

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER AT 3.00PM HELD AT CLUB WAIRARAPA, 20 ESSEX STREET, MASTERTON

1. **Present:**

Chairman Paul Dewar, Councillors Steve Haslett, Colin Shore, John Hancock, Aaron Passey, Malcolm Francis.

In Attendance:

Fish and Game Staff: Phil Teal, Hamish Carnachan

Licence holders: Chris O'Meara, Robert Sowman, John Pansters, Ed Campbell, Lawson Campbell, Paul Shortis

Via Zoom from Wellington Fish and Game Council Office, 292 Featherston Street, Palmerston North: Councillors Richard McIntyre, Jim Cook, Andrew McGregor, Jennifer Yanko, Don Scott, Steve Brown.

Fish and Game Staff: Dr Matt Kavermann

Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Chairman Dewar welcomed councillors and public and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

Councillor Steve Brown for lateness.

It was moved

that apologies be accepted

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

3. **Conflict of Interest**

There were no additional conflicts of interest that were identified specific to the agenda.

Mr Teal confirmed that the Conflict of Interest management plan would be updated if new conflicts of interest were identified or Council chose to deal with a managing a conflict in a different way.

Draft and Unconfirmed

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 11 October 2021:**

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 11 October be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Malcolm Francis/John Hancock

Carried

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 2 November 2021:**

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 2 November 2021 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

6. **Matters Arising:**

Mr Teal clarified that the submission on behalf of Council regarding the various options considered by the Structure Review Group had been sent in shortly after the Council meeting on 2 November 2021. While this had not provided much further refinement from councillors at that stage there would be opportunities for further feedback once the options had been narrowed down.

Councillor Scott noted that the Council meeting planned for October 2022 should be held in Masterton to retain the frequency of circulating the Council meetings around Wellington region.

Councillor Scott noted the importance to retain contact and a relationship with the Wellington Conservation Board so highlight important issues wider than direct DoC staff interactions. Robert Sowman noted that the Conservation Board was regularly calling for new members and even if applicants were not selected, it would create a record of interest in contribution. Councillor Scott also noted that in their selection process, the Chairman had a strong influence in the selection and recommendation of new members.

Several issues were discussed that should be brought to the attention of the Conservation Board. Mr Shortis outlined the current 'Jobs for Nature' project with a milestone \$3.5million granted over four years, and that Fish and Game needed to legitimize its ongoing representation. There were merits in the Conservation Board and Fish and Game discussing the research and recreational functions for the area as the relationships for the management of the lake were moving outside the Conservation Act.

Draft and Unconfirmed

Councillor Hancock noted that from his experience any field trips organised by DoC staff focused on positive stories and often did not confront difficult management issues.

After discussion it was moved that

Paul Shortis be co-opted onto Wellington Fish and Game Council to represent the interests of Fish and Game at the Wairarapa Moana forums and as Fish and Game liaison at Conservation Board meetings.

John Hancock/Don Scott

Carried

Councillor Scott also suggested sending a letter of support to the Chairman of the Wellington Conservation Board (and a copy to the Minister) regarding Mr Shortis' attendance at these meetings outlining his knowledge and experience of the lake's management and wider conservation issues.

Councillor Passey noted that the Action List should be rationalized – as there were several past actions noted that had limited relevance now or had been superseded in priority.

7. NZ Fish and Game Council Business

Councillor McIntyre provided a brief overview of a NZ Council meeting conducted on the 4 December 2021. He confirmed that Ray Grubb had been elected Chairman and that there would be an executive committee/deputy Chair arrangement. He advised that he would be a NZ Council representative on a new working group focused on developing a communications strategy. He noted that NZ Council wants to clarify governance function and review actions and direction moving forward.

Councillor McIntyre noted that the Native Forest Coalition was seeking to incentivise planting of native forests in preference over pine forest (the latter with an associated issue of water uptake). He further briefly outlined EDS policy and what advocacy positions aligned with NZ Council and were supported.

Councillor McIntyre noted that there was about a one-hour session presented by the Chairman of the Structure Review Group, and this material was subsequently sent out to all regional Fish and Game councillors immediately after the meeting on Saturday (confirmed distribution sent).

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The report by NZ Council appointee Councillor McIntyre on NZ Council business be received

Malcolm Francis/Colin Shore

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

Councillor Steve Brown arrived at the meeting at 3.38pm (via Zoom Meeting Hub in Palmerston North).

