

## **WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 3.35PM AT MASTERTON COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 398 QUEEN STREET, MASTERTON**

1. **Present:**

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Simon Muckley, Andy Tannock, Andrew Morris, Strato Cotsilinis, Eric Neumann

2. **In Attendance:**

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington (part)

Licenceholders: Howard Egan

Wellington Conservation Board: Don Adams

3. **Apologies:**

Councillor Mark Grace, Jim Cook, Brad Johnson, Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara

Staff: Hamish Carnachan Corina Jordan , Steve Pilkington (lateness), Stacy Tahere

Licenceholders: Mike Murray, John Pansters

**It was then moved that:**

*the apologies be accepted.*

**Simon Muckley/Strato Cotsilinis**

Carried

4. **Public Participation**

Chairman Taylor welcomed members of the public to the meeting and invited them to bring forward any issues to Council.

5. **Conflicts of Interest**

A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. No further updates were added to the register.

6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 9 December 2014:**

After a brief discussion it was moved that:

*the Minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 9 December 2014 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock**

Carried

After a brief discussion it was moved that:

*the Public Excluded Minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 9 December 2014 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Andy Tannock**

Carried

Chairman Taylor then informed Council that due to a change in employment, the position did not allow him to sit on a statutory board and that he would resign as Chairman at the end of the meeting to allow a vote for a replacement Chairman. He indicated that he would inform the Minister that he would resign as a Councillor in due course.

7. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal noted that the Waituna Game Preserve proposal had been progressed through to Department of Conservation approval.

8. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris noted that there hadn't been a meeting since Wellington Fish & Game Council's last meeting. During that period the NZ Council RMA co-ordinator Neil Deans had resigned to work for the Minister for the Environment.

Councillor Morris noted that additional legal funding (~\$25,000) was required for Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council following the High Court decision on the Board of Inquiry final decision. Fish & Game need legal representation in the process whereby the Board of Inquiry is required to review a specific aspect of their decision.

9. **Recommendations for the 2015 Game Season Conditions**

Mr Teal gave an overview of the process and timeframes for recommending changes to the Minister and that the NZ Council staff had been informed of the recommendations from the Wellington Fish & Game Council meeting held on 9 December 2014. There were two recommendations that needed consideration following the summer aerial trend count results:

Black Swan ó Mr Teal gave an overview of regulation setting policy for black swan and the numbers counted in three regions.

It was then moved that

*The season conditions for black swan ne three (3) birds per day per hunter over the entire Wellington Fish & Game region for the duration of an eight week season.*

**Andy Tannock/ Andrew Morris**

Carried

Paradise shelduck ó Mr Teal gave an overview of the report prepared by Mr Pilkington (2 February 2015) which indicated a continuing trend of decline in total and average numbers in both the east and west of the Wellington region. Mr Teal noted that the number of nuisance events reported by landholders and cropping contractors would probably not decline even though the actual numbers as those sites might be slightly less.

Discussion ensued on whether the recommended reduction in the limit to six birds per day would disappoint hunters where aggregations are still high.

It was then moved that

*Six bird limit per day per hunter be adopted for the game bird season*

**Andrew Morris/ Andy Tannock**

Carried

Discussion then ensued on the perception of the summer two week season given that more restricted season conditions had been recommended for the main game bird season.

Don Admas noted that even relatively small flocks of birds (~50) still cause a nuisance to some landholders and advice and education on how best to manage for them would be worthwhile.

It was then moved that

*The special two week summer season in mid-February on private land not be held for 2016*

**Simon Muckley/Eric Neumann**

Carried

Strato Cotsilinis against

**10. Junior Participation Update - Fish in Schools**

Mr Teal confirmed that there had been interest from additional schools for educational material and potentially with aquariums etc. All this material had been allocated for the 2015 year aiming for April introduction once ova are available from Ngongotaha Hatchery.

11. **Pencarrow Lakes Update**

Mr Teal gave a brief update on the logistics required to manage hunter access at the sites.

After discussion it was agreed that the support given by John Martin in ensuring access to hunters to the lakes should be acknowledged. There was options of a certificate or something more tangible.

