

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024 AT 3.10PM AT CLUB WAIRARAPA, 20 ESSEX STREET, MASTERTON PALMERSTON NORTH

1. **Present:**

Chairman Paul Dewar. Councillors John Hancock, Don Scott, Malcolm Francis, Aaron Passey, Richard McIntyre, Jim Cook, Steve Brown, Prof. Stephen Haslett,

Video Link Councillors: Colin Shore

In Attendance:

Fish and Game Staff: Phil Teal, Dr Matt Kavermann, Hamish Carnachan.

Licence Holders: John Pansters (until 4.30pm), David Revell (until 4.30pm)

Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Chairman Dewar opened the meeting and extended a welcome to all councillors, staff, and licence holder(s).

2. **Apologies:**

It was noted that apologies were received from:

Councillors Jennifer Yanko, Andrew McGregor

Staff: Ami Coughlan.

Public: Paul Shortis, Simon Robertson

It was then moved that

the apologies received be accepted

Jim Cook/Aaron Passey

Carried

3. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflicts of Interest Register was discussed. Councillors updated their conflicts of interest as follows:

- Councillor Passey noted that he was no longer the Federated Farmers Executive Member–Chairperson Sharemilkers Section/Chair Tararua Dairy Section

It was then moved that

The Conflicts of Interest Register be updated accordingly to record the change in status of Councillors on various Trusts and Committees.

Malcolm Francis/Colin Shore

Carried

Mr Teal confirmed that the Conflict-of-Interest register would be updated, and Conflict of Interest Management Plan would also be updated with the removal of the conflicts of interest declarations.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 13 February 2024:**

Following consideration of the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish and Game Council of 13 February 2024 it was moved that ***the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 13 February 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.***

Don Scott/Steve Brown

Carried

5. **Matters Arising:**

Mr Teal noted that Wellington Fish and Game Council had forwarded the Wellington Region Game Season recommendations to NZ Council for the Minister of Conservation to review and sign-off. He noted that protocols had now changed so that the Minister of Hunting and Fishing had assumed responsibility for Fish and Game via an Order of Council via the Cabinet. The Minister had decided not to sign two changes to bag limits from two South Island regions, and this had delayed the processing of the Game Gazette and associated Game Regulations booklet. Mr Teal noted that there were several errors that had subsequently been printed in the Game Regulations Booklet (the 'final' version from an update), including one reference relating to the start of the black swan season in Wellington region. He noted that all rangers would be informed of the printing error and instructions given for licence holder engagement.

Mr Teal noted that he had progressed some planning for a workshop on tikanga and maori protocols for governor training and understanding – to support the material already distributed. This is planned for the 2024 financial year as time permits.

6. **Public Forum**

An opportunity was afforded to members of the public to discuss specific issues. No specific issues were discussed.

7. **New Zealand Fish and Game Council Business**

Councillor Haslett confirmed that the NZ Fish and Game Council Chairman, Barrie Barnes, and NZ Council Chief Executive Corina Jordan had met with the Minister of Hunting and Fishing – this change in reporting to this Minister is how Fish and Game now links to the Government. Chairman Barnes had noted to NZ Council that the Minister had indicated a strong preference (not formally confirmed) for retaining the licence fee at the same rate – and that

this would have significant consequences for the financial stability of Fish and Game.

Councillor Haslett noted that another meeting was planned with the Minister for 11 April 2024 – where it was expected that additional clarity would be given on future processes and the Minister’s expectations of Fish and Game to move forward. He noted that as the Minister is a member of the Cabinet that Fish and Game is not in a strong position to challenge his preferred outcome of ‘fiscal responsibility’ and that it is politically prudent to try best efforts to achieve such. He noted that when the constraint of holding the licence fee at the same level is combined with licence sales on a (slight) decline, that Fish and Game is facing increasing financial pressures to sustain current practices.

Councillor Haslett then outlined the response from NZ Council to the financial stresses was to request that all regions (and NZ Council) be asked to cut their current budget by 3% for the next financial year. He noted that the draft contestable fund pool to achieve core projects and meet organisational expectations as good employers, had about a \$400,000 shortfall, and an alternative approach to budgeted was required.

Discussion ensued on how to quantify what level of funding that each Fish and Game Council (individually and collectively) needs to undertake essential functions – noting that a 3% across the board saving might not cover these essential actions and activities. The frailties of the budget process was also critiqued with the possibility of regional management pushing ‘essentials’ into the contestable fund applications which are more likely to be supported.

