

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 169th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 5th APRIL 2018 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Peter Storey, Sandy Bull, Alan Baird, Laurance Tamati, and Annaka Davis (arrived 12.10).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Matt McDougall, Kate Thompson, Lynne Sands, Eben Herbert, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, Carmel Veitch, and Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game), and Ray Bushell.

1.0 WELCOME

Andy Garrick spoke to the meeting informing Council that Murray Ferris (Chairman) had sent his apologies, and as per Council's Standing Orders the meeting would be chaired today by the Deputy Chairman in his absence, Cr Lindsay Lyons.

- 1.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons took the chair, opened the meeting at 12.05pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, and Ray Bushell.

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Murray Ferris, David Woolner, Steve Scragg and Ken Coombes; and Helen Neale (Department of Conservation).

- 2.2 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Peter Storey) that the apologies for the 169th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/04/2.2]*

- 2.3 Following the February meeting some Councillors reiterated concerns in relation to their ability to hear speakers due in part to the poor acoustics of the meeting room. Andy Garrick advised that staff had sought expert advice on options to overcome this including use of microphones and/or other devices to amplify the voices of those speaking. The outcome of those enquiries was that an investment of \$2,000 or more would be required to do this and that there was a very real risk that we wouldn't achieve the results we desire. It was agreed that the main issue arose when other people were talking amongst themselves while the meeting was taking place. This could be managed with a reminder to all present of the need to remain quiet while a speaker was addressing the meeting. In addition, those who continued to have trouble hearing could seat themselves on the side table so as to be a little closer to the front tables which could, and would in future be repositioned to reduce the distance between these and the rear tables.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 FEBRUARY 2018)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following changes;*

- (i) *Amend Item 9.2 from "Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council voted in favour of postponing the exercise for a further year so that dialogue could take place with*

interested parties in the meantime” to “Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council registered their support for further consultation being undertaken with interested parties in relation to spin fishing in the lower Ruakituri prior to a decision being made to include this in the next review (2020) of the Anglers Notice”, and;

- (ii) *Amend Item 10.1 from “Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor” to “Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor for people attending”. [18/04/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 Items 11.5, 11.11, 11.13, 11.16, 11.18, and 11.20 relating to ‘Release of Captive Reared Mallards’ were identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Cr Sandy Bull queried Item 9.2 regarding the Anglers Notice relating to the Ruakituri River. Sandy suggested there could be some confusion with reference to postponing the intended review for a further year when the next Anglers Notice review was not due until a year after that. Andy Garrick commented that consultation on this item would be needed well in advance of the 2020/21 Anglers Notice review meaning consultation with interested parties would need to be commenced in 2019.
- 5.2 Cr Barry Roderick requested that Item 11.8 relating to “releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels...”, be revisited at the next meeting of Council (June 2018). Barry advised that he and some others present at that meeting had not completely understood the objective or implications of the question and therefore recommended that the item be reconsidered before being incorporated into Council policy. Council supported this course of action.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Sandy Bull - access above Waitangi Falls, Ruakituri River
- Andy Garrick - 2018 Election, Council performance appraisal, and Marketing Analysis report prepared for Fish & Game NZ (if time permitted).

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 No conflict of interest items were identified.

8.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 8.1 Andy Garrick advised that we were now into the second stage of the Operational Work Planning process where staff’s provisional budget and proposed contestable funding bids needed to be reviewed and approved by Council before being considered at the upcoming managers and New Zealand Council combined meeting. He briefly summarised a number of minor changes to direct costs within the 2018-19 budget for existing projects, and provided more detail about proposed new work relating to investigations into establishing a fish out pond off site, increasing summer surveys in order to obtain more robust data, annual maintenance programmes in reserves to be

