

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021 AT 3.00PM HELD AT HOTEL COACHMAN, 140 FITZHERBERT AVE, PALMERSTON NORTH.

1. Present:

Chairman Strato Cotsilinis, Councillors Malcolm Francis, Don Scott, Jim Cook, Colin Shore, Chris O'Meara, John Hancock, Paul Shortis, Andrew McGregor, Richard McIntyre, Aaron Passey

In Attendance:

Fish and Game Staff: Phil Teal (Regional Manager), Hamish Carnachan, Dr Matt Kavermann.

Licence Holders: Roger Smaile, Paul Dewar (part)

2. Apologies:

Councillors Andy Tannock, Richard McIntyre (late), Paul Dewar (late), Andrew McGregor (late)

It was moved

that apologies be accepted

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Chairman Cotsilinis welcomed the Council and public, and confirmed the agenda would proceed as outlined.

3. Conflict of Interest

Councillor Shortis noted that his previous Conflict of Interest registered, relating to his temporary tenure as acting Chief Executive of NZ Fish and Game Council, could be removed and updated as this had concluded.

There were no other additional conflicts of interest identified specific to the agenda.

Mr Teal confirmed that the Conflict of Interest management plan would be updated if new conflicts of interest were identified or Council chose to deal with a managing a conflict in a different way.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 8 June 2021:

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 8 June 2021 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Aaron Passey/Don Scott

Carried

5. Matters Arising:

Mr Teal confirmed that he had confirmed Wellington F&GC's support for the proposed licence fee recommendation to NZ Council – and that the licence fee was subsequently approved by the Minister of Conservation. He also noted that he had informed NZ Council that the discounting via Local Area Licence category may be problematic in future seasons given if significant amalgamations eventuate then that might lead to loss of oncome in key revenue generating regions.

Mr Teal noted that issues around future management of Lake Wairarapa and surrounding wetlands was likely to have increasing urgency and priority in the upcoming months – if, and when, treaty settlement issues were resolved and the proposed settlement progresses.

Chairman Cotsilinis noted that a submission had been prepared and submitted to NZ Council for collation of feedback to the Governance Review to the Minister of Conservation. This was used as a basis for the summary for all regional Fish and Game Council and NZ Council combined submission. He wished to congratulate staff on the quality of the submission including the format which provided a logical basis for considering the issues.

Councillor Shortis noted that Wellington Fish and Game Council could post their submission on the Fish and Game website, and could also request that the combined submission be made public by posting on the Fish and Game website. After brief discussion it was agreed that it was important that hunters and anglers are aware of these issues with clarity and authority - and that making these submissions public should provide transparency of Councils' positions.

It was noted that it was particularly important in getting this information to anglers and hunters prior to the election in order to provide awareness of issues to anglers and hunters. Councillor Scott noted that failure to proactively state and provide clarification of the issues has allowed some members of the Federation of Freshwater Anglers to provide an alternative narrative. Councillor Francis noted that fishing clubs were principally associated with the NZFFA in order to be affiliated with a wider NZ association for funding applications – but the views being expressed by some

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members in their publications were not helpful to the debate or implementation of any changes from the governance review.

After further discussion it was agreed that Wellington Fish and Game Council should request that the Wellington submission be posted to the Fish and Game website, and request NZ Council do the same. There was some urgency suggested to ensure all licence holders that were voting to be able to have an opportunity to see the submissions and issues prior to the election.

Roger Smaile expressed concern that there was wider paranoia amongst hunters and anglers that Fish and Game was being taken over or reduced in purpose. He considered that there needed to be communications to licence holders that had a simple summary and statements of what has transpired.

Councillor Francis considered the communications from the Review Implementation Group had not been widely distributed into the public arena, and including a concise summary of the review and the implementation steps going forward be prepared.

Andrew McGregor arrived at the meeting at 3.15 PM.