Councillor Haslett outlined that the RMA legal fund management was unclear on how progress was being made on some projects as legal processes and budgets were carried forward over several years and progressed at varying pace. There was a discussion at NZ Council on options for continued resource management advocacy work including a RM team to undertake regional advocacy.

Councillor Haslett confirmed progress had been made on better defining the research function and how to manage the research application process. He noted that two ‘rounds’ of applications were now close to one another – with the current priority being an economic assessment of the value of trout fishing in New Zealand to be undertaken by NZIER (~\$60,000 budget) – with this provider selected through a tender process.

Discussion ensued on the research function noting that the research budget is always going to be tight with only \$100,000 allocated to research and some

will be carried over from year to year. It was considered that monitoring evaluation could/should be considered to be funded by the research fund to ensure the monitoring is undertaken with standard techniques and consistency across the country.

Discussion developed on the budgeting allocation process and retaining a focus on key outcomes of benefiting licence holders and meeting obligations under legislation. This included what is going to improve the experience of licence holders.

Councillor Haslett considered that the research committee was now working well.

Councillor Haslett noted that the NZ CE Corina Jordan was recently in a Radio New Zealand interview with the interviewer being relatively aggressive but considered her responses to be very professional and considered.

Councillor Haslett noted NZ Council's concern that there is a risk that the RM advocacy function may be externally reviewed in some manner – which may limit Fish and Game's effectiveness to advocate for trout habitat and wetland maintenance.

After brief further discussion it was moved that

The report from Wellington Council's appointee Councillor Haslett on NZ Fish and Game Council business and meetings be received

Jim Cook/Don Scott

Carried

8. Regional Business - Governance

Chairman Dewar provided a brief overview of governance activities for Wellington region since the previous meeting. He noted that there were no significant governance issues or key operational outcomes that the Council needed to be made aware of.

9. Inter-Regional Business - Governance

a. Shared Resources Update

Chairman Dewar provided a brief update on the progress of shared resources arrangement between Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils. He considered that it was progressing with continued co-operative spirit at both operational and governance level.

b. Chair's Forum 17 February 2024

Chairman Dewar provided a report on the Fish and Game Regional Chairs' Forum held in Wellington on 17 February 2024. He noted that the original

agenda was not followed and instead focused on responding to internal Chair emails sent in the preceding weeks.

He further noted that discussion then focused on the response from regions to the request to reduce their budgets by 3%. He did get the impression that there was a growing realisation that the organisation was experiencing some increasing financial pressures and tensions.

He noted that there were still perspectives from South Island regions that they were the cash earning centres for the organisation. Councillor Scott noted that there were some legitimate points from that perspective (50% Game Sales North Island, and 25% Fish Sales North Island). It was further noted that Fish and Game is a 'nation-wide' organisation, and a national licence was probably a change required to reduce tensions between regions and retain budget allocations that were realistic and equitable. Further discussion developed on NZ Council's deliberations on concepts developed by the Future Structure and Future Finance Working Groups including how to determine budget allocations – and whether residence and/or resource use allocation principles will be feasible in maintaining a 'national' organisation with appropriate entity 'base funding'.

The discussion noted that determining an appropriate base funding approach should be the initial determinant of funding allocation.

It was further noted that the Taupo regional licence creates a different dynamic in the North Island as it effectively acts in direct competition to Fish and Game licence sales and influences angler purchase behaviour.

Discussion then focused on the need to be proactive and accepting of change rather than defending a territory and a 'business as usual' approach. It was concluded that licence holder needs should be at the forefront of any decision making for modernising the organisation.

Chairman Dewar confirmed that there was a briefing to the Chairs' Forum on the meeting that NZ Council Chair (Barrie Barnes) and NZ Council CE (Corina Jordan) had had with the Minister of Hunting and Fishing:

- looking at any structural changes in 2025
- amalgamation is not required but will occur if requested.
- expect reduction in numbers of governors.
- may consider postponing elections (maybe by Order in Council required) - if even possible.
- fiscal responsibility should be exhibited.
- guides licences aren't on the agenda

Councillor Passey sought clarification as to where the Minister for Hunting and Fishing is receiving advice from - assuming that DoC officials were the primary source of advice.

Chairman Dewar confirmed that it was planned to have a joint governance training session at the Chairs' Forum/NZ Council workshop but this didn't eventuate and the agenda was subsequently not followed.