- partially funded from Stand Holders Habitat Management Contribution fees, and establishing a connection with Destination Rotorua through their Partners Programme.
- 8.2 Andy summarised the three proposed Contestable Fund bids staff have proposed, and adjustments to staff time allocated to, and reimbursed by the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. He also provided a more detailed overview of the recent Supreme Court decision that had removed Fish & Game's ability to utilise reparation as a tool to deal with minor offences. This is likely to result in more prosecutions having to be taken, and therefore, increased prosecution costs for all Fish & Games regions. Cr Lindsay Lyons informed Council of Fish & Game's recent submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee to be included in a proposed 'Infringement Notice System', and encouraged Councillors to make their own submissions adding that these were due to close on 6 April.
- 8.3 Andy also advised Council that the research work planned for Lake Tarawera this year was unlikely to be commenced in the current OWP year (2017-18) as there was still a significant shortfall in funding for the project. Andy requested that this item be carried forward to the 2018-19 OWP, and suggested that Council consider increasing its seed funding for the project to leverage additional support from other external parties. Andy proposed that an amount of \$20,000 be resourced from the Region's Non-Resident Levy Reserve, and that this combined with that already approved from the National Research Fund (\$15,000) and Eastern's own budget (\$5,000) would increase Fish & Game's funding for the proposed project to \$40,000. Council had previously agreed on a set of criteria and a process for drawing funds down from the region's Non-Resident Levy Reserve, and on the basis of these Andy considered that the project was without doubt a justifiable option for using some of those funds. Council supported this proposal recognising that the funds would only be utilised once all additional funding had been sourced.
- 8.4 Cr Barry Roderick noted that the annual performance review of the manager, by Council, was not listed as a role of Council within the OWP. Andy Garrick said this could be included within the workplan under Output 7 Council and advised that he would update the plan to incorporate this item.
- 8.5 Cr Sandy Bull queried the work proposed for monitoring of spawning runs in the Waiotukupuna Stream, and whether this was to be carried out by contracted workers or staff? Matt Osborne advised that changes to the brown trout monitoring programme were being considered and that the proposed work would need to be undertaken by staff. Sandy Bull suggested that he might be able to source volunteers from the Gisborne and Wairoa Anglers clubs if needed. Matt Osborne thanked Sandy for the offer, but commented that due to more stringent Health & Safety requirements this was unlikely to be an option.
- 8.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons wished to highlight to Council that the proposed new project relating to reviewing options for a 'Fish Out' pond in the Bay of Plenty was intended to be an initial enquiry only at this early stage. He acknowledged that the additional resources required to implement such a project needed to be carefully considered as those resources would need to be sourced from elsewhere within the Region's work plan. Lindsay also advised that he was keen to ramp up the Fish for Gold promotion again this year.
- 8.7 ***Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council receives the draft budget and approves the proposed contestable funding bids for the 2018-2019 Operation Work Plan. [18/04/8.7]***

9.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

9.1 Andy Garrick provided a brief overview of work which had been undertaken as a result of approved funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 operational years. He said that while the intensive three-year survey and monitoring programme had drawn to a close in 2017 there remained a need for ongoing monitoring, access, and buoy related work which would require further funding during the 2018-19 operational year. Cr Laurance Tamati felt that if the proposed work fell within the objectives of the fund, which he believed it did, and the requirements to maintain the principal were being satisfied, then the application should be approved.

9.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council approves up to \$8,500 to be drawn from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the reduced but ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme. [18/04/9.2]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

10.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons opened the Anglers Notice discussion and asked that staff contribute to the discussion.

10.2 Cr Barry Roderick requested that Agenda Item 6, "Potential change required to Anglers Notice Policy 2003", be brought forward to be discussed prior to the other proposed changes to the Anglers Notice as the outcome of this discussion had the potential to affect a number of the proposals being considered. Council agreed to this item being brought forward.

10.3 Matt Osborne provided an overview of the changes that would be required to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003 in order to accommodate some of the proposed changes to the Anglers Notice. He noted that the biological regulations would remain unchanged as these were aimed at sustainability, but the current Policy 2.1 Social Regulations and more particularly method restrictions, which were determined by level of use, needed to have levels reduced or removed to enable some of the amendments proposed for the 2018-19 Anglers Notice to proceed.

