

# HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT 6.00 PM

### PRESENT:

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Duley, Elstone, Hern, Hickmott, Lumsden, MacKay, Niblett, Nimon, Pinker and Williams.

### IN ATTENDANCE

Friedlander (F&GNZ, Manager), Tuck (F&GNZ), and Guest speaker Matt Brady from Hawkes Bay Department of Conversation.

### PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Brad Pinker, David Porter, Bob Spain and Callum Slavin

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed staff, councillors and the general public; he opened the meeting at 6.00pm.

#### 2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr. Bowcock.

**AGREED**

- 2.1 The apologies for the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be accepted. (19/02/2.1)  
Lumsden/Pinker*

#### 3.0 FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Lack of trout before Patangata in the Tukituki River – Williams.

#### 4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Cr Bates, Hern and Niblett registered a conflict of interest with the agenda item 9 – Pheasant Preserves and Cr Bates registered a conflict of interest in the Management Report item 1154 – Investigate Game Farm Development – the contractor was a personal friend.

#### 5.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**AGREED**

- 5.1 That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on 11 December 2018 are a true and correct record. (19/2/5.1)*

*Lumsden/Pinker*

## **6.0 MATTERS ARISING:**

Cr Elstone enquired why the Public Excluded meeting held 25 May 2018 was not posted on the website.

## **13. LIAISON REPORT**

Matt Brady – Hawkes Bay Ranger from Department of Conservation briefed council about DOC's restructure that occurred approximately 5 to 6 years ago. The restructure resulted in planners being centralised in Hamilton & Christchurch. Cr Bates enquired where the HB Fish & Game Sports Management Plan 10 year plan was reaching approval and signing. Matt Brady informed council due to Connie Norgate leaving some projects had been placed on hold however he would follow this up. Cr Bates enquired if DOC received the weekly consent applications from the Hawkes Bay Regional Council and the need to work together to maintain our local resources. Cr Duley mentioned councils concern with the planners being centralised as there appeared to be a lack of local and regional knowledge and some of the decision making could have catastrophic impacts to the region.

## **7.0 2019 – 2020 COUNCIL PRIORITIES.**

Cr Bates outlined the procedure of setting priorities and councils responsibility of completing this as part of councils statutory requirements. There has been a change of focus from, not what we have done, but what the licence holder gets from our work. Cr Bates invited all councillors to explain why they wanted to be on council. Cr Bates detailed matters discussed at the Governors meeting last week and the difficulties Fish & Game face. It was noted the cost of a licence & Fish & Game staff had doubled over a 20 year period, increased pressure from overseas visitors, the demographics have increased and we have a shrinking recourse

Council considered the following as priorities for the 2019-2020 year.

- Advocacy – building NZFG organisation positively & work alongside NZ Council.
- Education & Training programmes.
- Game Farm Development
- Improving & building better relationship with rural New Zealand.
- Opportunity – access to the resource & infrastructure.
- Opportunity – promote sport to new licence holders
- Predator Free NZ – Link with other organisations & provide advice & assistance.
- Public relations – improve communications with our licence holders & licence agents.
- R3 programme – recruit, retain & reactivate
- Right to fish/hunt – social licence.
- River Fisheries – inventory, water quality & quantity & access points.
- Wetland Advice – create how to “one stop shop”

Council instructed staff to email councillors with the priorities to grade 1 to 5.

## **8.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW.**

Cr Bates informed the council the Hawkes Bay region has one of the most simplified sports fishing regulations. Cr Lumsden requested the slotting size to be moved to the beginning of the schedule before Open season, permitted methods, daily bag limits for easy reference.

**AGREED**

*8.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2019/20 Anglers Notice. (19/2/8.1)*

*Lumsden/MacKay*

## **9.0 PHEASANT PRESERVES.**

Cr Bates, Niblett and Hern declared their conflict of interest with agenda item 9.

Cr Williams noted Cr Bates couldn't chair the meeting with a Conflict of Interest,

*9.1 That Cr Duley is nominated chair for the agenda item- pheasant preserves. (19/2/9.1)*

*Lumsden/Pinker*

Council discussed whether to allow the members to stay for the discussion process, it was agreed to ask the members to remain for the discussion. Voted 5 for / 2 against.

Cr Nimon requested council provide some background of the establishment of upland gamebird preserves and how these operate. A general discussion was had on the practice of driven shoots on a commercial basis as well as the syndicates running on a non-commercial cost recovery basis. NZ Council sought a legal opinion in 2018 from Sir Geoffrey Palmer who concluded that operations providing access to private land for the purpose of shooting gamebirds in return for a fee (in his opinion, whether that be for profit or cost recovery) where access would not otherwise be granted to hunters would be in breach of S23(2) of the Wildlife Act. In November 2018, NZ Council sent out a letter to preserve operators proposing a transitional measure for three years moving pheasants and red leg partridge that are within the boundaries of a preserve move from Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act to Schedule 3, meaning that NZ Council could no longer recommend to the Minister of Conservation a game notice for those properties.