Chairman Dewar emphasised at the Chairs' Forum that amalgamation shouldn't be used to fund efficiencies - as this will be seen as an example to be penalised rather than being a way to encourage regions to change.

It was confirmed that the contestable fund process would involve Chairs presenting each region's case to NZ Council on the 19 April 2024 at the latter's budget consideration meeting.

After brief further discussion it was then moved that

Council receive the report on Inter-Regional Governance activity presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Paul Dewar/ Malcolm Francis

Carried

Mr Teal provided a brief update on Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Councils progress on redefining their operations – with Corina Jordan (NZC CE) undertaking the principal management interface with governors and other staff being directed to complete tasks under a revised work plan. It was indicated that there is prospect of re-advertising for a senior field officer role is likely to progress in the coming months.

10. Draft Operational Work Plan & Budget 2024 /25

a. Review draft Budget for 2024/2025 Financial Year

Council considered the draft Budget for next Financial Year with discussion focusing on:

- External Project Cost Efficiencies
- Overhead Costs in terms of organisational guidelines (staff remuneration, asset replacement, reserve management).
- Requirements for increase in base funding – resulting in contestable fund application(s).

Chairman Dewar confirmed that he had had discussions with the NZ Council Chair on the requirement to reduce budgets by 3%, and informed him that Wellington Region was already running a lean operation (having already

taken a 5% cut in budget that was not reinstated post COVID times and had curtailed non-core projects) and that it had absorbed all of the costs to date associated with the shared resources arrangement with Taranaki Region. He considered that it would be unrealistic to expect Wellington or Taranaki Regions to take a 3% cut when they were proactively undertaking change management – given all other regions were operating in a ‘business as usual’ mindset.

John Pansters and David Revell left the meeting at 4:30 pm

Councillor Haslett confirmed that the determination of 3% budget cut for each entity was established at the NZ Council meeting in 17 February 2024 but was not presented as a pre-circulated paper and arose from discussions at the meeting.

Council discussed the implications of what a 3% cut in budget for Wellington region would mean - in the order of \$25,000 - coming principally from savings made to external projects (assuming staff structures would remain unaltered).

After considerable discussion it was then moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council send a letter to NZ Fish and Game Council inform them that Wellington region has made enough savings in the recent past (COVID response not reinstated) and that it would not be equitable for Wellington region to be required to make a further 3% savings given its proactive and co-operative response to shared resources with Taranaki Region

Don Scott/Malcolm Francis

Carried

It was confirmed that cost efficiencies would continue to be at the forefront of financial management considerations.

After further discussion it was moved that

The draft Budget and Operational Work Plan for 2024/2025 Financial Year be confirmed as the budget to be presented to NZ Council for confirmation in the licence fee setting process and budget allocation.

Jim Cook/Aaron Passey

Carried

Councillor Haslett abstained from voting.

After further discussion it was moved that

The contestable fund application to fund remuneration reviews of staff in accordance with the Remuneration Policy be forwarded to NZ Council for consideration as part of the budget allocation process.

Steve Brown Richard McIntyre

Carried

b. Review draft Operational Work Plan for 2024/2025 Financial Year

Council considered the draft Budget and Operational Work Plan for next Financial Year and acknowledged that the format would change from previous iterations to include:

- Project Outputs that reflect strategic outcomes
- Project Outputs that reflect strategic priorities and direction from strategic plan

11. Strategic Matters

a. Confirm Strategic Statements – Regional

Council considered the draft Strategic Statements for inclusion in Operational Work Plan revision to allow for Annual Reporting requirements.

These were based on reflecting Wellington Fish and Game Council's interpretation and implementation of the Organisational Strategy at a regional level.

Discussion ensued on suggestions and clarifications:

- whether to move the strategic objectives to provide an order of priority,
- include a statement relating to developing relationships with land owners as a stakeholder.
- The statement relating to iwi engagement could be simpler and more concise.
- Confirm that Council should develop an iwi engagement strategy now as a priority ,
- Don't want the strategic statements to become too prescriptive that then require unrealistic levels of budget to achieve outputs

After further discussion it was moved that

The draft Regional Strategic Outcomes be adopted for Wellington Fish and Game Council

Aaron Passey Richard McIntyre

Carried

b. Risk Management Review

Council considered the risk management assessment undertaken by Taranaki Fish and Game Council and confirmed the relevant risk management issues and risk matrix that also outline potential actions and priorities. There was merit seen in the inclusion of a risk matrix to assist at strategic discussion forums – how can the Council control the risks in the short term or long term.