Cr Neal Hawes expressed concern that by agreeing to Social Regulation changes within the policy that they were committed to those changes and as a result many fly fishing only (FFO) areas would be automatically subject to change. Matt Osborne advised that the proposed change would not automatically lead to the removal of FFO areas, but would provide the flexibility to amend some of the FFO regulations if Council wished to do so. Cr Barry Roderick provided examples of situations where intensity of use varied in accordance with the location e.g. stream mouths versus more extensive beach areas where anglers tended to be more spread out.

Cr Sandy Bull advised that he supported the Rotorua Anglers Assn. submission to retain the status quo and retain all FFO areas around the shorelines of the Rotorua lakes, and highlighted the minimal number of FFO areas the region had when compared to the likes of the Taupo fishery. Sandy also quoted a statement he had read on the National pages of Fish & Game's website where it is stated that "incompatible methods are kept separate".

Cr Barry Roderick commented on the staff view that there were very few conflicts in current fly/spin locations and reminded Council of its aim to simplify regulations and provide more opportunity for new anglers wishing to take up trout fishing.

Cr Neal Hawes was comfortable with the proposal so long as Council had the opportunity to retain the status quo for specific areas if Council so decided.

Matt Osborne advised that he would clarify and refine the amendments suggested and that this would be included for further discussion at the June meeting of Council.

10.4 Remove the "Fly Fishing Only" designation from Rotorua lakes shoreline areas

Crs Neal Hawes and Sandy Bull supported the Rotorua Anglers Assn. (RAA) submission to retain the status quo, particularly at stream mouths where they considered there was high intensity use. Cr Barry Roderick reiterated his earlier comments about simplifying regulations which staff had also indicated was needed as they were too complicated for many. He added that any regulation change could be reversed if it was not seen to be working because of conflict between angler methods. Andy Garrick asked what the specific issues were with spin fishing and whether there were spin anglers within the RAA who had views on the matter? Cr Neal Hawes advised that there were spin anglers involved with the club who did not have anything against retaining the status quo, adding that most of them used both methods. Neal felt that there were sufficient spin fishing locations around the lakes for those who wished to spin fish, and that the Te Wairoa Stream mouth, as an example, was a special place for fly anglers and the level of use it received demonstrated this. Other areas however, such as the Orchard, the Landing, Twin Creeks, and Wairua were of less concern. Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that Council consider Option (iii) which would remove FFO designation from some shoreline areas around the Rotorua lakes. Cr Laurance Tamati supported this action as a common sense approach as he believed all anglers should have equal opportunities. Cr Neal Hawes also supported this approach on the basis that Council would have the opportunity to identify the specific areas that they felt would be appropriate for both methods. Andy Garrick advised that staff would compile a list of locations they considered where this might be appropriate and this would be presented to the June meeting of Council.

10.5 ***Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the proposal to remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from some shoreline areas around the Rotorua Lakes. [18/04/10.5]***

10.6 Allow artificial fly/spinner in the lower Ohau Channel (River) downstream of the SH33 bridge or open Ohau Channel in its entirety to spin fishing

Cr Laurance Tamati tabled a further two submissions in support of opening the Ohau Channel/River in its entirety to spin fishing bringing the total in favour of this proposal to 7, versus 5 in favour of opening just the lower Ohau Channel to fly and spin. Laurance supported the option to open the Ohau Channel to both methods as he believed this would provide opportunity for all, including children, and commented on the high number of tourists passing through. He also agreed with staff comments regarding level of use in the upper part of the channel during the earlier parts of the season, and a suggestion from one of the submitters to retain FFO at the very top end of the channel but allow fly/spin downstream of the Ramada Resort. Matt Osborne noted that if this was to be adopted a landmark pole would be required to define the Fly Fishing Only area as a business name could not be utilised for obvious reasons.