Chairman Dewar outlined the document received from the Structure Review Group which had all of the 'long options' suggested and supporting information. He noted that all councillors had received the information over the previous weekend and sought brief discussion on initial feedback and comments.

Discussion ensued on the following points:

- It would be preferable if the link to NZ Council from regions be retained
- Regional representation is still important – especially via the links to NZ Council
- There are some possible negatives in pursuing specific options – e.g. the internal political influence of two 'mega' regions.
- The 4 elected 4 appointed and Chair appointed model is still not preferred for regional councils or NZ Council (Chair elected by peers preferred).
- Licence sales in the North Island should take into consideration the angling licence sales for Taupo – as South Island sales will dominate.
- Don't want this process to drag on – as the Minister will likely default to review recommendations or define some other course of action.
- Resources allocated to a region need to reflect its management needs (partially addressed by the Resource Allocation Project).
- Wellington Council has already sent in several submissions so how much additional influence is the consultation process allowing for (provides an opportunity to reconfirm positions and/or highlight unintended consequences).
- There are multiple reviews being undertaken: Resource Allocation Project may have implications for where boundaries are set.
- The ethics of centralising funds and the perceptions of regions paying a levy or receiving grants.
- Unlikely to be much deviance of funding allocation in the short term.

Chairman Dewar noted that it was intended to have a workshop in the next couple of weeks before the end of the calendar year – in order to provide timely feedback.

8. Public Forum

Chairman Dewar invited members of the public to make submission to Council on relevant issues.

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Mr Sowman outlined that the Game Bird Habitat Trust had two items of interest to the Wellington region including:

GBHT Photograph competition: Photographic competition winner for the 2023 Game Bird Habitat Stamp was a local landowner Paula Gillett and this provided an opportunity to promote the habitat stamp, conservation works funded by the GBHT, and highlight the work undertaken by hunters as wetland conservationists. The launch of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp had been offered for release publicity on 2 February (World Wetland Day) and could provide an opportunity to highlight projects in the Wairarapa area.

JK Donald Wetland water management project: Mr Sowman noted that the GBHT had allocated \$100,000 for assisting the project but were increasingly frustrated that the project had not been progressed because of diverse interests. He noted that the Trust would not keep that open allocation open forever (a sunset clause may be defined shortly), and some progress needed to be shown by all parties.

Mr Ed Campbell outlined that DoC had put a letter on their hut and two other huts in the Wairio Wetland indicating that permissions for continued tenure there might be required. They had had a meeting with DoC (attended by Fish and Game staff also) and that legal research was currently being collated. DoC are requesting that the hut occupiers request that they apply for permission to be there (had been there since 1968) – so the process they are suggesting would confirm that none had been sought or given.

Dr Kavermann thanked Ed and Lawson Campbell for attending the meeting and providing context for their situation. Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the issues and how the assets were being considered by DoC in this location and others around the country – each with different contextual nuances. Dr Kavermann noted that DoC had not previously approached the hut owners in recent years, so there was an element of re-establishing relationships and ensure that they were following agreed protocols and rules for dealing with such issues. Mr Campbell noted that many of the huts had 3+ generations of hunters that had been using them and that they were dealing with the DoC operational hub in Hamilton with submissions etc, and they had no affinity to, or knowledge of, the site. Further discussion ensued on the green hut on the Wairio Wetland, with Mr Campbell recounting his account of the record of ownership including the original owner donating such to the Acclimatisation Society which was subsequently lent to a neighbouring hunting party and since left unused. Discussion ensued on whether the structure should be removed or repaired in situ given its relatively high visibility, and any options would need to be added to the staff work programme. It was agreed that an options paper would be prepared for the March 2022 meeting.

Draft and Unconfirmed

Mr John Pansters noted that the local Wairarapa Fly Fishing Club had completed another successful introductory course and that demand had not abated – evidenced by a waiting list for future tutorial programmes.

9. **Health and Safety Reporting**

Mr Teal noted that staff had been reacting to different COVID-19 level restrictions by developing Health and Safety Plans for each level and then following the protocols recommended.

Mr Teal noted that he had made the Health and Safety meetings of weekly frequency to deal with a dynamic situation, and also provide an opportunity for more regular health and safety discussions/updates.

It was moved that

Council receive the Health and Safety Report for October and November 2021

Malcolm Francis/Richard McIntyre

Carried

10. **Preliminary Game Recommendations to Minister of Conservation:**

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the draft regulations and supporting information summarised in the documentation.