It was then moved that

*A game bird hunting licence be provided to Mr Martin as long as access to duck hunting remains at Pencarrow Lakes*

**Martin Taylor/Andrew Morris**

Carried

Eric Neumann against

12. **Lake Wairarapa Update**

Mr Teal outlined the fish removal project at Bartonø Lagoon, and noted that the current results were as expected that perch numbers would bounce back after winter. The robustness of the science behind this project needed to be reassessed and the reporting needed to be critiqued.

Discussion ensued that for Fish & Game to continue support and consent that a more formalized approach to project objectives and operations was required. It was further discussed as to whether recreational harvest could potentially influence numbers.

It was further reiterated that Wellington Fish & Game Council continue support the local iwi (Ngati Kahungunu) in their efforts to investigate feasibility of re-establishing a flow through the Ruamahanga Cut.

Mr Teal confirmed that an extensive willow spray programme had been undertaken for the JK Donald and Boggy Pond wetland areas in end December/early January.

13. **Mallard Research Project Update**

Mr Teal distributed a copy of the video of the presentation given by the PhD candidate and Auckland/Waikato staff given to the NZ Council in November 2014.

Mr Teal confirmed that the banding programme in the Wellington region had been successful this year with nearly 1500 birds banded ó which will link in with proposed environmental management units for the North Island. Hunting & Fishing had been confirmed as a sponsor to encourage hunters to return bands.

14. **Regional Research Requirements**

Mr Teal gave an overview of Wellington Fish & Game region's research requirements as suggested by staff, which fed into the wider research strategy and funding process.

The proposed research topics to be considered by NZ Council and Fish & Game Managers was included to Council for their information.

15. **Management Report 1 December 2014– 31 January 2015**

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the progress of the drift dive programme and the field work undertaken by staff.

It was moved that the

*Management Report for 1 December 2014 to 1 January 2015 be received and accepted*

**Andrew Morris/Simon Muckley**

Carried

16. **Fish Licence Sales Report**

After brief discussion it was moved to

*Receive the fishing licence sales report to 3 February 2015*

**Andy Tannock /Andrew Morris**

Carried

17. **Expenditure Report**

After brief discussion it was moved that

*The expenditure reports 1 Sept to 31 December 2014, and the financial transactions for November and December 2014 be accepted*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Simon Muckley**

Carried

Discussion ensued on the establishment of credit cards for staff to use for legitimate work related expenditure

After discussion it was moved

*That a company credit card facility be confirmed for staff use for work-related expenditure*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Simon Muckley**

Carried

Mr Teal undertook to develop an operational policy on the use of credit card facility by staff.

**18. Correspondence**

Mr Pansters correspondence was discussed relating to clarifying the boundary description for tributaries of the Ruamahanga river where closing stretches of rivers during the spawning period. There was general agreement with the principles and it was agreed to discuss these changes at the June Meeting on annual review of the Anglers Notice.

After brief discussion it was moved that

*Correspondence and media overview be received*

**Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock**

Carried

Steve Pilkington arrived at the meeting at 5.00pm

**19. Wairarapa Water Use Project Update and Pencarrow Lakes Hunter Access Update**

The Council agreed *to move into Public Excluded session (at 5.00pm)*

**Martin Taylor/Andrew Morris**

Carried

*That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely the agenda item:*

*Wairarapa Water Use Project Update*

*The withholding of information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by councillors or officers and to maintain legal professional privilege and potentially commercially sensitive information.*

*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a)(II) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public*

*Wellington F&GC move out of committee (at 5.08pm) and that the public be invited to return to the meeting.*

**Martin Taylor/Andrew Morris**

Carried

There were no resolutions resulting from in-committee discussions.

**20. General Business**

Chairman Taylor confirmed that he was resigning as Chairman due to his new employment position which precluded being a member of a statutory board.

Nominations were called for the position of Chairman.

Nominations:

**Strato Cotsilinis**

moved Simon Muckley

seconded Andy Tannock

There being no further nominations Strato Cotsilinis was confirmed as Chairman (Acclamation)

Councillor Tannock provided a vote of thanks to Martin Taylor for his leadership both inside and outside the organisation to further the interests of anglers and hunters ó Acclamation.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.12pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 11 Logan Street, Upper Hutt. Tuesday 7 April 2015 at 3.00pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