Time: 7.56 pm Cr Bates/Niblett/ Hern left the meeting room

### **Questions from NZ Council**

1. Does your Council support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee?

*Yes- All*

2. Is there support for non-commercial (i.e. where hunting is not being provided for a fee) upland game properties operated by families, private syndicates or friends to provide an immediate and guaranteed hunting opportunity?

*Yes- All*

3. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other gamebirds on that property for a fee?

*Yes – One, No –Six and Unsure- One*

4. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions without a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other gamebirds on that property without a fee?

*Yes- Five, No - Three*

5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on upland game properties with special conditions but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations?

*Yes- Five, No – Two, Abstain - One*

Council discussed its opinions and requested the regional manager convey these main points

- That council strongly requests NZ Council considers taking a pragmatic approach seeking a long term solution to continue operating as it has over the past twenty years by investigating options to keep upland game preserves as schedule one status
- That council supports a review of the Wildlife Act.
- That council are against the upland game preserves remaining on schedule three permanently.
- That council wish to keep the upland game preserves within the regulations & governance of Fish & Game.
- That council request NZ Council canvas the licence holders to seek their opinions and consideration of working toward the review of the Wildlife Act to maximise hunter opportunity.

Time: 8.20 pm Cr Bates/ Niblett / Hern were requested to return to the meeting.

***9.1 That Council considered the questions from NZ Council and instructed the regional manager to convey council's opinions. (19/2/9.1)***

*Lumsden/MacKay*

## **10.0 FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND BEQUESTS POLICY.**

Cr Bates advised the councillors it had been agreed Fish & Game NZ needed to establish a bequest policy for all councils to set parameters for the general management of bequests, as in the past individuals had enquired about making a bequest however as FG NZ had no policy or guidelines in place at the time these opportunities weren't followed up.

Council agreed to the acceptance and utilisation of bequests, noting it could open opportunities to achieving projects within our region. Council requested the policy is placed on the website for general public information and circulation.

**AGREED**

***10.1 That Council approves the Fish & Game New Zealand Bequests Policy. (19/2/10.1)***

*Nimon/Lumsden*

## **11. SETTING NATIONAL POLICY**

Council discussed the consultation process of NZ Council setting policies. It was agreed to request NZ Council to circulate all regions feedback, back to the regions to consider before the policy was formalised.

Cr Bates would formally address this with NZ Council via the manager.

**AGREED**

*11.1 That Council approves the Fish & Game New Zealand Setting National Policy. (19/2/11.1)*

*Elstone/Nimon*

### **11.A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GAME BIRD HUNTING.**

**AGREED**

*11.1 That Council approves of the code of practice for Game Bird Hunting becoming National Policy and included in the 2020 Game bird hunting regulation guide booklets. (19/2/11.1)*

*Duley/Pinker*

## **12. ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council instructed staff to prepare a policy on the electronic recording

**AGREED**

*12.1 That Council instruct the regional manager to draft a policy for electronic recordings of council meetings. (19/2/12.1)*

*Nimon/Niblett*

## **13. LIASION OFFICERS REPORTS**

Cr Bates briefed councillors on the Governors Meeting held in Wellington on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting was very positive and emphasised the importance of treating each other with politeness and how we work as a group. We need to respect that we don't always have to agree with each other, as difference of opinions can make strong councils.

Cr Williams added the meeting covered such topics as NZ Council's roles and responsibilities. Graham Nahkies emphasised the importance of councillors reading and learning about: governance, keeping professional at all times, how to speak at and run a meeting and educating new councillors. Staff advised council that Robert Sowman was invited to our February meeting to give a presentation on Governance, due to other commitments the presentation has been postponed until the April meeting. It was noted the importance of listening and treating the licence holders with respect and dignity as we as councillors are here to represent our anglers and hunters.

Mervyn English – DOC is responsible of the current audits and he will be ensuring outcomes are maintained.

Bruce Robertson, Auditor of North Canterbury and CSI, gave the findings of North Canterbury's audit and how the region can improve and move forward to repair the damage.

The next day NZ Council spent several hours in committee discussing the audits.

Lindsay Lyons was appointed Chairman (unopposed), executive committee members are Birchall, Shortis, Owen & Lyons. NZC Contestable Fund bids were: RMA \$150k, an R3 coordinator \$80k, no bid received for a lawyer as we are currently \$212K in the red, Salmon Committee \$30k per year, election top up cost due to 9 elections last year compared to the budgeted 7. A review of regional support and its base line cost may possibly be carried out by Carmel Veitch and researching the coordination of bulk regional buying. Robert Sowman has formulated a response to the primary production committee on Trout Farming. Don Rood, National Communications Manager has resigned.

