CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 158th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 16th JUNE 2016 AT 12.00PM

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Laurance Tamati, David Woolner, Annaka Davis, Sandy Bull, Steve Scragg, Ken Coombes, and Alan Baird.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Eben Herbert, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, Nigel Simpson (Eastern Fish & Game); Ken Raureti and Bill Clark (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); Michel Dedual (DOC Taupo Fisheries), Brian Stamp (Rotoiti Fishing Club), Ray Bushell and Colin Paton.

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.00pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, Bill Clark (BOP Conservation Board), Michel Dedual (Department of Conservation), Brian Stamp, Ray Bushell and Colin Paton.

- 2.0 APOLOGIES
- 2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Peter Storey, and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation).
- 2.2 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 158th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/06/2.2]
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 APRIL 2016)
- 3.1 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/06/3.1]
- 4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY.
- 4.1 There were no items for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Andy Garrick had circulated a Declaration of Interest Document for completion by Councillors at the previous meeting and requested that these be returned. Those not present at the previous meeting requested a copy of this and Andy advised he would email a copy out prior to the next meeting.
- 5.2 Council discussed a proposal raised in General Business by Cr Murray Ferris at Council's April meeting to extend its standard meeting time of three hours to up to four hours if required. The purpose of doing so would be to avoid having to formally agree to do so on each occasion as is currently the case.
- 5.3 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that the allowable duration of Council's standard meeting time of three hours be extendable by up to an hour when there is a need to so. [16/06/5.3]
- 5.4 Council discussed the significant number of Papers for Information (PFI) produced for this meeting noting that many of the media articles were accessible to Councillors via Mediamine and that some items related to the same topic. Andy Garrick commented that he found PFI a useful archive and reference tool but said that he was open to

change. Some Councillors considered PFI should be restricted to essential background papers needed for decision making in their roles as governors, but most Councillors considered the articles were useful for the wider insight they provided to matters of interest to Fish & Game. The point was made that Councillors can choose whether they wish to read an article or not, and if PFI are provided by electronic means only, costs are minimal.

5.5 Agreed (Neal Hawes/Laurance Tamati) that Council continues to receive Papers for Information as currently provided, that these be by electronic means only, and this approach be reviewed after the next few meetings if necessary. [16/06/5.5]

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

• Andy Garrick - Public Submissions

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 No conflict of interest items were identified.

8.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

- 8.1 Andy Garrick introduced the draft Health and Safety Policy noting that this is intended to be the overarching policy covering Council's commitment to Health and Safety. He highlighted the need for all parties to be aware of what's required of them, and to take responsibility for their actions, and advised that a Health and Safety report covering off each of the key requirements imposed by the new legislation will be a standard item on the agenda of each Council meeting.
- 8.2 Cr Laurance Tamati noted an apparent omission relating to volunteer officers in the policy and Andy confirmed this was an omission and that it would be rectified.
- 8.3 Cr Barry Roderick queried the Manager's role and how Council would ensure that the Manager is complying with the Health and Safety Policy. Andy advised that there will be reporting procedures developed for the Manager and auditing processes developed for the Council to implement. Andy noted that the draft Health and Safety manual provided with the PFI is a live document which will be continually added to and reviewed as required.
- 8.4 (Agreed Laurance Tamati/Lindsay Lyons) that Council adopts the draft Health and Safety Policy subject to the addition of a provision for volunteer officers. [16/06/8.4]

9.0 REGIONAL GOVERNANCE POLICIES

- 9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council that a review of regional governance policies is undertaken every three years and that the updated policy contained within the Papers for Information for this meeting was an adaptation of the recently adopted New Zealand Council Governance Policy.
- 9.2 Crs Murray Ferris and Barry Roderick queried the need for Section 2.6.b relating to individual Councillor evaluation. Council discussed this and agreed that this process unfairly discriminated against new Councillors in particular, acknowledging the time required to become familiar with the role and comfortable in their knowledge of both fish and game bird management matters. Whilst they agreed to this section remaining within the policy they agreed that this would only be implemented as and when required. On this basis Council requested that Andy review this section and provide updated wording for consideration at the next meeting.