After further discussion it was moved to

Agree to update a risk management matrix on an (at least) annual basis to coincide with strategic discussion forums

Don Scott/Steve Brown

Carried

c. Developing Workshop for Simplifying Setting Regulations

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the discussion paper from Southland Fish and Game Council who were contributing to deliberations on simplifying Freshwater Sports Fishing Regulations.

Discussion ensued on the dependance of having good monitoring information if the goal was to manage sustainable fisheries by harvest restrictions rather than where you are fishing or what method you are using. The example of implementing ethical considerations of bait fishing based on the current definitions versus a more liberal interpretation of 'bait'. Further examples of restrictions to fishing techniques were provided including sites that were still fly fishing only (excluding spin and bait fishing) that were determined decades ago – despite the habitat degrading considerably in the interim. There was support for the direction of deliberations to simplify regulations to maintain a level of consistency across the country. It was acknowledged that even it a one-size-fits-all policy New Zealand wide wouldn't work universally, there should be some consistency in the base principles of ethics and sustainable harvest goals.

d. Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan Review

Mr Teal indicated that the NZ Council was developing a new template for the development and consultation of Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans for regions – and that progress would be largely determined by the priority for consultation and implementation.

12. **Policy and Legislation Reviews**

Mr Teal provided an overview of reviews of legislation and internal policies:

a. Wildlife Act Review

In September 2023 the Minister of Conservation announced the formal review of the Wildlife Act – which was to begin in March 2024. There has been no update as to the priority or timetable from the new Government in progressing this review.

b. Resource Management Act Review

Repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act 2022 (NBEA 2022) in December 2023 reverting back to the Resource Management Act 1991

Fast Track Consenting Bill – has been introduced into Parliament on 8 March 2024.

The Government is making changes to resource management laws with the first steps taken to establish a new fast-track consenting one-stop shop regime.

The fast track consenting regime will consist of:

- A new fast-track process contained in a standalone Act, with its own purpose statement focused on regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and economic development projects;
- A process for projects to be referred by Ministers into the fast-track process if it meets appropriate criteria;
- A list of projects that will be first to have their consents approved and conditions set by an Expert Panel;
- A process where referred projects will go to an Expert Panel which will apply any necessary conditions to ensure adverse effects of the project to the environment are managed appropriately, and where the panel will have only a limited ability to decline a project once referred.

The previous Government had a short-term consenting process to fast-track projects to boost employment and economic recovery in response to Covid-19 – the Fast-track Consenting Act (FTCA) but was repealed on 8 July 2023.

c. Arms Act Review

The Government announced in February 2024 that firearms legislation will be reviewed. This includes rewriting the Arms Act 1983, transferring responsibility for that act to the Ministry of Justice, and transferring the Firearms Safety Authority to another department such as the Department of Internal Affairs.

The only part of those reforms to make it into the Government's 100-day plan was the repeal and replacement of Part 6 of the Arms Act relating to shooting clubs and ranges.. The Government has said other firearms reforms will also likely be introduced this year.

Discussion ensued on the principles of the previous firearms legislation that was supported previously by NZ Police– i.e. that it was better to license and consider the appropriateness of individual person to use firearms rather than licensing the firearms themselves. Further discussion ensued on whether there was a preference to revert to the previous system of background and 'good character' checks. It was agreed that any system had to be able to be managed by the Police in terms of capacity to achieve any meaningful outcome.

d. Organisational Policies

Continuing to liaise with NZ Council and regions regarding defining best practice policy for operational and governance applications.

Regional Operational and Governance policies are being actively reviewed.

13. Health and Safety Reporting – January 2024 to February 2024

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the Health and Safety Report January 2024 and February 2024. He confirmed that staff were still having regular Health and Safety components of their weekly meetings, and this also provided an opportunity for more regular and timely health and safety discussions/updates.

No accidents or notable incidents are reported that are required to be brought to the attention of Council.

It was noted that a review of Health and Safety Policy was being co-ordinated by NZ Council.

Councillor Passey noted that Council still needed to confirm a healthy working environment for staff and that a building warrant of fitness should be covered by the lessor or covered as a separate budget item internally.

It was moved that

Council receives the Health and Safety Report for January 2024 and February 2024

Malcolm Francis/Jim Cook

Carried

14. Species Management

Mr Teal confirmed the 2024 Trout Order and schedule from Eastern Region Fish and Game Ngongotaha Hatchery.