Councillor Francis considered the main messages to be communicated to licence holders are:

- That it is not a foregone conclusion as to the outcome of the review.
- Recommendations are being considered and feedback provided to the Minister.
- Proposed amalgamations and how this affects the representation of license holders.
- A thorough analysis is being carried out before any regional amalgamations.
- The number of elected governors.
- Whether governors are paid or not.
- An implementation plan will be established.

He noted that it could potentially be an intense period of scrutiny and interest by licence holders in Fish and Game activities given they are going through a 'normal' cycle of elections. He further considered that by proactively communicating with licence holders would clarify the narrative and ensure the messaging is appropriate and concise.

Councillor Passey noted that appropriate communications should also occur before the fishing season and opportunities existed in inclusion in the Fish and Game NZ magazine and electronic newsletters such as *Reel Life*.

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Chairman Cotsilinis noted that Fish and Game was not simply 'accepting' the Review's recommendations 'as is' and the organisation is actively considering the most appropriate way forward. Councillor Shortis considered the Executive Summary of the combined submission provided a concise description of the key aspects of the Governance Review.

Chairman Cotsilinis suggested that we get direction from New Zealand Council on what they intend to do with respect to communications plan on this issue. Hamish Carnachan noted that there was a potential risk that 12 different regional perceptions and a NZ Council perspective would create confusion amongst licence holders, and that this should be coordinated by New Zealand Council. It was important that they proactively provided information to hunters and anglers rather than leaving an information vacuum leading to speculation and outside commentators grabbing the narrative. This could be done with concise explanations – even with simple bullet points on the issues and what is going on.

It was agreed that Chairman Cotsilinis or Mr Teal write to NZ Council to expedite this approach, to ensure each licence holder is informed.

6. **NZ Fish and Game Council Business (deferred until later in meeting)**
Deferred until later in the meeting following arrival of Councillor McIntyre.
7. **Public Forum**
Chairman Cotsilinis invited members of the public to present items for discussion in the public forum.

Roger Smaile noted that any substantive changes as proposed in the Governance Review would require legislative procedures for such material changes, and this could take a long time for such a legislative process to proceed and progress.

Councillor Francis acknowledged that from the Governance Review we need to make changes (and positive changes from our perspectives) but noted that we needed to have license holder input. Councillor Shortis noted that we wanted to maintain the principle of 'user pay - user say' systems. There was an expectation that there was not going to be a loss of control of the organisation – including the principle of a majority of representatives elected by license holders for each Council.

Councillor Francis acknowledged that the organisation often has a manner to overload functions on governors such as the NZ Council Chair and role of Implementation Group Chair, as well as staff functions - but communications

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of the progress and issues relating to the Governance Review should be highest priority.

Mr Teal noted that the Cawthron Institute application to the Endeavour Fund for funding the project (relating to freshwater fishery governance including the science around trout/native interactions) had been progressed to the final stage of funding approvals and was certain to progress in some form.

There were no other specific items brought forward for discussion to Council.

8. **Health and Safety Reporting**

Mr Teal noted that staff had an increased awareness of the possible transmission of COVID-19 an increased risk resulting from it – resulting from the recent incident in Wellington that resulted in a temporary increase in COVID-19 alert levels.

It was moved that

Council receive the Health and Safety Report for June and July 2021

Aaron Passey/Jim Cook

Carried

9. **Fish and Game Review and Confirmation of Fish and Game Elections**

Mr Teal confirmed that the 'normal' election cycle for Fish and Game elections would proceed and that this was confirmed in mid-July by the service provider *Electionz.com*.

Other items included in Item 9 on the Fish and Game Review Update were deferred until later in the meeting - following arrival of Councillor McIntyre.