10.7 ***Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council supports a fourth option (not listed) relating to the Ohau Channel (River) which would permit Fly Fishing Only from Lake Rotorua to a landmark pole located approximately 200 metres downstream, and fly and spin methods below this landmark. [18/04/10.7]***

- 10.8 Amend the wording for 7.2(a) Use of Boats
Council supported the proposed amendment to the wording of 7.2(a) from “in waters that, at any times of the year, are reserved for fly fishing only except in Lake Whakamarino (Tuai)” to “within 200 metres of a landmark pole”.
- 10.9 **Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that regulation 7.2(a) regarding “Use of Boats” be amended to read “7.2 No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200 metres of a landmark pole”. [18/04/10.9]**
- 10.10 Amend the wording for 7.2(c) Use of Boats
Council agreement to the earlier amendment to 7.2(a) meant that the proposed amendment to 7.2(c) and the existing regulation under 7.2(b) were no longer required and should be deleted.
- 10.11 **Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that regulations 7.2(b) and 7.2(c) relating to unanchored boats should be deleted. [18/04/10.11]**
- 10.12 Remove the maximum wild size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera (Regulation 9.4)
Council agreed with staff comment that this regulation was poorly understood and redundant at this time due to the current size of Tarawera stock.
- 10.13 **Agreed (Annaka Davis/Neal Hawes) that Council supports the removal of Regulation 9.4 relating to the maximum size limit for wild trout taken on Lake Tarawera. [18/04/10.13]**
- 10.14 Amend Section 3.0 ‘Closed Waters’ to provide greater protection to trout that are contained in ponds or structures for management and educational purposes
Council agreed that this anomaly which had been identified by staff needed to be rectified and supported the introduction of the draft regulations detailed within the agenda item.
- 10.15 **Agreed (Neal Hawes/Sandy Bull) that the following draft regulations be adopted for inclusion within the “Closed Waters” section of the 2018-19 Anglers notice:**
- 3.6 **Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 3.7 below).**
- 3.7 **Ngongotaha Hatchery Educational Fishery (known as Children’s Fishing Pond) except by special authorisation. [18/04/10.15]**
- 10.16 Amend Regulation 3.1 Closed Waters to redefine the downstream limit of the Lake Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary as the Tarawera River Walk Bridge approximately 150m downstream of the Lake Outlet
Council agreed with staff comments regarding a clearer definition for the spawning sanctuary.
- 10.17 **Agreed (Neal Hawes/Peter Storey) that Regulation 3.1 Closed Waters relating to the Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary be amended to redefine the downstream limit from “extending approximately 150m downstream to landmarks in the river” to “extending approximately 150m downstream to the Tarawera River Foot Bridge”. [18/04/10.17]**
- 10.18 Prohibit the use of multi-point hooks within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters
Cr Lindsay Lyons informed Council that the Eastern Council was alone in its opposition to multi-hooks which had been introduced nationally some years ago. Council had varying opinions in favour of and against the proposed change as follows:
In favour
- Fish & Game NZ website item “Looking after your trout” advises against the use of treble hooks.

- Prohibiting the use of multi-hooks will bring the region more in line with Taupo.
- Scientific evidence (such as that suggesting there is no impact on fish welfare or survival from use of treble hooks) cannot always be relied upon.
- Fish are often foul hooked outside of the mouth with more than one hook and considerable damage can be done removing the hooks if the fish is needing to be released.
- Animal welfare needs to be taken into account.
- The majority of feedback from anglers is overwhelmingly in support of prohibition.

Against

- Scientific studies have concluded that there is no greater mortality in fish that have been caught and released using multi-point hooks than those caught and released using a single hook.
- There is a belief that mortality is higher in fish caught with single hooks as they are far more able to be deeply ingested and get hooked up in the gill plates.
- Prohibiting these hooks would result in regulations being made more complex and would be out of proportion to the extent to which these hooks are used.
- When the use of multi-point hooks was previously debated and introduced, the Minister of Conservation wanted more consistency within Fish & Game regional regulations than had been the case. Eastern Region therefore, has an ‘obligation’ to remain consistent with the rest of Fish & Game.
- If the Eastern Region decides to prohibit the use of multi-point hooks it will generate confusion and have issues for compliance. The Solicitor-General’s public interest test for taking a prosecution would not generally be met, and Fish & Game would be unable to enforce the regulation which would only lead to further non-compliance.
- Rather than regulate this could be better dealt with by discouraging the use of multi-point hooks.

