

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 191st MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Ken Coombes, Debbie Oakley, Alan Baird, Mike Jarvie, Kevin Coutts, Scott Nicol, Mark Sceats, Alan Simmons, Adam Rayner (arrived 12.28pm), and Jay Tapsell via zoom (which unfortunately failed soon after commencement of the meeting).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, John Meikle, Anthony van Dorp, Mark Sherburn, Nerida Evans, and Matt Osborne via zoom (Eastern Fish & Game), and Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game).

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

- 1.1 Acting Chair Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the meeting at 12.15pm with a karakia and welcomed councillors, staff, and newly elected councillors, and thanked them for their attendance under the current circumstances.
- 1.2 Andy Garrick also welcomed all present and thanked everyone for respecting the tight protocols that had been put in place to meet current Covid restrictions, and asked that Councillors restrict their movement to the meeting room and the Octagon area. He advised that this meeting was the inaugural meeting of the incoming Council, but it was also a combined meeting with the outgoing Council as there was still business needing to be attended to by that Council.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS

- 2.1 Councillors provided a brief introduction to themselves and were asked to inform the meeting of one thing they were hoping to achieve during their term on Council. Staff present at the meeting also provided a brief overview of their backgrounds and respective roles within Eastern Fish & Game.

3.0 APOLOGIES

- 3.1 Apologies were received from Crs David Woolner, Geoff Thomas, and Laurance Tamati. Cr Adam Rayner had advised earlier that he might be delayed.
- 3.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 191st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [21/11/3.2]*

4.0 ELECTION OF MEMBERS

- 4.1 Andy Garrick advised that the first item of business for the new Council was the election of officers and briefly outlined the process.
- 4.2 Andy Garrick called for nominations for the position of Chair.
- 4.3 *Moved (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Cr Ngahi Bidois be nominated for Council Chairman. [21/11/4.3]*
- 4.4 There were no further nominations and Cr Ngahi Bidois was duly appointed to the position of Chairman.

- 4.5 Ngahi took the Chair and thanked Councillors for their support, appreciating their confidence in him and informed Council of his experience as a professional director and speaker.
- 4.6 Ngahi then called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.
- 4.7 ***Moved (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Cr Murray Ferris be nominated for Council Deputy Chair. [21/11/4.7]***
- 4.8 There were no further nominations and Cr Murray Ferris was duly appointed to the position of Deputy Chair. Ngahi congratulated Murray on his appointment.
- 4.9 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for nominations for the position of the Eastern Region's appointee to the New Zealand Council.
- 4.10 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that Cr Debbie Oakley be nominated for appointment to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. [21/11/4.10]***
- 4.11 There were no further nominations and Cr Debbie Oakley was duly appointed to the position of Eastern Region's New Zealand Council appointee. Ngahi congratulated Debbie on her appointment.
- 4.12 Debbie expressed her thanks and reminded Council that the role as NZ Councillor required her to represent the interests of all anglers and hunters across NZ as there was often an expectation that the NZ Council appointee should focus on portraying the views of their own Council.
- 4.13 Cr Ngahi Bidois recommended that the incumbent staff member, Matthew McDougall, should remain Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust given his expertise and history in the role.
- 4.14 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that Council confirms Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust. [21/11/4.14]***
- 4.15 Matthew McDougall thanked Council for the appointment once again and said that while the role required a considerable amount of extra work, he found it to be very rewarding. Last year the trust had given away \$500k for habitat and fisheries, so it was worthwhile for Fish and Game to continue to be involved.
- 4.16 Cr Ngahi Bidois provided a brief background to the role of the Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee which typically consisted of the Chair, Deputy Chair, NZ Council Representative, and more recently with an additional member of Council.
- 4.17 ***Moved (Debbie Oakley/Mike Jarvie) that Ken Coombes be nominated for a position on the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [21/11/4.17]***
- 4.18 There were no further nominations and Cr Ken Coombes was duly appointed to the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee along with the elected Chairman Cr Ngahi Bidois, Deputy Chairman Cr Murray Ferris, and NZ Council Appointee Cr Debbie Oakley.
- 4.19 Cr Ngahi Bidois advised that there was a need to form a subcommittee for the purpose of the proposed restructure of Fish and Game and suggested this could consist of two representatives from management and two from Council. Andy Garrick advised that this could be done by delegation rather than having to set up a formal subcommittee, and there was an immediate need to address one element of the review which was the proposed amalgamations of regions, and this was to occur early next week via a zoom meeting with the review panel. He said that the panel proposed to produce a substantial document which would be available for consideration by the full Council at its February 2022 meeting. Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Councillors who had recently

provided their initial feedback on amalgamations, advising that this had been forwarded to the review panel.