10. **2021/ 2022 Draft Annual Budget and Operational Work Plan**

Chairman Cotsilinis confirmed that Wellington Council had already gone through the budgeting process for the Annual Plan determination, and this would be confirming that and planned outcomes. Mr Teal clarified that income streams to the dedicated reserves relating to the Reparation Reserve (no further income expected) and Enhancement and Education Programme Reserve (from compliance diversion policy). Mr Teal also clarified the depreciation schedule noted for the net asset register. He further confirmed that trout liberation project was associated with the Capital Trout Centre novice programme.

It was then moved that

the Annual Work Plan for Wellington Fish and Game Council for the 2021/2022 Financial year be adopted

Malcolm Francis/Chris O'Meara

Carried

11. Policy Review and Legislation Changes

Mr Teal provided an overview of the submission on the proposed Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA) will be the main replacement for the Resource Management Act (RMA) once enacted. Regional Fish and Game staff had provided considerable input and it had been co-ordinated by NZ Council staff for final submission.

Councillor John Hancock noted that there were views contrary to the interests of Fish and Game that considered trout 'invaders' and that their advocacy position is that protection of their habitat should not be afforded in legislation. Dr Kavermann noted that he was preparing a conference presentation on bio-manipulation and food web links relating to simplistic views of ecological interconnectedness – which would be distributed wider once the conference had been conducted in October.

Discussion was briefly held on the proposed Three Waters project which could affect how Fish and Game interacts with water infrastructure projects – how this would affect smaller District Councils and how the priorities for funding would be set.

Councillor McIntyre arrived at 4.10pm.

12. Communications Strategy

Chairman Cotsilinis noted that Wellington Fish and Game Council still wanted to positively contribute to issue analysis and update of a communications strategy and planning. It was recognised that there were two aspects to the communications planning: policies on how communications would be focused and by whom, and a strategy more focused on addressing the key issues facing Fish and Game and assisting with regional communication priorities.

13. NZ Fish and Game Council Business

Chairman Cotsilinis summarised earlier discussions for the benefit of Councillor McIntyre – and provided a brief overview of the requests for communications from NZ Council to licence holders regarding the Governance review and requesting that the NZ Council submissions to the Minister on the Governance Review be made public.

Councillor McIntyre confirmed that Diana Taylor had now taken up the role of Acting Chief Executive. He reiterated his gratitude to Mr Shortis, who had stepped into the Acting Chief Executive role as a transition of NZ Council during a challenging time.

Councillor McIntyre confirmed that the Minister had responded to NZ Council's summary of response to the Governance Review, and provided some direction for Fish and Game to sort out issues internally and provide feedback to the Review Implementation Group.

A Pheasant Preserve working group was established to clarify issues - with an overriding question of whether there were material ethical or biological concerns that in the future would manifest into a major issue (e.g. ethics of preserve hunting vs wild population hunting). Any issues around biodiversity did not appear to be a major issue given only up to 10,000 birds are released at any given site. NZ Council voted to allow for continuance (with a view to reviewing the code of conducts) which made them technically legal. It was noted that the Department of Conservation were prepared to allow their continuance and were seeking reasons from Fish and Game as to why they shouldn't continue to operate under the current, or similar, protocols. Councillor McIntyre noted that they could continue under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 under an Order in Council. Councillor Hancock considered that the areas may in fact have additional benefits to local biodiversity due to the intensive predator trapping and protection work. Dr Kavermann sought clarification as to how this outcome would be communicated to the game bird hunting community and wider public.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The report from Councillor McIntyre as Wellington appointee on NZ Fish and Game Council of NZ Fish and Game Council activities for June and July be received

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

Paul Dewar arrived at 4.30pm. Chairman Cotsilinis welcomed and introduced Mr Dewar and provided a brief background of his previous chairmanship between 2006 and 2009.

14. Draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan – Consultation deferred

Mr Teal indicated that other regions were facing the same issues as Wellington region regarding progressing their formal consultation of their Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan. This was complicated by the potential for proposed amalgamations pending. It was agreed that a decision

on when to proceed with consultation would be made at the Wellington Fish and Game Council December meeting.