Cr Barry Roderick felt that a change to this regulation should be considered and made at a national level rather than a regional level as he noted that this was something the Hawke’s Bay Council had also been interested in. Cr Neal Hawes proposed a motion in favour of the change, but a seconder did not come forward. Andy Garrick commented that a national review of First Schedule sports fishing regulations had been commenced last year and though on hold since then could be put back on the agenda if support was registered from regions for doing so. Andy and Cr Lindsay Lyons advised they could put this to the upcoming Managers and New Zealand Council meetings later this month and more specifically advise that the Eastern Fish and Game Council wished to revisit the subject of treble/multi-point hooks. Neal commented that he was prepared to withdraw his motion if this was to take place, and Andy and Lindsay confirmed that they would do so.

10.19 Bring forward the opening hours of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes

Council supported staff comments and rationale as detailed within the agenda item.

10.20 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Sandy Bull) that Council does not support bringing forward the opening hours of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes. [18/04/10.20]

10.21 *Boat fishing anglers when fishing solo should be able to fish with two rods*
Council supported staff comments and rationale as detailed within the agenda item.

10.22 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council does not support anglers fishing solo from boats being able to fish with two rods. [18/04/10.22]*

10.23 *Close the Te Wairoa Stream Mouth area (Lake Tarawera) from 1 May to 30 September*

Matt Osborne advised that this proposal had been sent in with the submission from the Rotorua Anglers Association. Council concluded that the item required more discussion and consultation, and therefore would be retained for consideration at the next Anglers Notice review in 2020.

11.0 FIRST MEETING OF NEW COUNCIL

11.1 Andy Garrick apologised to Council for this being the third review of the meeting schedule for 2018 which had come about after receiving the election schedule and the requirement for the newly elected Council to meet within 21 days of the newly elected members taking office (31 October 2018). To accommodate this Andy proposed that the Council meeting scheduled for 18 October be pushed out to 1 November 2018 and that the 29 November meeting and public AGM be moved to 6 December 2018. This would mean members of the new Council would sit alongside members of the departing Council for both the strategy meeting and Council meeting on 1 November 2018, and the Council and AGM meetings scheduled for 6 December. Cr Lindsay Lyons kindly offered his accommodation in Rotorua for those attending the 1 November meeting as it was likely that a number of Councillors needing to travel might wish to stay overnight.

11.2 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that Council confirms the revised dates of 1 November 2018 and 6 December 2018 for its last two meetings of the year, and 6 December for the public AGM. [18/04/11.2]*

12.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

12.1 Cr Neal Hawes expressed his concern over the size and condition of trout reported in the Opening Day Survey report for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. Matt Osborne informed Council that it appeared that fish were slower coming into condition this season than in other years but more recently we had received reports of some very good conditioned trout having been caught in all of these lakes including Tarawera.

12.2 Cr Sandy Bull queried Matt McDougall whether he could foresee black swan returning to the schedule in areas B1 and B2? Matt advised that trend counts had not indicated a sufficient improvement in the populations of black swan in those areas to support this, as numbers remained below the Council policy threshold of 1,000 birds required to hold a season.

12.3 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Alan Baird) that Council receives the 2017 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Survey Report and the Summary for the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report. [18/04/12.3]*

13.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board

Annaka Davis advised that she had been unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Board and therefore had nothing to report.