4.20 Cr Alan Simmons asked for confirmation that this was a proposed discussion on the amalgamation of regions only. Cr Ngahi Bidois responded “Yes”.

4.21 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for nominations for the interim subcommittee to address the panel on the proposed amalgamation of regions.

4.22 Crs Alan Simmons and Lindsay Lyons volunteered for the committee; Cr Ken Coombes advised that he was unavailable but also felt that he was unqualified to comment at such short notice. Councillors were encouraged to send any additional feedback they might have to Lindsay or Alan.

5.0 COUNCILLORS’ AND COUNCIL’S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

5.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois had prepared an exercise prior to the meeting to understand the range of strengths, knowledge, and expertise of the individuals that make up the new Council. He asked that the incoming Council during the break indicate on charts where they ranked their experience and knowledge relating to a range of areas of expertise, these being Governance, Marketing, Environment, Media, Management, IT, Strategy, Law, Iwi, Health & Safety, Ethics, Finance, Hunting, Fishing, Risks, and Conflict of Interest.

6.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (5TH AUGUST 2021)

6.1 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [21/11/6.1]*

7.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

7.1 There were no items identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

8.0 MATTERS ARISING

8.1 Cr Barry Roderick noted the felling of the forest on the land above the Hatchery Grounds two years ago and the flood damage that had occurred some months later, and queried the risk from further weather events occurring over the next few years. Andy Garrick responded that staff had met with the Regional Council to review the forest harvesting operation above the hatchery while it was underway and had been advised that it did not contravene any standards or conditions of consent, and that the felling was not considered to have been a key factor in the flooding of the Fish & Game site in the early hours of Boxing Day in 2019. Andy advised that this was not the first occasion in which hatchery infrastructure had been damaged by a major rainfall event, and as was undertaken on previous occasions, risk assessments and contingency planning were undertaken following the clean up and repair of facilities. Since this most recent event options for both temporary and permanent mitigation measures had been assessed, and one such option was being implemented right now, this being a permanently set up alternative emergency water supply that could be activated at the turn of a valve.

9.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Kevin Coutts – change of opening of fishing season to the first Saturday in October. Cr Ngahi Bidois requested, and Council agreed, that this item be put on the agenda and addressed at the next meeting of Council as he understood that staff had planned to undertake a licence holder survey shortly in relation to this and would be able to provide a report to the next meeting.
- Cr Mark Sceats – barcoding of licences.

- Andy Garrick – brief overview of upcoming agendas.

10.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 10.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois provided an overview of the “Conflict of Interest” process. He asked that meeting papers are read prior to the meeting and informed Council that there was opportunity to complete the conflict of interest register prior to, or during the meeting if anyone realises they or someone else may be potentially conflicted on a matter under discussion.
- 10.2 No conflicts of interest were identified.

11.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

11.1 Agreed (Scott Nicol/Mike Jarvie) that Council receives the Health and Safety, Management, and Licence Sales reports. [21/11/11.1]

- 11.2 Cr Debbie Oakley requested that the finance report be altered to clarify that the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund (a dedicated reserve) balance was in addition to the General funds reported. Kate Thompson confirmed she would make this adjustment.

- 11.3 Cr Debbie Oakley also queried an expense which was recorded as being reimbursed by staff. Kate Thompson advised that several staff maintain staff accounts in credit which provide for purchases made through suppliers for personal use, which was the case in this instance.