15. Habitat Advocacy and Management

Mr Teal provided an overview and information on the activities to support the habitat advocacy and habitat management function:

a. Regional Planning advocacy – Horizons Regional Plan Review

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the Oranga Wai consultation – the next generation of Regional Plan changes to reflect NPS FM 2020 – focusing on water quantity and water quality parameters. The timetable to complete the Plan Change revision for public notification has been unofficially put back from the December 2024 deadline.

b. Regional Planning advocacy – Horizons One Plan - Plan Change 2 Hearing

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with their Plan Change 2 of the Regional Plan (One Plan) to introduce an additional tool – Nitrogen Loss Risk Scorecard - to deal with nitrogen leaching from intensive farm use. This is in addition to using Overseer modelling which provides an estimate of nitrogen leaching loss at root level – but is subject to regular review (and improvement) with empirical trials to verify estimates. Uncertainty in the model estimates are typically in the order of 20-30% so the absolute number must be used with caution in regulatory frameworks.

c. Regional Planning advocacy – GWRC Plan Change 1 Regional Policy Statement

To reflect the changes necessary for implementation of NPSFM 2020, GWRC have filed proposed changes to the RPS, and Fish and Game have submitted on various aspects – some in support, some seeking changes to the proposals. This will directly affect further changes in the Regional Plan provisions. The hearings have been separated into Freshwater issues and non-FW issues with two committees of commissioners dealing with each work stream. Fish and Game have presented legal, planning, and technical submissions to the hearing in February for Hearing Stream 6 – which focused on protection of freshwater biodiversity. Fish and Game involvement completed – awaiting decisions.

- d. Regional Planning advocacy – GWRC Regional Plan Change 1 – Natural Resources Plan**
GWRC has notified Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) which primarily give effect to policy recommendations for the Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara catchment areas. Fish and Game submitted on these proposed changes. Further submissions process now completed.
- e. Resource Consent advocacy - Palmerston North WWTP**
Part of PNCC Consultation Working Group to discuss and provide feedback on the resource consent application. PNCC lodged resource consent applications on 24 December 2022 and has been resubmitted after it was initially declined by Horizons – but the questions have to be addressed by June 2024.
- f. Resource Consent advocacy - Kapiti Coast DC – WWTP consent renewals**
Kapiti Coast DC have formed a community working group to be involved in current renewal process for WWTP discharge, and also potentially Best Operating Practice option identification. Staff attended meeting to receive updates.
- g. Resource Consent advocacy - Wellington Water – Stormwater discharges and global consent for management**
Affects all waters in the Wellington and Wairarapa that have Wellington Water as their provider.
- h. Resource Consent advocacy – Atawhata Wetland Development**
Part of reference group Lake Horowhenua wetland restoration project– up to 70 ha of wetland could be created as part of a Jobs For Nature project. Have been providing input at regular meetings – on a tight timeframe for completion. Fish and Game will be seeking assurances that total loads of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus pulses that result from high intensity rain events are able to be dealt with by the wetland design. The catchment is predominantly market gardening in land use, and anticipated weather events from storms is predicted to increase in frequency in the next ten years. Has received approval for fast-track consent processing and currently appointing Commissioners.
- i. Habitat Enhancement Projects**
Liaised with site managers that had received funding from Gamebird Habitat stamp and further requests for assistance.

16. Participation Projects – Update

Mr Teal provided a brief summary and information of activities undertaken in the last two months to support the participation function:

a. Access Management

- Access Point descriptions included on new website.
- Preparation undertaken for access to hunters for forestry blocks.
- Access permit book completed.

b. Information to Clients

- Weekly email newsletter – the Lower North Island Low Down – has been posted weekly.
- The website has been updated and released in February 2024.
- Preparation undertaken for 2024 Game Season Magazine
- Preparation undertaken for 2024 Game Season Regional Newsletter

c. Licence Holder Engagement

- No active requirements for action – confirming fish order requirements.
- Capital Trout Centre have finished for season – no fish required from Turangi due to cleaning operations at site for end of year.

17. Public Awareness and Communications

Mr Teal provided a brief summary and information of public awareness and communications activities over the previous two months:

a. Iwi Engagement

Involved Rangitaane Environmental staff in banding operations to increase their experience base.

Liaised with Kahungunu and Wairarapa Moana Statutory Reserve Board to confirm access for hunters for 2024 Game Season.

b. Public Awareness

Staff contributed to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness campaign – ***Re Wilding***.