15. Project Report 1112 Rangitikei River Trout Fishery Management

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the report which had a principal purpose of providing an annual overview of activities undertaken for Genesis Energy (who provide some mitigation funding).

Dr Kavermann noted:

- That there had been a general increase in trout numbers in the Moawhanga River – and this improvement was seen in a trend over the last decade.
- Genesis Energy had agreed to do an extra flushing flow event (4th event per annum) which appeared to have been beneficial in removing some silt and sedimentation.
- From anecdotal reports the quality and number of fish in the upper Rangitikei River Ranger has been very good.
- There are still challenges in securing access to NZDF land – although the pole route is still open for those keen to trek some distance.
- There are additional challenges in assessing usage of the area as the removal of charges for public liability insurance has removed a fee for the backcountry permit – so 280 realistic users has become over 600 potential users who just tick the box to be endorsed.
- Councillor Shortis confirmed that NZ Council staff are seeking changes to the revamped website to provide for an improved service.

Dr Kavermann confirmed that he would present a summary on 7 September 2021 at the community meeting on annual activities organised by Genesis Energy.

Chairman Cotsilinis noted that River Valley Lodge is temporarily closed until the 1st of October and there was no 'near water' accommodation.

It was then moved that

***the project report 1112 Rangitikei River Trout Fisheries
Management and Monitoring Report be received***

Jim Cook/Richard McIntyre

Carried

16. Application for Habitat Works Funding

Mr Carnahan provided an overview of a habitat application on a property owned by Mr Tom Tomlin at Taratahi who was in the process of fencing the entire section of water race running through his property between Carterton

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and Gladstone. He considered this a productive area for waterfowl production and use already, which could be supplemented with additional planting. He recommended part or full funding of the application.

Councillor Francis sought clarification regarding public access – which Mr Carnahan confirmed and noted that the area would hold water year round for breeding and hunting season. He noted that this was now being used as a wetland as an alternative land use to rough grazing.

It was then moved that

The application be approved for up to \$3,000 based on the application for planting (with fencing already completed) with the funds to be used from the Reparation Reserve.

Colin Shore/Jim Cook

Carried

17. Licence Management Contract Update

Mr Teal provided an overview of the of the progress made by ESL [EyeDe Solutions Ltd] to update the software relating to licence management system as specified in the contract with ESL. He indicated that there had been a delay in the development and implementation of updated of software component (technically a contract breach). Mr Teal confirmed that NZ Council staff were required to intensively work with ESL to confirm the needs of the revised software development.

Mr Teal confirmed that the existing system was still fit for purpose in terms of providing an electronic based license management system - so there is no disruption to a secure service.

It was moved

the report on the Licence Management Contract progress be received

Colin Shore/John Hancock

Carried

18. R3/ Marketing Update

Mr Teal gave an overview summary of work undertaken by Wellington Fish and Game staff. Council acknowledged the quality of work by Wellington staff (and Mr Carnahan in particular). Councillors noted that there appeared to be little coordination of the R3 programme by NZ Council as had been expected in the last 18 months. It was agreed to write to Acting NZC CE to indicate the lack of coordination of the R3 Marketing programme NZ Council as envisaged. There had been little evidence of development of the R3 concept – in examples such as co-ordination of the re-activation actions.

Councillor Francis noted that staff (Dr Kavermann and Mr Carnachan) had done some excellent work on social media (Instagram). He considered we needed to maximise the awareness benefits by publicising the Instagram link at any opportunity. Councillor Scott noted the value of other social media such as Facebook where there were followers in the several thousands for spin fishing NZ. He expressed some disappointment that there did not appear to be a strong co-ordinated approach developed by NZ council as expected.