Thanks to the work of Robert Sowman and Antony van Dorp, Fish & Game have been successful with the Conservation Infringement Act as F&G now we have the same power as DoC rangers returning the power of requesting names & addresses and instant fines.

## **14.0 REPORTS**

### **14.1 Management Report**

Council commended staff for installing signage in the helicopter hangers.

Staff informed council that the Watt's family were dedicated volunteers that offered assistance at the Game Farm on a weekly basis.

Jesse Friedlander referred to the wetland plans & quotes for the Game Farm, included in the papers for information, he advised council that staff are currently looking at other options such as the DoC community Fund. Funds are available in Council reserves which could be used through the CF bid. Jesse requested what direction council want this project to be taken (ie Educational), and this will influence how staff progress from here. The current design has been based around a wetland education site with an area that will be deep enough and lined for a fish out pond.

Council supported the benefits of having an educational wetland centre and instructed the regional manager to investigate options and provide a cost benefit analysis.

Cr Lumsden noted the contacts ranging dates should read 2018-2019 not 2017-2018. Jesse confirmed the region has nine current honorary rangers and that the contacts have been low due to the weather conditions. Jesse advised council he had met with the NZ Police to discuss joint compliance coordination of the 2019 gamebird opening weekend. Uniformed police will be teaming up with three ranger teams.

Callum Slavin requested staff attend all hunting club events this year.

### **14.2 Health & Safety Report**

#### **AGREED**

***14.2 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (19/02/14.2).***

*Duley/Lumsden*

### **14.3 Finance Report**

Staff requested council remove page 50 and insert the December 2019 bank transactions handout.

Cr Elstone enquired what was advertised in the Yellow pages, staff advised councillors this expense related to the advertising of Hawkes Bays contact phone numbers which included 0800 poaching and 0800 licencing.

Cr Elstone asked for clarification of legal expenses and enquired how this was reported, staff advised council the bank transactions are reported as gst inclusive, while the finance report is reported as gst exclusive.

**AGREED**

**14.3 That the council receives and approves the payments totalling \$87,929.91- \$58,723.88 for November 2018 and \$29,206.03 for December 2018. (19/02/14.3).**

*Hern/Hickmott*

**14.4 Licence Report**

**AGREED**

**14.4 That the council receives the licence reports. (19/02/14.4).**

*Duley/Lumsden*

**15.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**Time: 9.15pm**

**AGREED**

**15.1 That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss the HB Audit and governance matters. Williams/Elstone**

**AGREED:**

**15.2 That Jesse Friedlander – Regional Manager remains to record the in committee meeting minutes. Williams/Elstone**

**15.3 That council reaffirmed any councillor that discusses documents and/or conversations from in committee meetings could be removed by writing to the minister**

*Lumsden/Duley*

**15.4 That the open meeting of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council resumes. Nimon/Elstone**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 PM.

**CONFIRMED**

16/4/2019.



CHAIRMAN

## **2.0 APOLOGIES**

*2.1 The apologies for the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be accepted. (19/02/2.1)  
Lumsden/Pinker*

## **5.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

*5.1 That having been previously circulated to members, the minutes of the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on 11 December 2018 are a true and correct record. (19/2/5.1)*

*Lumsden/Pinker*

## **8.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW.**

*8.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2019/20 Anglers Notice. (19/2/8.1)*

*Lumsden/MacKay*

## **9.0 PHEASANT PRESERVES.**

*9.1 That Cr Duley is nominated chair for the agenda item- pheasant preserves. (19/2/9.1)*

*Lumsden/Pinker*

## **10.0 FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND BEQUESTS POLICY**

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*Nimon/Lumsden*

## **11.0 SETTING NATIONAL POLICY**

*11.1 That Council approves the Fish & Game New Zealand Setting National Policy. (19/2/11.1)*

*Elstone/Nimon*

## **12.0 ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

*12.1 That Council instruct the regional manager to draft a policy for electronic recordings of council meetings. (19/2/12.1)*

*Nimon/Niblett*

## **14.2 Health & Safety Report**

*14.5 That the council receives and accepted the Health & Safety Report. (19/02/14.2).*

*Duley/Lumsden*

## **14.3 Finance Report**

*14.6 That the council receives and approves the payments totalling \$87,929.91- \$58,723.88 for November 2018 and \$29,206.03 for December 2018. (19/02/14.3).*

*Hern/Hickmott*



**14.4 Licence Report**

**14.7** *That the council receives the licence reports. (19/02/14.4).*

*Duley/Lumsden*

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*Lumsden/Duley*

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