9.3 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council adopts the Regional Governance Policies subject to a suitable amendment to Section 2.6.b relating to the evaluation of individual Councillors being drafted and agreed to. [16/06/9.3]

10.0 2016-2017 ANGLER'S NOTICE REVIEW (SECOND SCHEDULE)

- 10.1 Matt Osborne spoke briefly on proposed changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice and provided an explanation of the two schedules. Andy Garrick confirmed that discussion would follow on the suggested amendments to the First Schedule and that this item related specifically to proposed amendments to Eastern Region's Second Schedule.
- 10.2 Matt Osborne provided detail of two additional submissions which had been received after the first round of consultation had occurred and recommended that consideration of these be deferred until the next biennial anglers notice review. Cr Barry Roderick voiced his concern over the number of submissions received and the tremendous amount of staff and Council time that was required to process these. Council agreed that this was a time intensive process but also acknowledged the need to remain transparent and to provide the opportunity for licence holders to submit ideas. Cr Annaka Davis suggested that staff look at the current process with a view to refining it if possible. Matt Osborne provided more detail of the current process and Andy Garrick advised that staff would have a closer look at this.
- 10.3 Cr Laurance Tamati felt that the closing date for submissions was unclear and was concerned that the most recent submissions would not be considered for a further two years under the biennial review. Andy Garrick advised that reviews can be done in the intervening year for items of significance, adding that usually these would be for concerns of a biological and/or urgent nature. Matt Osborne informed Council of the requirement to consult with other parties and that time constraints meant that the submissions just received would need to be deferred for now.
- 10.4 Council discussed the submission to prohibit lead sinkers and lead downrigger weights on the Rotorua lakes and within the wider Eastern Region and agreed to retain the status quo given there was little information currently available to justify prohibiting the use of lead weights at this point in time. Cr Steve Scragg felt that the issue warranted further consideration, and noted that the use of lead weights should be prohibited at Waikaremoana and Waikareiti given that lead lines already were.
- 10.5 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that Council does not support the submission to prohibit lead sinkers and lead downrigger weights used during trout fishing within the Eastern Region and that the status quo shall apply. [16/06/10,5]
- 10.6 Council discussed the submission to extend the winter shoreline fishing area on Lake Okataina noting that this proposal would reduce congestion and provide additional opportunity for anglers.
- 10.7 Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Annaka Davis) that Council supports a change to regulations to alter the area of the Lake Okataina winter shoreline fishing area to include the western rocky point (600m west of boat ramp). [16/06/10.7]
- 10.8 Council discussed the submissions to prohibit the use of motorized boats upstream of the Hopuruahine Stream mouth, the relocation of the Hopuruahine landmark pole, and the reduction to bag limits on Lake Waikaremoana, and agreed the status quo shall apply to these proposals while field work investigating the need for the proposed changes was being undertaken within the area.
- 10.9 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that Council does not support the submission to prohibit the use of motorized craft while fishing upstream of the Hopuruahine Page 3

