

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2015 AT 3.10PM AT UPPER HUTT
COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 11 LOGAN STREET, UPPER HUTT**

1. **Present:**
Chairman Strato Cotsilinis, Councillors Andy Tannock, Brad Johnson, Chris O'Meara, Richard Moore, Jim Cook, Andrew Morris, Eric Neumann
2. **In Attendance:**
Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington, Hamish Carnachan
3. **Apologies:**
Councillors Mark Grace, Andrew Morris (for lateness), Simon Muckley

Staff: Corina Jordan

It was then moved that:
the apologies be accepted.

Jim Cook/Brad Johnson
Carried

4. **Public Participation**
Chairman Cotsilinis indicated that if members of the public arrived and wished to address the meeting with any issues for Council to consider, then this would be done in general business.
5. **Conflicts of Interest**
A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. No further updates were added to the register.
6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 17 February 2015:**
After a brief discussion it was moved that:
the Minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 17 February 2015 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Eric Neumann/Andy Tannock
Carried

After a brief discussion it was moved that:
the Public Excluded Minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 17 February 2015 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Eric Neumann/Andy Tannock
Carried

7. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal gave a review of the completed action points resulting from the 17 February 2015 Council meeting. It was confirmed that Fish & Game had supported some works by a local landowner to open up a water course from Lake Wairarapa to the Ruamahanga cut-off, but the more substantial proposal to promote flushing of the lake from the Ruamahanga River has not been actively promoted or pursued by the Regional Council.

Mr Teal confirmed that he had advised NZ Council of the recommended season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan following the Council resolution at the 17 February 2015 Council meeting. The time constraints in getting Ministerial approval for season conditions meant that earlier advice (by early February) was preferable. It had been suggested that confirmation of those specific season conditions might be better dealt with via a telephone conference prior to notifying NZ Council staff, and confirmed at a subsequent Council meeting.

8. **NZ Council Business**

Due to Councillor Morris lateness this item was deferred.

9. **Draft Annual Plan**

Mr Teal gave an overview of the draft Annual Plan including the budget aspects for each project. Mr Teal reiterated to Council the budget process, specifically outlining contestable funding applications from regional Fish & Game Councils for one-off projects or alterations to the bulk fund would be considered at the Managers Meeting at the end of April.

Mr Carnachan gave an overview of the sampling sites undertaken for collecting otoliths of juvenile brown trout and 60 adult trout had been completed for selected sites in the Ruamahanga catchment. Council considered the analysis of the samples was a priority to pursue and a contestable fund application be made to undertake the next stage of analysis. Councillor Neumann considered that due to the urgency of the project, it should be progressed with or without reliance on a contestable fund application.

Mr Teal noted that the contestable funding adjustments for CPI for vehicle running and salaries would be considered in a consistent manner for all regions by the managers at the Managers Meeting.

Chairman Cotsilinis noted that there was merit in filling the vacancy on the Managers Performance and Remuneration Review Sub-Committee created by the resignation for Martin Taylor.

After further discussion it was moved that

Eric Neumann be appointed as a member of the sub-committee to consider the Managers Performance and Remuneration review [joining Chairman Strato Cotsilinis and Richard Moore].

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

Councillor Neumann discussed options, tools for advocacy, and actions for actively improving relationships with the agricultural sector ó either as a Council or individually. It was noted that NZ Council CE had given a presentation to a Federated Farmers Conference which highlighted commonalities between the recreational and agricultural sector. Councillor Neumann considered there were also opportunities on an individual basis to act as advocates if the messaging was clear and consistent. It was agreed that as part of the communication strategy that key arguments and bullet point responses would be developed to communicate Fish & Game's viewpoints to improve the understanding within the agricultural sector.

Discussion ensued on possible changes to the Health and Safety Act, and guidelines for SOPs for farms from advice from Farmsafe. An example given to anglers related to the potential logging of people (including recreational anglers and hunters) as they entered and left a property which was impractical for anglers traversing a river. It was requested that Mr Teal request NZ Council to check the current advice being given by Farmsafe and Worksafe NZ as pertains to potential changes.

It was then moved that

The draft Annual Plan and Budget be approved and that relevant contestable funding applications be made to progress the otolith analyses and make provision for CPI salary adjustments

Jim Cook/Brad Johnson

Carried

10. Draft Sports Fish & Game Bird Management Plan

Mr Teal provided an overview of the progress made on the draft Sports Fish & Game Bird Management Plan that had reflected approaches from other regions. The approach taken by Otago F&GC to include some key targets for implementation action were discussed and that these be further considered by the Council.

It was moved that

a section on Plan Implementation be included in the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan prior to wider consultation

Eric Neumann/Brad Johnson

Carried

Councillor Morris arrived at 4:10pm

11. **NZ Council Business (deferred from agenda item 8).**

Councillor Morris gave an overview of discussions that related to the legal advice received regarding electronic licences, their implementation, and ability to tag stands. Councillor Johnson requested that a percentage of hunters using a tag would be useful in assessing demand ó and this would be different in each region. It was agreed that a question be included in the Game Bird Harvest Survey that sought information on the use of tags for marking up stands/maimais.

Councillor Morris reiterated comments made previously in the meeting that a telephone conference may be appropriate to discuss season conditions for black swan and paradise shelduck to better fit into the regulation setting process.

Councillor Morris noted that terms of reference for NZ Council's Executive Committee had been finalised ó with the initial committee consisting of Lyndsay Lyons (Chair), Chris Lynch, and Paul Didier-Dixon.