They also contributed to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness project to define the public good undertaken by Fish and Game.

c. Communication

No specific Press Releases in February

d. Promotions

Supported introduction to fly fishing courses in Wellington by confirming short term .licences for 2024.

18. Fishing Licence And Game Licence Sales

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of licence sales up to 29 February 2024 and referred to cumulative licence sales (and differential) compared to last year.

Fishing Licence Sales

Key points:

- a. **Sports Fish Fishing Licence Sales Update**— Licence Sales Report for the 2023/2024 Fishing Season Year to Date (until 29 February 2024)

Regional LEQs sales up 0.6% compared to previous year (2749 c.f. 2733)

National LEQs sales down 2.6% (64,516 c.f. 66,244) as at 29 February 2024

- b. **Game Bird Hunting Licence Sales Update** – Licence Sales were just initiated on 15 March 2024, so no comparison is relevant.

It was then moved that

Council receive report on Licence Sales for Fish Licences 2023/2024 Season as at 29 January 2024.

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

- c. **Licence Management System—January and February 2024** - The Licencing Operational Group presented a summary report on the performance of the Licencing Management system outlining:

- No issues with continuity of service
- A list of bugs and fixes required under agreed contract being progressed.
- Progressing well to complete requirements of development phase of contract.
- ESL provide services to manage electronic licence sales {Public on Line and Agent on Line} and data capture.

It was then moved that

Council receive report on Licence Sales Management for January and February 2024

Malcolm Francis/Colin Shore

Carried

19. Management Report – 1 January 2024 – 29 February 2024

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of operational activities undertaken in January and February 2024 and confirmation of the Work Plan Report.

After brief discussion it was then moved that

Council receive the Management Report for period 1 January 2024 to 29 February 2024

Aaron Passey/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Teal noted that he was in the process of changing the style of report to provide a more concise overview of work undertaken and be focused on reporting operational activities in line with the financial reporting periods for each two-month period.

20. Expenditure Report / Financial Transactions

Mr Teal provided an overview of information noted in the dashboard, and referred to supporting documentation. Councillor Scott highlighted the cash deficit due to NZ Council authorising expenditure from reserves for funding the RM case on Plan Change 2 of Horizon's One Plan hearings at the Environment Court.

It was noted that Mr Teal had recently relinquished 600 hours of time in lieu leave that had accumulated in the past couple of years. It was acknowledged that the principal purpose of this type of leave was to ensure health and safety of staff and avoid 'burn-out', but as this accumulated time was not likely to be able to be taken that relinquishing it was the appropriate course of action. Council thanked Mr Teal for the contributions and the diligence for working the extra hours when required over the previous years.

It was then moved that

Council Receive and Accept the Expenditure Reports to 29 February 2024 and Financial Transactions for January and February 2024.

Malcolm Francis/Don Scott

Carried

21. Correspondence / Media

The following specific item was briefly considered:

- Media: Repeal of Natural and Built Environment Act legislation and Spatial Planning Act. Press releases also reported on proposed changes to fast-track consenting, freshwater consenting, requiring authority status that can allow it to designate land for a specified purpose (such

as schools and roading) for planning and consenting, and Mana Whakahono a Rohe management agreement development.

- Media: The proposal for Fast Track Legislation for infrastructure development was also outlined in numerous media releases.

It was moved to

receive the correspondence and media items

Don Scott/Jim Cook

Carried

22. Recognition And Contribution Awards

None presented and no further nominations received.

23. Wellington Conservation Board Liaison

It was further noted that there had been a change in the composition of the Conservation Board (as a routine refreshing of members).

It was agreed that staff would continue efforts to maintain contact with the Conservation Board with a view to discussing any issues of mutual interest. It was noted that the next meeting may be in April in Masterton.

Requests for suitable nominations for North Island Conservation Boards were briefly discussed.

It was then moved that

Jim Cook receives support and nomination as a potential Conservation Board member and that his name be submitted at the next opportunity for vacancies on the Wellington or Taupo Tongariro Conservation Boards.

Don Scott/ Aaron Passey

Carried


24. General Business

It was noted that there had been some recent publicity of tench being found in stormwater ponds (referred to as 'lakes') in the Kapiti District, but it is unlikely that these were recently introduced.

There were no further specific items of general business, the meeting closed at 6.00pm.

Chairman Dewar thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution.

Next Meeting to be held: Meeting on Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at Nga Manu Nature Reserve Education Centre, Nga Manu Reserve Road, Waikanae at 3.00pm.

Chairman  Date 14/6/24