11.4 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council receives the Finance report and approves payments for July and August 2021 totalling \$282,501.62. [21/11/11.4]

- 11.5 Kate Thompson provided a brief comment on licence sales and in particular the impact that the Auckland/Waikato lockdowns were having on licence sales in this region. Andy Garrick reported that the Eastern Region sales results for the last financial year ending 31 August were better than had been expected, and as a result the budgeted requirement to draw on reserves to offset the loss of international licence revenue was not required. The final result was positive, and was due not only to better-than-expected licence sales revenue, but also by the nationally agreed to reduction of 5% to regional budgets, and the generation of additional income during the year.

- 11.6 Crs Alan Simmons and Kevin Coutts raised questions regarding the potential impact on regions if lockdowns continue, and how low licence sales revenue could drop to before this region would be unable to operate. Carmel Veitch explained that licence revenue scenarios were considered in great detail going into the first lockdown in March last year, and subsequent budgets had factored in extreme though unlikely reductions in revenue by continuing to minimise external costs and draw on regional reserves if necessary. The effects of the lockdowns do date have not been as severe as provided for, and this region and others are well positioned to cope with ongoing events. Trends in licence sales would continue to be closely monitored and budgets adjusted should this be necessary, there being considerable resilience within the system nationally.

- 11.7 Andy Garrick undertook to address the query Alan and Kevin had raised more fully at Council’s next meeting in December.

12.0 2022 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 12.1 Andy Garrick advised the purpose of this agenda item was to provide an opportunity for Councillors to seek clarification on any of the information provided, and to invite Council to signal any other issues or items it might want considered at Council’s December meeting on this topic.

- 12.2 Crs Mark Sceats and Murray Ferris asked that staff pursue the suggestion to extend the game bird season to incorporate Queen's Birthday weekend when a short season is implemented.
- 12.3 Cr Ken Coombes asked whether the special black swan season proposed for February 2023 seasons could be extended in Tauranga Harbour, and this was supported by Cr Adam Rayner who proposed that the season be extended for pukeko also, and an organised shoot arranged for the latter.
- 12.5 Scott Nicol queried why the swan numbers in Tauranga Harbour this summer were down on previous summers', and whether it could be due to counting methods utilised during Covid disruptions or something more random? Matt McDougall advised that there was a cyclical movement with swan populations and that we don't yet have a good handle on it. He said that swan tend to move to where the food is, and they may have moved off to West Coast harbours. Cr Mark Sceats asked whether it could be due to the delayed counts this year? Matt clarified that the January count had not been delayed, but the August one which showed increased numbers had been.

13.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 13.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois advised the report be taken as read.

14.0 DRAFT 2020-2021 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 14.1 Council had received a copy of the draft performance report prior to the meeting. Andy Garrick advised that the report was currently being audited and the final audited report and summary of variances would be available for consideration and approval by members of the outgoing Council (via a zoom meeting) prior to presentation at the AGM in December, and Council's next meeting.
- 14.2 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that Council supports the establishment of the proposed "Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve" and approves the transfer of the insurance proceeds received from the 2019-2020 flooding event of \$23,640 to open the reserve. [21/11/14.2]***
- 14.3 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that Council receives the draft report comprising the draft Statement of Service Performance and the draft Financial Statements for the 2020-2021 year. [21/11/14.3]***
- 14.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the proposed timeline for implementation of an alternate water supply. Andy Garrick advised that planning for a key option had been completed and all going well work would commence on this in the coming week.
- 14.5 Cr Ken Coombes asked if there was a proposed limit on the reserve for the hatchery water supply? Andy Garrick advised the intention was to add a small sum to the reserve each year as we do for our Asset Replacement Reserve, to provide contingency funding should our insurance policy decline cover for specific events in future years as it has already done so in the case of some claims we have previously received compensation for. How much we need to top up this reserve by will be calculated ahead of our next OWP budget round which commences in February 2022.

15.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2022

15.1 Council considered the proposed schedule, and other than noting “2021” should have read “2022”, had no comment or concerns relating to the proposed time, dates or locations for meetings in 2022, nor feedback it wanted communicated to the NZC.

