

## **HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 5 April 2022 at 6.00 PM**

#### **PRESENT:**

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Lumsden, MacKay (via video conference), Niblett, Callum Slavin (via video conference), Blair Slavin, Melville, Newton.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Jesse Friedlander (Manager), Sam Robinson (Governance Advisor)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Crs. Duley, Williams, Bowcock

#### **WELECOME**

Cr. Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those attending that the meeting would be audio recorded.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

*That the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 February and 8 March 2022 are a true and accurate record.*

*Newton/Lumsden*

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

The conflict of interest register was signed by all Councillors present. Cr. Newton declared a conflict as Chair of the Tongariro Trout Centre.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The manager has approached HBRC regarding putting in toilets at popular angling areas however hasn't received any feedback on the proposal.

Cr. Lumsden questioned whether there had been any update on the regional structure review. The report will be discussed at the NZC/Regional Chairs and Managers meeting in April. The possibility of connecting with other Councils via video conference was discussed, and the need for NZC to stream their meetings to enable councillors and the general public to watch.

Council will request an update from the Structure Review team.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- The employment subcommittee will conduct the 3 monthly review of the manager's new employment arrangement. Cr. Newton will also now form part of this group.
- New firearms legislation
- Pheasant preserves

- Fish and Game ballot stands-The Manager confirmed that there will be one private land hunting pond available this year as well as the Pekapeka stands.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

Cr. Slavin (Callum) has looked into the responsibilities of councillors' H&S responsibilities. He will forward on a paper he has written on this. Councillors must have an understanding of the activities that staff carry out.

At the next meeting, the manager will provide Council with a presentation on activities carried out by staff that are considered high risk and the H&S mitigation measures in place. It was suggested that a video of electric fishing could be produced for council to understand this activity further.

*That the health and safety report is accepted.  
Mackay/Niblett*

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2022/23 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

Cr. Bates brought up the fact that we are currently down on hours expended YTD compared with the current OWP budget. This is due to the resignation of our field officer and subsequent replacement by staff on a casual contract basis. The manager also reduced hours. Due to the rearrangement and change to employment contracts we are now down on hours, however our salaries budget has remained the same.

Council will need to decide whether the employment of a permanent field staff member would be preferable to continuing employing casually contracted staff for the interim period until regional amalgamations are finalised.

It was questioned whether projects would still be completed. The manager confirmed that projects would still be completed, however existing staff were picking up additional tasks usually carried out by a field officer.

Does having contract field staff rather than a permanent field staff member leave us in a good position if amalgamations go through? Licenceholders pay for outcomes rather than hours. It was agreed to continue with casually contracted staff in this interim period.

Staff have identified a gap as Jesse is now the only warranted staff member. Compliance work will therefore rely on help from honorary rangers in this interim period.

We will know more about amalgamations after the next NZC meeting and so this should be discussed in the June meeting.

Cr. Newton, Bates, Jesse and Tipene Cottrell have met to discuss the future use of the Game Farm/development of an educational facility. Cr. Newton questioned whether these aims have been reflected in the draft 2022/23 OWP. We need to spend money on the things that will

help further develop the organisation in the future and the operational work plan should reflect this.

While we have statutory obligations to monitor fish/game populations we don't necessarily need to do it in the way we always have done.

Discussion centred around getting younger people coming to the Game Farm,

Council will hold a workshop next week to discuss ideas to re-vamp the 2022/23 OWP to focus on the Council priorities of R3 and the development of an educational centre.

It was questioned why a CF bid has been put in for interest income. It has been suggested that interest income should be taken out of all council budgets and this is a one off bid to compensate for this.

**9.1** *That Council considers the draft OWP for 2022-23 and identifies any issues it might have with it.*

**9.2** *Council approve the Contestable fund bid of \$8,398 to replace interest income forecast for the 2022/23 financial year.*

**9.3** *Council approve the Contestable fund bid of \$2,900 to account for increased fuel costs for the 2022/23 year.*

*Lumsden/Newton*

## **2022/2023 ANGLERS NOTICE**

Is there an opportunity to increase bag limits in some areas? In areas that have a bag limit of one fish, anglers have to stop fishing once they have taken one fish to eat. Staff are instructed to identify areas where it may be appropriate to increase our bag limits.

*That Council identifies any issues for further discussion at the June meeting.*

*Lumsden/Mackay*

## **OPERATIONS REPORT**

Jesse provided Council with an update on the meeting held with DOC/HBRC on jetboating in the upper rivers. The Tranche 2 water take consents were held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March with hearings planned for July. It will be a decision for Council as to how far we want to take this as it may go to Environment Court after this. A joint approach with Forest and Bird/Ngati Kahunungu will be required.

## FINANCE REPORT

6.1 *That the payments for January and February 22 totalling \$88,832.48 be approved.*

<i>January 2022</i>	<i>\$48,407.34</i>
<i>February 2022</i>	<i>\$40,425.14</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$88,832.48</i>

6.2 *That the Finance Report be accepted for the 2 months ended 28 February 2022.*

*Newton/Lumsden*

### LICENCE SALES REPORT

*Council accepts the licence report*

*Niblett/Slavin (Blair)*

### GENERAL BUSINESS

#### Arms legislation changes

Cr. Niblett has received a notification from the NZ Clay Target Assn. that submissions on the latest changes to the Arms Act are due by May 4<sup>th</sup>. These changes will have a negative impact on shooting clubs and therefore recruitment of new/younger licenceholders. Is NZC across this and are there any plans to put out a notification to licenceholders/liaise with COLFO?

Jesse will ring around NZC staff and Anthony Van Dorp (Eastern F&G) who has been working on an Arms Act submission to find out where this is at.

#### Pheasant preserves

Cr. Slavin (Blair) questioned why the two gazetted upland game preserves in the Hawke's Bay region for the 2022/23 year had also applied to be commercial preserves. Cr. Niblett clarified that commercial preserves have not yet been signed off by cabinet. It is also unknown how long the sign-off process will take with DOC and therefore the two preserves could proceed on a cost share basis (Schedule 1 of Wildlife Act) if commercial status had not been granted in time.

**DOC lease of Game Farm site**

Jesse informed Council that he had engaged in discussion with staff members from Napier DOC regarding potential lease of the Game Farm site for DOC operations. This could bring in income for F&G while also potentially allowing us to collaborate with DOC on the creation of the educational centre. Council agreed to the Manager continuing to talk with DOC about this. No decision will be made without Council sign-off.



**Bruce Bates**

**Chairman**

7 June 2022

**Date**