It was the moved

To receive the R3 marketing update report for May/June 2021

Malcolm Francis/Jim Cook

Carried

19. Action Plan for Healthy Rivers

Mr Teal provided an update on the proposals for Freshwater Farm Plans and associated discussion documents from the Ministry for the Environment. He noted that Fish and Game would be responding to the discussion document to assist in determining that the outcomes from the Farm Plans would be positive for the environment and that the good management practices would be defined. There was some discussion on the potential incentives provided by industry (such as Fonterra) - if they follow good practice there may be a financial incentive (+\$0.10 payout per kg MS). It was questioned how the individual farm plans would translate into performing at the catchment level to meet catchment goals. Discussion also focused on the potential lack of capability to develop these farm plans within the industry. Dr Kavermann expressed an opportunity to advocate for inclusion of wetlands in farm landscapes and a change in mindset to facilitate this.

It was then moved

That the Summary of Actions Update in Implementing the Action Plan for Healthy Rivers be received

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

20. One Plan Implementation Update - Plan Change 2

Mr Teal provided a summary of Fish and Game's response to the decision Plan Change 2 of Horizons Regional Council One Plan. He noted that Fish and Game supported some of the technical adjustments such as updating the nitrogen leaching numbers and table 14.2 to define cumulative nitrogen leaching maximums. The consenting pathway recommended was seen as an interim measure that would provide the Regional Council with discretion in granting consents with certain conditions. This discretion is very wide and will not significantly improve water quality over that time.

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Mr Teal confirmed that there are a number of appeals and section 274's on the Plan Change 2 and also there had been strong speculation that an investigation and report into the suitability of using Overseer modelling as a principal tool for regulation would not be favourable for its continued use for such.

it was then moved

to receive the report on the One Plan Implementation – Plan Change 2

Jim Cook/Don Scott

Carried

21. Wairarapa Water Irrigation Project Update

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the documentation distributed by Water Wairarapa Limited. He also provided an update of a meeting with GWRC consenting staff regarding their initial application. They indicated that there were a range of significant deficiencies in their consent application in order further process the application. They also confirmed that GWRC would be linking the intended end use of the water (e.g. Municipal Water Supply, or intensifying land use) as part of the consent assessment.

Councillor Shortis noted that he was anticipating a meeting with the management personnel of Water Wairarapa in the near future in a private capacity. He noted that the Carterton and Masterton District Council MOU appears to potentially obligate the councils to securing the urban water supply from the dam but this represents less than 5% of the potential capacity of the dam. He confirmed that the resource consent applications lodged before Christmas wasn't adequate and would need to be reconfigured. Water Wairarapa have now announced that they intend to go through the EPA fast track process as a matter of national importance – with speculation on how they will define the project as a such. It was very difficult to get the proponents to define details and confirm transparent intentions. The residual of the \$7 million of the Provincial Growth Fund PGF funding is continuing to raise expectations that there is enough funds to complete the consent requirements. There has also be recent speculation that Masterton District Council should potentially focus on managing the loss of water through the reticulation system – which is substantial.

Mr Teal noted that from their communication and public surveys they indicate a high level of public acceptance of the concept of providing surety of urban water supply through a dam system.

Councillor Scott requested if there has been any consideration for stocking of fish into the water reservoir as a principal water body or into supplementary water bodies. The former would not be suitable for trout fisheries if the

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ramping (height of fluctuation) anticipated and access to a water supply is likely to be restricted.

Councillor Shortis considered there were fundamental flaws in the concept and the consenting would be problematic.

After a brief further discussion it was moved that

the report on the Water Wairarapa Water Storage and Irrigation project update be received.

Jim Cook/Colin Shore

Carried

22. Western Region Resource Consent Applications For Flood Protection Greater Wellington Regional Council

Mr Teal provided an overview on the resource consents for the western global consents for Flood Protection Group for Greater Wellington region had not been progressed for Waikanae and Otaki rivers – mainly due to lack of engagement in iwi consultations.

The Hutt River and Wainuiomata consent applications had been processed and granted as part of those global consenting processes.