- Stream mouth, (Lake Waikaremoana), and that the status quo shall apply. [16/06/10.9]
- 10.10 Agreed (Sandy Bull/Steve Scragg) that Council does not support the submission to move the Hopuruahine landmark pole 200m downstream from its current position to remove ambiguity between spin/fly demarcation, and that the status quo shall apply. [16/06/10.10]
- 10.11 Agreed (Sandy Bull/Steve Scragg) that Council does not support the submission to reduce the bag limit at Waikaremoana from 8 fish to 3 fish per day, and that the status quo shall apply. [16/06/10.11]
- 10.12 Council discussed the proposal to change the season opening date for lakes Rotoiti, Okataina, and Tarawera, and Anthony van Dorp highlighted the difficulties in enforcing such a change from a compliance perspective. Council discussed the pros and cons and agreed that the upcoming 2016-17 Season where opening would fall on a Saturday would be a good opportunity to obtain participation data to enable further consideration of the proposal.
- 10.13 Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Neal Hawes) that Council does not support, at this time, the submission to adjust the season opening date for lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina so that it falls on the first Saturday in October each season, but notes that the opening of the 2016/17 season on 1 October this year falls on a Saturday and this provides an opportunity to investigate some of the positives and negatives of the proposal. [16/06/10.13]
- 10.14 Council discussed David Dods' submission on the demise of early spawning rainbow trout at Lake Waikaremoana and his recommendations for the Anglers Notice. Council agreed that regulations in the area shall remain the status quo pending staff completing and analysing investigative work currently taking place at Lake Waikaremoana.
- 10.15 Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council does not support the submission and suggested changes to the Anglers Notice from David Dods regarding the perceived demise of early spawning rainbow trout at Lake Waikaremoana, and that the status quo shall apply while further field work is being undertaken to assess the perceived issue. [16/06/10.15]
- 10.16 Matt Osborne provided some background to the submission from the local community (Rangiwewehi locals), to reclassify the Awahou Stream as closed waters in an attempt to alleviate issues occurring at the stream. Matt confirmed that the private access road would remain open to anglers wishing to fish the lake at the stream mouth. Anthony van Dorp felt that this proposed change would have a positive outcome for compliance activity in the area noting the significant staff resources required at times when trout are seeking cold water refuge in the stream. Council supported the submission and acknowledged the goodwill of the local residents in continuing to provide Fish & Game licence holders with access to the lake edge.
- 10.17 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the submission to reclassify the Awahou Stream, Lake Rotorua as closed waters. [16/06/10.17]
- 10.18 Council agreed to defer submissions that had been received after the development of the Issues and Options papers noting that these would be included in the next review of the Anglers Notice as there was insufficient time to adequately consult with other interested parties.
- 10.19 Agreed (Neal Hawes/Laurance Tamati) that Council defers consideration of the submissions presented since the development of the 2016-2017 Issues and Options papers until the next biennial anglers notice review in 2018. [16/06/10.19]

- 10.20 In the absence of further issues Council confirmed the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2016-2017 season.
- 10.21 Agreed (Annaka Davis/Sandy Bull) that with the exception of the recommended changes to the Okataina winter shoreline area and closure of the Awahou Stream, all other current Anglers Notice regulations remain unchanged for the 2016-17 Season. [16/06/10.21]

11.0 Proposed Changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice

- 11.1 Council received the South Island working party's report on proposed changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice which if adopted would not come into effect until the 2017-18 season or later. Andy Garrick informed Council that staff will review the recommendations and comment on these for consideration at a future meeting of Council.
- 11.2 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the proposed changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice and that further consideration will be given to this following a review and recommendations from staff. [16/06/11.2]

12.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016-2017 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 12.1 Council queried the need for it to review progressive drafts of the Operational Work Plan and whether it might be possible to streamline this process. Andy Garrick outlined the 'traditional' process in which proposed changes in Council's priorities or the direction it wishes to take are discussed in February, contestable fund bids are detailed and approved by Council in April, and a penultimate draft of the plan is confirmed in June for circulation to interested parties before being finalised and signed off at the August meeting. He suggested that the process to confirm bids in April could remain with staff and advised that a completed draft could be presented to Council in June and that he would look to implement this change next year.
- 12.2 Cr Barry Roderick expressed his disappointment with the outcomes of the National Anglers Survey resulting from the fraudulent recording of data. Andy Garrick agreed that this was disappointing as it not only placed a level of doubt over the integrity of the results but magnified the margins of error and therefore their usefulness for advocacy. Matt Osborne briefed the Council on how the fraud had been identified and Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that the New Zealand Council had conveyed its disappointment to the contracted survey provider.
- 12.3 Cr Laurance Tamati requested that the Regional Manager review priority 1.5.1 regarding Statutory Liaison and queried whether a MOU with Te Arawa could be provided for also. Andy agreed this could be identified as a project in itself and noted that steps had already commenced towards meeting with representatives of iwi entities via discussions with Cr Tamati and Ken Raureti.
- 12.4 Cr Laurance Tamati also queried priority 1.4.4, Species Monitoring, as there did not appear to be a corresponding project outlined for investigating perceived issues in Okawa Bay in the Species Management Project table on page 10 of the plan. Andy Garrick advised that the Okawa Bay concern would be covered under projects 1115 "Other Lake Fisheries Investigations" and/or 1121 "Lakes Fisheries Creel Surveys".
- 12.5 Agreed (David Woolner/Ken Coombes) that Council had reviewed the Draft 2016-2017 Operation Work Plan and confirmed that subject to the agreed amendment to priority 1.5.1 regarding Statutory Liaison this could now be circulated to interested parties for comment. [16/06/12.5]

