012 – 31 January 2013**

Messrs Teal and Pilkington gave a brief commentary on some video footage taken from a helicopter of the Upper Rangitikei River taken in December. This provides a perspective of the river when discussing access issues in the area.

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of staff commitments to Resource Management projects in other regions (Ruataniwha Project (Hawke’s Bay), Hawke’s Bay RPS, and the ECan Plan) with more formal secondment arrangements being sought. In the interim additional staff resources were required to cover Wellington regions RM function – with costs being sought from regions seeking the secondment.

Discussion was made on the compliance effort and also the merits of publicity obtained from prosecution as opposed to reparation – with it noted that there is potential review of the reparation policy in the future.

Staff confirmed that Canada geese were not specifically counted on Lake Wairarapa although the photos were retained to be able to do this.

It was then moved that

*The management report for 20 November 2012 – 31 January 2013 be received.*

**Jim Cook/Simon Muckley**  
Carried

**13. Expenditure Report**

Mr Teal highlighted expenditure and time resource variances including: increased photocopying expenses, resource management staff resourcing, variance in time on hunter and angler participation and Lake Wairarapa projects, and more than expected time requirements for the licence management system review.

After brief discussion it was moved

*the Expenditure Report for 31 December 2012 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2012 be approved*

**Eric Neumann/Brad Johnson**

Carried

**14. Licence Sales Report to 7 February 2013**

Mr Teal indicated that licence sales were up on budget compare to last year (73% of budget 2013 compared to 59% of budget 2012) but this could be due to timing of licence book returns. He also indicated that a number of initiatives were put into place for December to generate interest for stronger December sales including angling newsletter and radio advertisements. It was moved that

*The Fish Licence Sales report as at 7 February 2013 be received.*

**Chris O'Meara/Brad Johnson**

Carried

Mr Brown and Ms King left the meeting at 4.40pm

**15. Governance**

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the Governance Presentation entitled Governance Induction which had been compiled by Doug Matheson and Rob Roney in 2009.

As requested by the previous Council, Mr Teal also gave an overview of the budgeting and review processes that occur in a calendar year, with key decision making points defined.

**16. Strategic Overview**

Discussion ensued on strategic outputs review which can be undertaken periodically by governance boards to strategic direction is critically assessed. Various conventional processes that prioritise projects were discussed but it was considered necessary to have some strategic planning sessions possibly over the next three or four meetings scheduled. It was agreed that the first of these sessions would be at 1pm prior to the Council meeting on 9 April 2013. It was agreed that some strategic and vision defining questions would be distributed prior to the next meeting to promote discussion.

**17. One Plan Update**

Mr Teal gave a brief update on the High Court Appeal noting that parties had made appeals on both the interim and final decisions of the Environment Court. Horticulture NZ is also attempting to get the Environment Court to reconvene to consider an economic modeling assessment by Landcare Research which is yet to be completed.

**18. Licence Working Party**

Mr Teal gave a brief update that negotiations were well advanced. He noted that the timetable for negotiating all outstanding issues should be completed within two weeks.

**19. Correspondence**

Acknowledgement of the reappointment of Dr Nick Smith as Minister of Conservation

It was noted that the Wellington section of the Special Issue of Fish & Game NZ Magazine had been completed.

**20. General Business**

Mr Teal noted that the commissioned report on establishing an index of natural character in the Rangitikei River had been completed by researcher Amanda Death. This approach had already been used to assist GWRC in its assessment of the Otaki and Hutt rivers.

The NZF&GC CE had recently distributed a Government report on a growth strategy based on the natural environment. It was agreed to distribute this to Wellington councillors to inform strategic planning.

Mr Teal had received a request from GWRC planners for Wellington F&GC's position on maimai size and whether the 5m<sup>2</sup> size in Manawatu Regional Plan was a default position. It was confirmed that structures under 10m<sup>2</sup> would be preferred primarily due to safety issues and the manner in which structures are used.

An email from Wairarapa Fish & Game Club requesting confirmation of support for a fish trap to count spawning trout in the Mangaterere River. It was agreed that this would be supported by staff resources and requisite resource consent requirements.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.50pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 3.00pm

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_