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the River Link project for the Hutt River and indicated this is a substantial project stretching for nearly two kilometres of in-stream works (around Melling and Lower Hutt City) with duration of works anticipated to be for up to two years before completion. This is part of a project for flood protection and for roading redevelopment and reconfiguration. There will be a requirement for socialising the potential effects and timeline for the project being undertaken to Hutt/Wellington anglers and define instream management approaches and mitigation options.

After brief discussion it was then moved that

the report on the Western region GWRC global resource consent applications and the River Link project for the Hutt River be received.

Malcolm Francis / Aaron Passey

Carried

23. Lake Wairarapa Management Update

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of issues regarding management of Lake Wairarapa:

- the treaty settlement process had not been progressed to the legislative stage, and still awaiting decisions and advice that the issues

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regarding mandating of iwi negotiations (indications suggest imminent).

- the fish removal project at Bartons Lagoon had continued – Fish and Game staff had also sampled the site to provide information on food web adjustments. Dr Kavermann indicated that the Wairarapa Moana Governance Group are currently developing a fish management plan and confirmed that Fish and Game must be involved in the development of this as a statutory manager. This should also include fishing options for the lake and specific sites of interest using by coarse anglers – therefore consultation with Hutt Valley Coarse Angling Club is essential.
- Mr Carnahan provide an overview of an escalation of scrutiny of hunting activity by DOC including stocktaking and increased interest in hut structures that have been long standing history in the area. However, Dr Kavermann indicated that substantial actions had not progressed by the Department of Conservation as yet, but the hunters were keen to seek proactively address the issue by first seeking information on the Department’s position of retention.
- The Jobs for Nature projects for the lake are continuing but it was noted that the planning and financial detail appeared to be produced without external consultation or transparency.

It was moved to

Receive the report on the Wairarapa Moana management issues

Aaron Passey/Colin Shore

Carried

24. Research Report Update

Mr Teal provided brief overview of the eDNA project which had progressed to a more formal description of the method and testing in the field. Dr Kavermann indicated that Massey researcher Dr Winkworth and Dr Adam Canning had drafted a formal manual on sampling protocols and had also progressed a scientific paper relating to the techniques. It was anticipated that these could be progressed for finalising the project with the research programme with NZ Fish and Game programme. An additional site at the Makuri River had been used as a field trial for this spawning season.

It is envisaged that the sampling tool might provide confirmation of the timeframes for spawning over a period of time – which will be able to confirm spawning dates and sites for the regional planning processes in order to protect trout spawning habitat.

It was also confirmed that the electric fishing sampling of the streams in the Whakamoekau catchment indicated that trout spawning in the stream had

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occurred - despite consultants concluding that trout weren't present in the system due to their timing of their sampling (this was a false conclusion).

Mr Teal indicated that he had been liaising with Dr Adam Canning regarding the continued progression of the native fish/trout interaction project – of which he was supervising work by Ami Coughlan. The draft reports will potentially be available by the end of the calendar year.

After brief discussion it was moved that

Council receive the Research Update report on current research activities

Aaron Passey/Richard McIntyre

Carried

25. Junior/Novice Participation

Mr Teal provided an overview of the junior fishing opportunities that would be available from organised fishing events and releases required those sites for the upcoming year.

Councillor Francis indicated that the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club was supporting an initiative called “Women on the Fly” which was a mentoring course intended to involve and keep women active as long-term angling participants. This particular course was intentionally run and developed ‘by women - for women’ with Leigh Johnson as the project lead. It was noted that 40% of the US licence holders were female. There are other examples of social groupings around the country including the Taupo Fly Fishing Club that had a group of active female anglers already. - with The Club wanted this to be a club-led/regional partnership and not expanded to involved nationally focused directions. After the initial course for “Women on the Fly” it would be reviewed on how to develop this concept further including casting workshop sessions linked to the kids’ fishing days at Otaki Lake.