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	10 February 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities
2	7 April 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP - first draft plus bids proposed for contestable funds
3	9 June 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP - second draft
4	11 August 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	6 October 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	8 December 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - finalise recommendations
AGM	8 December 2022	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

15.2 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Murray Ferris) to the proposed time, dates or location for meetings in 2022. [21/11/15.2]*

16.0 REGIONAL STRUCTURE REVIEW

16.1 Councillors had no additional comment to make at this stage.

17.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

17.1 Council received the summaries for the 2020-21 Summer Creel Survey and the 2021 National Shoveler Count.

18.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

18.1 *Department of Conservation*

No report.

18.2 *Te Arawa Lakes Trust*

No report.

18.3 *New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that the Remuneration Committee comprising Cr Colin Weatherall from the Otago Fish and Game Council, Phil Teal, Manager Wellington Fish & Game, Andy Garrick and Di Taylor Acting CE of NZC, had been re-established and that Di Taylor had been delegated to look at KPIs for managers. There was some confusion around whether this committee was looking at managers' remuneration or at staff roles. Andy Garrick clarified that there were two key elements to the tasks the committee was undertaking, one being to develop job descriptions for staff roles (a generic description for managers/CEs which can be readily adapted to address the considerable regional variation in the roles and responsibilities of these positions has already been drafted), the other being to seek and collate information from all Fish & Game regions on benefits and allowances included in remuneration

agreements for staff, and the costs and liabilities associated with these for each region. Cr Lindsay Lyons provided background to the work of a preceding committee and expressed his concern that the current exercise to determine salaries was being undertaken internally. Andy advised this was incorrect, and the committee was simply drafting job descriptions which it was in a far better position to do, if not the only party capable of doing so competently and fairly, than an external provider. The committee would not be determining or recommending salaries or pay scales, this and job sizing would be going out to an independent consultant such as Strategic Pay for review and advice back to Fish & Game.

Debbie also spoke about the Implementation Strategy Group which was led by Ray Grubb and noted that one of the recent topics of discussion following feedback from regions related to the proposal for elected Councillors versus appointed. This will be brought back to Fish & Game for further consideration in due course.

Cr Murray Ferris queried potential conflicts of interest and concern associated with the Minister of Conservation and a recent hunting trip she was invited to on Ngamatea Station where she was accompanied and guided by Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Councillors. Cr Alan Simmons commented this was grossly negligent and advised also, that he had received a personal letter from the Minister in reply to one from him stating there would be no legislative changes coming out of the Review.

19.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 19.1 Mark Sceats raised a question about whether a bar code could be added to the plastic licence which would enable licence holders to add them to their digital wallets rather than carrying the card with them. Kate Thompson advised that the licence working group had previously discussed the option of a QR code being added to the licence with Eyede, the company who supports the licence system, which would enable Fish & Game ranging staff to scan and check licences in the field with a cell phone. The idea was put to rest, for the meantime anyway, when Eyede informed Fish & Game of the cost involved in allocating a QR code to each individual licence. There was also an issue associated with fitting it into the limited space that was available on the rear printed side of the licence. Kate advised however, that the concept of a digital licence was still on the table in the form of an electronic licence for those who did not wish to have a plastic card at all. Andy Garrick advised that Fish & Game was also interested in having geo referenced regulations available via an app, but with recent events and changes in staff capacity in Fish & Game a number of these proposals had been put on hold for now.
- 19.2 Council broke for a short break at 1.50pm, reconvening at 2.00pm.
- 19.3 On returning Cr Ngahi Bidois talked to Council about their role as governors and that Council employed the Manager (Andy Garrick), and as Manager, Andy was responsible for all staff and management activities.
- 19.4 During the break Ngahi had reviewed the responses to his earlier exercise and was pleased to see a good range of knowledge and experience within the new Council, noting in particular, Councillors' expertise around conflict of interest and governance amongst a number of other areas. There were also, several areas where improvements and upskilling could be made. In relation to media Ngahi asked that all media enquiries be put through the Chair. Cr Kevin Coutts queried whether Council had a policy on social media? Ngahi advised there is a level of confidentiality expected of all

Councillors, and Andy commented that Council's Governance policies included one relating to media and confidentiality though he couldn't recall if this specifically referred to social media. Mark Sceats added that from time to time there will be disagreements at the table, but if a decision is made by the Council as a whole, it is totally inappropriate for a Councillor to comment adversely on that decision. Ngahi noted the range of responses to the iwi category and Andy Garrick provided Council with an overview of the relationships Eastern Fish & Game has with key iwi, hapu, and other parties, and the approach staff take to working with these groups.