13.2 *New Zealand Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons reported on the recent New Zealand Council meeting which was held in Greymouth in the West Coast Region. Lindsay advised that the West Coast Council was made up of only eight Councillors which meant the region seldom required an Election. West Coast speakers addressed the meeting with concerns over farm dumps and highlighted that salmon fishing had really taken off within the region. Federated Farmers President, Katie Milne, who resides on the West Coast, was to have attended the meeting but unfortunately had to withdraw as she was a member of the local Volunteer Fire Service and had been called out to an incident. Martin Davies, Conservator for the Department of Conservation, spoke about 1080, arsenic, the impact of dairy, and the Department no longer utilising R22 helicopters. Lindsay confirmed that the Eastern Council bid to the legal fund had been approved for the work Eben Herbert was undertaking on the proposed Gisborne Regional Freshwater Plan regarding crop protection and water allocations, and highlighted that the outcome of this had the potential to set a precedent for elsewhere in the country. Nelson/Marlborough region had been experiencing issues with forest debris in water systems which had caused flooding, and Lindsay suggested that the Rangitaiki could be prone to this also. Andy Garrick agreed and noted that this was not dissimilar to the situation we currently had in the Waioeka River. John Meikle asked what the New Zealand Council's position was in relation to farmers and farming in general. Lindsay advised that the New Zealand Council wishes to highlight ongoing issues with Regional Councils, and that the pressure would remain on non-compliant activities. Andy Garrick voiced concern from a regional level that current media campaigns Fish & Game was running were putting Fish & Game's social licence to operate with farmers who were compliant and doing the right thing at risk, an outcome being there was increasing talk of denying access to fish and game resources. Lindsay advised that the focus was on non-compliance and acknowledged the need also, to highlight the good work many landowners were doing. Cr Barry Roderick felt that some farmers were using the Health & Safety requirements as a reason for removing access and suggested that some 50% of access in his area had been lost. Ray Bushell agreed as he had seen a significant loss of access in his area too. Lindsay asked if Council had had the opportunity to review the Walking Access Mapping System as there was a wealth of information on it. Anthony van Dorp informed Council that the system had changed very recently with the removal of information about large areas of Crown land from the system. He had been advised that LINZ administered Crown land had been removed because much of it was leased and/or being used for other purposes. Anthony suggested that if someone had reason to believe a particular area might fall into this category enquiries could be made to LINZ to establish whether the land was accessible to the public. Lindsay advised that the New Zealand Council had recommended Bryce Johnson for a position on the Walking Access Commission which would be good for Fish & Game.

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 14.1 Andy Garrick highlighted a few of the items that were included within the management report including the Council's submission to the proposed Te Arawa Lakes Fishery Bylaws, a research proposal to establish the economic impact of trout fishing in our region and elsewhere in New Zealand that he was taking to the upcoming combined managers and NZC meeting, and Carmel Veitch's appointment

as an independent contractor providing financial and accounting services to the New Zealand Council for the next year or so.

- 14.2 Cr Barry Roderick understood that the Auckland/Waikato Region provided opportunity for newbies to get into hunting through their "Take a Mate Hunting" programme and wondered whether this is something that Eastern Region staff had considered for those wishing to take up trout fishing. John Meikle advised that the Auckland/Waikato programme was not as popular as thought with only 12 taking up the opportunity this year. Kate Thompson had received a similar enquiry from a licence holder recently and had forwarded the suggestion to the Licence Working Party. While the idea had not been dismissed there appeared to be considerably more fish hooks associated with management of it when compared with the Auckland/Waikato programme and as a result would require some careful consideration.

14.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/04/14.3]*

14.4 *Agreed (Annaka/Davis/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for January and February 2018 totalling \$428,101.09. [18/04/14.4]*