The Capital Trout Centre had events through April and June with the normal number of fish being received from Eastern Region and more from Turangi (900 in February compared to the normal 400 or so). The delivery of this year’s consignment is expected from Easter Region at the end of August. Chairman Cotsilinis noted that there had been high demand for fly fishing courses from adult novice/intermediate anglers with both the February and November sessions oversubscribed. The high demand to learn fishing skills was also reflected in the course attendance at events held by the Wairarapa fishing club.

Councillor Scott noted that the Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club had three active women active on their committee – with their focus on spin fishing.

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He considered this a potential focus for R3 development of a different cohort which does not receive focus for engagement and sustaining participation.

Councillor Francis indicated that the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club and Horowhenua Anglers Club were still anticipating holding an event at the Otaki Lake fishing area in this calendar year also. He noted that there needed to be some work on the ponds to ensure security of containment and the timing of the trout availability from Eastern region would determine the timing of any event.

Councillor Scott confirmed that Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club was looking at providing a similar family fishing experience at Hokowhitu Lagoon in early October. He noted that the Anglers Club had sought external funding from three organisations but had not had any confirmation at present on success or rejection of the applications.

Dr Kavermann explained that, depending on approval from Palmerston North City Council to hold the event under COVID 19 alert level restrictions, areas of the lagoon would be segmented off. The day would run with family groupings and maintain a more family friendly relaxed atmosphere. Equipment would be made available on request, but it would not be intense 'must catch for all' for young anglers as it was previously. Councillor Scott thanked Paul Dewar as a previous sponsor for allowing the use of a large tent and financial support provided in past years.

After brief discussion it was moved that

the report on junior novice participation events be received.

Malcolm Francis/ Richard McIntyre

Carried

26. **Access Issues - Update**

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of hunting issues at Otaki River mouth with hunter behaviour being impeccable this year – with all being very vigilant on safety issues.

An overview of the forest hunting opportunities at Waiterere, Santoft, and Erindale forests was provided.

It was noted that while the permit provided access to Santoft Forest, there were hunters coming from Wellington believing that they could enter without booking. This would be clarified in the permit advisory note for next season.

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It was then moved to

receive the access report regarding access issues for anglers and hunters across the region

Chris O'Meara/Don Scott

carried

27. Management Report for the Period 1 June to 31 July 2021

Mr Teal provided an overview of the Management Report for the relevant period.

Mr Teal provided an overview of the submissions made for the Long-Term Plan Submission processes undertaken for Regional Councils and several District and City Councils – receiving responses back.

Councillor McIntyre noted that Mr Teal presented at the primary industry summit on behalf of Fish and Game NZ and was commended for presenting Fish and Game in an informed and considered perspective.

After further discussion and clarifications it was moved that

Council receive the Management Report for period 1 June to 31 July 2021 be received.

Colin Shore/Malcolm Francis

Carried

28. Licence Sales Report – 1 September 2020 up to 31 July 2021

Chairman Cotsilinis provided an overview of the fishing licence sales noting that 2020/21 fish licence sales LEQs were up significantly compared to last year (+150 LEQs).

Mr Teal noted that the game licence sales for 2021 game season were around about 90 LEQ's down on actual sales for the 2019 financial year [comparison with COVID restricted year not meaningful].

After brief discussion it was moved that

The licence sales reports for Fish Licence Sales 2020/2021 as at 31 July 2021 be received

Richard McIntire/John Hancock

Carried

29. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

The summary of income and expenditure to 30 June 2021 was considered. Councillor Scott noted that the actual revenue was tracking well and was at

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or above budget, and that expenditure was being conservatively managed and was under budget.

Mr Teal noted that IRD had updated the reimbursement rates for vehicle use and these rates would now be applied (on application).

Mr Teal provided an overview of his analysis of overhead expenditure in line with efforts to minimise expenditure over the period as per the directions given by NZ council.