Councillor Morris noted that the National Reparation Policy would be distributed to regions for consultation.

Councillor Morris noted that a National Health and Safety Policy would be developed to ensure compliance with Health and Safety processes and implementation of the F&G H&S manual.

Councillor Morris noted that North Canterbury F&GC still had not confirmed an appointee to the NZ Council.

Councillor Morris gave an overview of how regions are expected to treat Non-Resident Licence income - initially being ring fenced and reported separately. Wellington Fish & Game could define backcountry fisheries in the Rangitikei and Manawatu catchments, and those rivers originating headwaters in the Tararua Ranges.

Councillor Morris noted that there had been some debate regarding two game regulations from Eastern region ó (1) a one limit per day for hen pheasant for the first two days, and (2) duck hunting on upland properties which appeared to be inconsistent with current policy which does not allow hunting on Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions.

Councillor Morris noted that the legal interpretation of the Fish & Game election regulations confirms that a hunter or angler can enroll and vote in each of the twelve regions.

Councillor Morris noted that there was demand and potential to have a workshop for new regional F&G councillors as part of an orientation programme.

Councillor Morris noted that a financial management review process had been agreed to focus initially on the treatment of Fish & Game reserves.

Councillor Morris noted that the NZ Council would consult on 3-shot capacity for multi-shot shotguns.

Councillor Morris also noted that NZ Council would be seeking support from DoC in introducing a guides licence.

It was then moved that

The report from Councillor Morris (as Wellington Region's appointee for NZ Council) on the NZ Council Meetings 20-22 March 2015 be received and accepted

Richard Moore/Chris O'Meara

Carried

12. Novice Participation Update - Fish in Schools

Mr Carnachan confirmed that all the equipment had been delivered for this years programme and that there had been continued enthusiasm from the teachers and principals for the programme [locations: Feilding, Lower Hutt, Carterton, Pohangina]. The delivery of ova was expected at the end of May-mid June from Ngongotaha hatchery. There had been interest from additional schools for educational material and potentially with aquariums etc.

Councillor Morris requested that a paper be developed on potential priorities for wetland enhancement or novice participation for funds derived from compliance and reparation.

13. Pencarrow Lakes Update

Mr Teal gave a brief update on the logistics required to manage hunter access at the sites and the planned education seminar planned. The issue of access to the site via Hutt City Council controlled access was still considered under their operational policy in providing keys for clubs only.

14. Lake Wairarapa Update

Mr Teal gave a brief outline of meetings of the Wairarapa Moana Management Group. Discussion ensued on specific management actions around the lake:

- Boggy Pond - a tree list to be developed on what can be planted
- Yules Lagoon ó an overview of the works undertaken;
- Wairio Block ó request for information of historical location of pipes potentially linking Wairio and Boggy Pond;
- Wairarapa Lake Eastern Shore ó drains dug out to facilitate irrigation make crossing them dangerous in higher water conditions.
- JK Donald Wetland ó Concern at the flow in drains to the JK Donald wetland due to low levels in the Otakura Stream; Mr Carnachan gave an overview of the discussions held with neighbouring landowners and regional council staff on a detailed proposal for a weir upgrade. Concerns were expressed by landowners that the regional council proposal may back-up water onto their properties. The current operational situation is to have levels at the weir which reflect similar levels to the design proposal.

15. Mallard Research Project Update

Mr Teal gave an overview of his recent review of the operational efficiency and efficacy for the mallard telemetry project and the recommendations for improvement for 2015/16.

Mr Teal had also met with Northland, Auckland/Waikato, and Eastern region staff to confirm a commitment to some basic duck environmental management units and how we could progress a more effective monitoring programme. Taranaki and Hawkeø Bay regions are also likely to be keen to participate in a North Island approach.

16. Barton's Lagoon Fish Removal Draft Report

Mr Teal gave an overview of the draft report prepared for GWRC by their consultant.

17. Wairarapa Water Storage Report

Mr Carnachan gave an overview of public meetings held at Mangaterere Hall to discuss one of the dam site options.

Discussion on sending the draft letter of response to Greater Wellington Regional Council and the WWUP Management Director would be done once the various proposed amendments to the RMA had been made public. A draft of the letter would be considered by Council for comments prior to sending.

18. Management Report 1 Febraruy – 31 March 2015

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the progress of the juvenile fishing sampling in the Ruamahanga catchment and the Whaitua Committeeø progress in

determining community values for the management of the Ruamahanga catchment zone.

It was moved that the

Management Report for 1 February to 31 March 2015 be received and accepted

Jim Cook/Andrew Morris

Carried

19. **Fish Licence Sales Report**

After brief discussion it was moved to

Receive the fishing licence sales report to 23 March 2015

Eric Neumann/Brad Johnson

Carried

20. **Expenditure Report**

After brief discussion it was moved that

The expenditure reports 1 January to 28 February 2015, and the financial transactions for January and February 2015 be accepted

Brad Johnson/Andy Tannock

Carried

21. **Correspondence**

After brief discussion it was moved that

Correspondence and media overview be received

Andrew Morris/Jim Cook

Carried

22. **General Business**

Mr Teal confirmed that the patterning sheets had been made available to licence agents to distribute but considered a greater number is required.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.12pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Coachman Hotel, 140 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North. Tuesday 9 June 2015 at 3.00pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____