12.6 Andy Garrick advised that any submissions received on the draft would be circulated to Council prior to the August meeting when final approval of the OWP would be required.

13.0 2016-2017 LICENCE FEES

- 13.1 Council reviewed the NZ Council recommended licence fees for the 2016-17 year and confirmed its support including the proposed increase to the Game Bird Habitat Stamp from \$2 to \$3 on all Game bird hunting licences. Andy Garrick advised that the recommendation within the agenda item should read \$93 AWS Game inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp. Lindsay Lyons added that the additional \$1 gained from the Habitat Stamp increase would be directed to predator control.
- 13.2 Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council supports the proposed licence fee for the 2016-2017 season of \$125 (AWS Fish) and \$93 (AWS Game, inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp. [16/06/13.2]

14.0 HUNTING AND HARVEST ETHICS

- 14.1 Council discussed whether Fish and Game should have a national policy on hunting and harvest ethics and what the implication of this might be. There was general acceptance of this but it was noted that care should be taken in using the term "ethics" as what some groups consider to be ethical may not be the case for others.
- 14.2 Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that Council supports the introduction of a national policy on hunter and harvest ethics, but consideration should be given to what it is called, suggesting that a "Code of Conduct" may be more appropriate. [16/06/14.2]

15.0 NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

- 15.1 Cr Murray Ferris called for interest from Council for nominations to the Game Bird Habitat Trust. Cr Steve Scragg expressed his interest in standing and commented that he believed he could add value to the work of the Trust.
- 15.2 Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Laurance Tamati) that Council supports the nomination of Cr Steve Scragg to the Game Bird Habitat Trust and requests that this be forwarded to the New Zealand Council for inclusion in the NZC agenda for its July meeting. [16/06/15.2]

16.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

Council briefly discussed the 2016 Game Bird Trend Count report detailing aerial counts of paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern and Hawke's Bay Fish and Game regions.

16.1 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the 2016 Trend Count Report. [16/06/16.1]

17.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

17.1 Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board

Departing member of the Board, Colin Paton, congratulated Annaka Davis on her success in being voted on to the Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board and advised that he would be more than happy to assist Annaka as required. Colin had been a member of the Board for seven years, and had attended 42 meetings over that time. He noted said that many of the issues dealt with by the Board were of little relevance to Fish & Game, the most recent being concerned with the Tongariro crossing and

Ruapehu Alpine lifts. Colin acknowledged the good working relationship that the Board maintained with iwi saying that everyone seemed to be working towards a common goal.

17.2 Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Ken Raureti spoke on behalf of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and provided an update on current work, issues, and visions of the Board including;

- Tarawera trail at capacity and future plans to extend the walkway;
- Hakarimata track, Waikato's outdoor gym;
- healthy nature, healthy people;
- sustainability of foot prints, what is being left behind?
- concessions for more guiding and fishing services, demand on resources growing.

Ken also spoke of issues relating to growing numbers of Canada geese and queried whether Fish & Game could return to counting Canada geese as part of its annual trend counting programme. Cr Murray Ferris advised that monitoring of Canada geese was no longer undertaken following its removal from the game bird schedule. Ken requested that Council review what additional effort might be involved as there is a need within the wider community to understand the status of these populations. Ken noted he was keen to see greater interagency co-ordination and partnerships. Ray Bushell suggested the Conservation Board should address any issues it might have relating to Canada geese to Federated Farmers.