Mr Teal noted that he was actively assessing vehicle replacement as it had been deferred for over twelve months in the planned conservative replacement cycle. He indicated that he was placing an order to replace an existing vehicle, but that delivery would be towards the end of September (or later).

Chairman Cotsilinis confirmed that the CPI index adjustment in salaries would be afforded to staff to recognise the extra work requirements being undertaken and principles of being a good employer.

After brief discussion it was then moved

Receive and Accept the Expenditure Reports to 30 June 2021 and Financial Transactions for May and June 2021.

Don Scott/John Hancock

Carried

30. Correspondence / Media

Mr Teal indicated that the responses that were coming back from the Long Term Planning processes undertaken by regional councils and district councils (LTAs) was worth the time and effort. He confirmed that it provided an opportunity to highlight key issues to the councils that were important to Fish & Game, and but also resulted in instances of re-prioritisation of funding by the regional or district councils.

Councillor Scott sought clarification as to whether all licence holders had been advised of an invitation to submit on the governance review and it was confirmed that an option had been provided by the website to do such.

31. Recognition and Contribution Awards

Potential recipients were discussed and additional nominations called for consideration at future meetings. Peter Taylor was nominated for a recipient of an award for contribution to management of the fish and game resource in the Wellington Fish and Game region.

Paul Dewar was presented with an award for contribution to governance in the Wellington Fish and Game region. Mr Dewar had been the chairman from 2006 to 2009 during a period of management disruption. He had shown leadership in managing the council and reestablishing a good management regime derived from good governance direction from the Council.

32. Wellington Conservation Board - Liaison

Councillors indicated that they may be available to attend future Wellington Conservation Board meeting on 16 September 2021 in Wellington. Mr Teal would provide briefings that would be required should they be available for that meeting.

Items of mutual interest suggested included the transparency and planning updates for 'spade ready' projects.

Dr Kavermann noted that there had been a reasonable turnover of members of the Conservation Board with three new appointees, - so there might be some opportunities to update on them on different issues.

33. General Business

Dr Kavermann noted that staff were confirming a contract to secure pheasants for release into forestry areas.

After brief discussion it was moved

That a three-year programme of modest pheasant releases be funded from funds derived from net surplus of general access permits.

Paul Shortis/Richard McIntyre

Carried

Mr Teal noted that Council would need to formalise the formation of dedicated reserves for accumulating net surplus of the access permit system - one for the stand holders and one for general access permits.

It was then moved that

Two dedicated reserves be established:

- 1. Wairarapa Standholders Access and Management - any surplus revenue from issuance of access permits for Wairarapa Standholders be allocated to a dedicated reserve that may accumulate to undertake works relating to the management of access to hunting around Lake Wairarapa.***
- 2. General Hunter Access to Public Sites - to allow for surplus revenue to be accumulated and be used for projects that***

Draft and Unconfirmed

increase or maintain hunter opportunity and continued practical access at these sites, and management of hunting stands.

Malcolm Francis/Don Scott

Carried

Councillor McGregor noted that it would be useful to publicise this via social media to pheasant hunters and keeping them informed of these releases.

Mr Teal indicated that the new Wellington Fish and Game Council would be confirmed before 25 October 2021 and that provisional results from the election would be available on the 12 October 2021. To provide efficiency it was agreed that the existing Council should meet prior to 12 October 2021 (note date change to 11 October 2021) and the new Council meet on 2 November 2021 to provide a briefing in to confirm a chairman and appointed to New Zealand council.

Don Scott indicated date a recent club trip to the Whakapapa River that there had been a date clash with a competition fishing event. He considered it would be good to publicise wider when such events occur to avoid expectations as to crowding of the fishing opportunity.

There being no further items of general business the meeting was closed at 6.10pm.

Next Meeting to be held: ***Zoom Meeting on 11 October 2021 at 3pm.***

Chairman _____ Date _____