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 15.1 Cr Sandy Bull expressed concern over the use of helicopters accessing the Ruakituri River above the Waitangi Falls as he had received information that large trout were being taken and that those taking them were unlicensed or utilising incorrect gear. Andy Garrick asked whether these concerns had been forwarded to Te Uru Taumatua or the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority for their information as the area above the Waitangi Falls was gazetted as a Wilderness Area which prohibited helicopters to land. Anthony van Dorp advised that staff had also received reports of this nature and that he had investigated the Wilderness Area boundaries and determined that there were potentially one or two areas, which included part of the river, that lay just outside of the Wilderness Area boundary. Anthony said that this could be a loop hole allowing helicopters to land right beside the Wilderness Area, and may be something that Te Urewera Board would want to rectify.
- 15.2 Andy Garrick wanted Council to be aware that the Election timetable had been included within the April Papers for Information. He also advised that Council's annual self appraisal of its performance was initiated in June last year, and that forms would be distributed for this year's evaluation at the next meeting of Council. Cr Lindsay Lyons asked that these be returned promptly as it is difficult to undertake an evaluation when all of the information was not to hand. Andy also commented briefly on the last document included in the Papers for Information which comprised the Marketing Analysis Report commissioned by the New Zealand Council. Andy noted that this would be on the agenda for Council's June meeting and asked Councillors to take the time to review it prior to the meeting as the NZ Council had requested feedback on it.
- 15.3 Ray Bushell wished to know whether the Kaituna Reserve access tracks were to be built up following the higher, and more appropriate, water levels that had persisted within the wetland this season. John Meikle advised that there was no funding allocated for this, but something staff would promote in upcoming discussions with Bay of Plenty Regional Council and DOC staff in relation to hydrological and habitat enhancement planning within and adjacent to the reserve.

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

16.1 The meeting was closed at 3.01pm.



14-6-2018

.....
Lindsay Lyons
Acting Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES
- 2.2 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Peter Storey) that the apologies for the 169th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/04/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 FEBRUARY 2018)
- 3.1 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following changes;*
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- 8.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN
- 8.7 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council receives the draft budget and approves the proposed contestable funding bids for the 2018-2019 Operation Work Plan. [18/04/8.7]*
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- 9.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council approves up to \$8,500 to be drawn from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the reduced but ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme. [18/04/9.2]*
- 10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW
- 10.5 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the proposal to remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from some shoreline areas around the Rotorua Lakes. [18/04/10.5]*
- 10.7 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council supports a fourth option (not listed) relating to the Ohau Channel (River) which would permit Fly Fishing Only from Lake Rotorua to a landmark pole located approximately 100 metres downstream, and fly and spin methods below this landmark. [18/04/10.7]*
- 10.9 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that regulation 7.2(a) regarding “Use of Boats” be amended to read “7.2 No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200 metres of a landmark pole”. [18/04/10.9]*
- 10.11 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that regulations 7.2(b) and 7.2(c) relating to unanchored boats should be deleted. [18/04/10.11]*
- 10.13 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Neal Hawes) that Council supports the removal of Regulation 9.4 relating to the maximum size limit for wild trout taken on Lake Tarawera. [18/04/10.13]*
- 10.15 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Sandy Bull) that the following draft regulations be adopted for inclusion within the “Closed Waters” section of the 2018-19 Anglers notice:*
- 3.6 *Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 3.7 below).*
- 3.7 *Ngongotaha Hatchery Educational Fishery (known as Children’s Fishing Pond) except by special authorisation. [18/04/10.15]*
- 10.17 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Peter Storey) that Regulation 3.1 Closed Waters relating to the Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary be amended to redefine the downstream limit from “extending approximately 150m downstream to landmarks in the river” to “extending approximately 150m downstream to the Tarawera River Foot Bridge”. [18/04/10.17]*

- 10.20** *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Sandy Bull) that Council does not support bringing forward the opening hours of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes. [18/04/10.20]*
- 10.22** *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council does not support anglers fishing solo from boats being able to fish with two rods. [18/04/10.22]*
- 11.0** **FIRST MEETING OF NEW COUNCIL**
- 11.2** *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that Council confirms the revised dates of 1 November 2018 and 6 December 2018 for its last two meetings of the year, and 6 December for the public AGM. [18/04/11.2]*
- 12.0** **SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**
- 12.3** *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Alan Baird) that Council receives the 2017 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Survey Report and the Summary for the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report. [18/04/12.3]*
- 14.0** **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 14.3** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/04/14.3]*
- 14.4** *Agreed (Annaka/Davis/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for January and February 2018 totalling \$428,101.09. [18/04/14.4]*