17.3 East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

Not represented and no report received.

17.4 Department of Conservation, Central and Lower North Island Regions

Michel Dedual spoke on behalf of the Department of Conservation covering;

- DOC's move to an Anglers Notice system and how this might work;
- the termination of the carp farming proposal;
- still awaiting rainbow runs but browns doing well;
- fewer but better condition fish have been running through the Lake Otamangakau trap which has been in operation for 18 years now;
- smelt monitoring was completed in April, initial result showing good season for smelt and trout;
- increased licence sales 2nd year running, spin off from increased tourism;
- there is to be no increase in licence fees this year;
- completion of an economic analysis of licence sales.

Cr Barry Roderick queried Michael on his views of the catfish situation in Lake Rotoiti. Michael felt that if these had arrived in 2005 and were still contained within Te Weta Bay then it was quite likely that the impact to date would have been minimal.

17.5 Report from the New Zealand Council

Lindsay Lyons referred to his reports contained within the Papers for Information and spoke briefly of his meeting with the Minister of Conservation, Maggie Barry. Lindsay was very happy with how the New Zealand Council was performing in terms of getting through its agendas and addressing issues. Lindsay made a special point of requesting that councillors don't divulge sensitive information contained in his reports, particularly reports labelled as confidential such as that relating to his meeting with the Minister, as this is privileged information.

18.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- 18.1 Andy Garrick introduced the new Health and Safety Report which would from now on be included on the agenda of each meeting of Council. He said that this was a more detailed report than that which had previously been provided, and would ensure that Council remained fully informed and had the opportunity to raise questions and discuss topical issues.
- 18.2 Agreed (Ken Coombes/David Woolner) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [16/06/18.2]
- 18.3 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Sandy Bull) that Council receives the Management Report, Finance and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for March and April 2016 totalling \$239,031.21. [16/06/18.3]

19.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 19.1 Cr Barry Roderick queried staff feeling over hunter harvest this game bird season. Andy Garrick noted that some parts of the region such as the coastal Bay of Plenty and Gisborne area appeared to have performed well whereas others had not. Eben Herbert advised that we didn't yet have any substantive data to draw conclusions on the season overall but noted that weather hadn't helped in many areas. Ray Bushell commented that opening was good for him but following that the weather hadn't helped. Ray thought there were still plenty of ducks around in the coastal Bay of Plenty and he had even seen some nesting. Andy Garrick asked Alan Baird for his comments on the Waikite/Broadlands area as he had observed low numbers generally over opening weekend and this had been backed up by reports received from hunters. Alan considered that there were plenty of birds on the farms he had been on, but he had put less effort into hunting this year.
- 19.2 Cr Sandy Bull congratulated the staff team on the apprehension and conviction of offenders at Coals Creek, and commented on the usefulness of surveillance cameras in operations such as these.
- 19.3 Cr Barry Roderick requested an update on the Tarawera fishery. Matt Osborne noted there appeared to have been good growth over the last few months with good smelt numbers in the lake. He said that fish through the trap were slightly shorter than last year but were heavier, and noted that the trap run was 150 up on last season's run at year to date. Matt commented on a 4 kg fish through the trap the previous day and that a good number of 3 kg fish were also being recorded.
- 19.4 Andy Garrick referred to a letter included within the Papers for Information by an anonymous author concerning a whole variety of issues. He considered anonymous letters of this nature to be a wasted effort on the part of the writer as it precluded any opportunity to seek greater detail or respond to the issues raised. Andy hoped that recording this in Council's minutes might persuade people to put their name and contact details to complaints or issues they might have in future. Council agreed that letters such as are a waste of everyone's time.

	MEETING CLOSED The meeting was closed at 2.57pm.	, ,
		1/19/14
	iy Ferris,	Date
Chair	man	

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES
- 2.2 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 158th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/06/2.2]
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (7 APRIL 2016)
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- 16.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT
- 16.1 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the 2016 Trend Count Report. [16/06/16.1]
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