19.5 Andy Garrick informed Council of what to expect in its upcoming meetings which would include amongst other matters, presentation of the 2020-21 Performance Report year, items relating to Governance and the issue of Governance manuals to new councillors, insights into operational programmes, and the AGM.

19.6 Final comments from around the table included;

- it was good to see the range of experience among new members
- a definitive answer around comments on social media by Councillors was required
- it was good to see new blood and younger members
- we need to continue to increase our social media presence
- we need to improve our public profile.

19.7 Cr Alan Simmons thanked the outgoing Councillors, commented that he could see that Fish & Game is still in good shape since he was a member of Council, and wished all well noting that we need to try to move forward responsibly.

19.8 Matt McDougall also thanked the outgoing Councillors, particularly Barry Roderick, who although not being a hunter himself, had assisted staff for many years with projects ranging from duck banding to brood counts, habitat work, and to opening weekend angler surveys. All of those departing have been great to work with and will be missed.

20.0 FAREWELL TO DEPARTING COUNCILLORS AND AN HONORARY RANGER

20.1 Cr Murray Ferris extended thanks to each of the departing Councillors on behalf of the Eastern Fish and Game Council commencing first with those who were able to be present in person. Murray then presented each of them a Certificate of Service and a small gift.

20.2 Barry Roderick had served for 21 years on Council and prior to Fish & Game coming into existence had been involved with the Tauranga Acclimatisation Society. Barry was Chair of Eastern Fish & Game from 2005 to 2014 and had helped staff out on numerous projects and contributed enormously. Lindsay Lyons also paid tribute to all Barry had done for Fish & Game. Barry replied that he had very much enjoyed his time on Council, and had met some wonderful people and staff along the way in addition to gaining all sorts of skills and knowledge in his involvement with various projects.

20.3 Murray thanked Alan Baird for the contribution and two terms he had served, and for bringing a farming and dedicated hunter's perspective to Council. Alan thanked all present, and said he had also enjoyed his time on Council though unfortunately had had to step down for health reasons.

20.4 Murray noted that Adam Rayner in his term on Council had brought a much needed younger perspective to the table which was invaluable as there was a great deal of people from a younger generation had to offer. Adam thanked everyone present and commented that he had learnt a great deal during his time on Council. Adam also thanked Barry Roderick who many years ago was responsible for getting Adam and many of his friends into game bird hunting.

- 20.5 Murray voiced his appreciation for the contribution David Woolner (absent today) had made during the two terms he served and as Chair over the past three years. Murray commented on the quiet, unassuming and thoughtful approach David brought to the role of Chair and how quickly he had fitted in. He wished him all the best for the future.
- 20.6 Murray had got to know Laurance Tamati (also absent today) well during his time on Council and thanked him for his contribution to Council over the past six years, and also wished him all the best for the future. Murray thanked Ngahi too, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Council to those departing.
- 20.7 Anthony van Dorp spoke to departing Honorary Ranger and incoming Councillor Mike Jarvie saying that it was an absolute pleasure to have had Mike on our ranging team for some 17 years. Anthony and the Eastern Council very much appreciated the contribution Mike had made and was sad to lose him as a ranger but great to see him return as a member of Council. Mike responded saying he couldn't have asked for a better crew to work with, it had been a great 17 years, he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as a ranger, and was now looking forward to the next few years in his new and very different role of Councillor.

21.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

21.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.45pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to confirm the minutes of the Public Excluded Session on 5 August 2021. [21/11/21.1]*

21.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Ken Coombes) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.56pm. [21/11/21.2]*

22.0 MEETING CLOSED

22.1 The meeting was closed at 2.57pm with a closing karakia from Cr Ngahi Bidois.



Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

3.0 APOLOGIES

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