The draft proposal provides a relatively conservative approach in response to slightly increasing numbers of waterfowl by retaining regulations similar to last year. The waterfowl populations appeared to be increasing on the Manawatu side of the divide, and numbers were relatively stable on the eastern side of the Tararua Ranges.

The long-term forecast was for stable climatic conditions under La Niña conditions, inferring that mallard draft regulations would unlikely change materially but paradise shelduck regulation recommendations would still be subject to the January moult site trend counts.

The Black Swan numbers appeared relatively stable but there had been more reports of nuisance events particularly on the margins of large lakes and harbours. Any final recommendation would be subject to the January trend counts.

Mr O'Meara noted that from the hunting conditions and hunter aspirations at Lake Wairarapa that an increased bag limit on opening weekend and subsequent week should be an option considered. He thought that this would result in reasonable harvest numbers and help alleviate nuisance events. Other options for special summer season were considered but this

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has had an effect in the past of disturbing too many birds including some in late moult, and had a perceived effect on the main game season.

Councillor Brown discussed the concept of operating a 'token' system (quota) where intermittent hunting activity (e.g. 2 or 3 times for pheasants) of a 2 bird limit was not offset for a season total tally compared to a regular hunter – and therefore the effect on the population is not different. It was agreed that it would be too difficult to police and active compliance given the current resources allocated to that function.

John Pansters left the meeting at 4.45pm

Councillor Passey noted that the data and interpretation of trends that for mallard an opportunity existed for increasing the limit to up to 12 birds per day.

After further discussion it was moved

That the mallard daily limit be increased to 12 birds per day for the 2022 game season for the duration of the eight-week waterfowl period of the season.

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

After discussion it was moved that

Black swan daily limit be increased to five (5) birds per day for the Eastern Area (Area A) and a five (5) bird limit on opening weekend and three (3) bird limit for the remainder of the waterfowl season for the Western Area (Area B).

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Vote deferred

The vote was deferred until January 2022 until after the counts had been completed but the concept for the regulation was considered appropriate.

After discussion it was moved that

All other bag limits and season duration in game regulations from the 2021 game season remain unchanged for the 2022 game season.

Malcolm Francis /Aaron Passey

Carried

11. Policy Discussion: Meeting Protocols for Council Meetings Under Specific COVID Conditions

Chairman Dewar noted that with the recently released guidelines for public events under the new COVID Traffic Light System that various approaches could be undertaken and that it was a dynamic situation in terms of

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government advice. He noted that this had necessitated the change in approach to this meeting – given that the venue required COVID Vaccine Passports for entry to confirm full vaccination as a condition of entry. Discussion ensued on the choice available to anyone to have or not have a vaccination, and whether those vaccinated also felt comfortable with colleagues that were not vaccinated – a debate that was societal rather than specific to Fish and Game. Various could be taken such as requiring a vaccine passport at any meeting regardless of the venue, how masks would be used in public meetings, and whether public meetings would resort to a full/mix of zoom meeting attendance.

It was moved that

For the immediate future that a vaccine passport would be required to attend a public Council meeting in person, or via zoom for those not wishing to attend the meeting in person.

Paul Dewar/Steve Brown

Carried

Richard McIntyre voted against the motion.

Chairman Dewar noted that it was a dynamic situation in terms of advice received from the Government and that zoom meetings might be the most practical way forward for the next planned Council workshop anyway. Any approach to meetings would be reviewed regularly regardless.

Chairman Dewar noted that there was a considerable body of work relating to policy review that should be advanced. He sought volunteers to assist staff in working through the most urgent policy review items – Councillor Francis and Councillor Brown indicated that they would be interested in being part of a working group to achieve such.

12. Response to NES Implementation: Wetland Management Consenting

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of some of the extra consenting requirements that were proposed by Ministry for the Environment to do work on and in natural wetlands. This was an unintended consequence of providing more scrutiny and regulation on modifying wetlands – but this had been specifically dealt with in regional plans around the country.

Dr Kavermann noted that Horizons Regional Council were now requiring consents for works in any significant natural areas of which wetlands is classified – so it is difficult to get proactive remedial construction work done. Fish and Game are trying to work out pathways for farmers to work through and need pragmatic solutions. Staff were considering working with land management advisors and industry advisors to look at sites.

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Fish and Game have also been advocating to MfE on other issues relating to maimai maintenance and construction in wetlands using new provisions of the NES that were proposed.

13. **Special Licences: Permits to Take Sports Fish**

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the paper and requests for permits from two regional councils (GWRC and Horizons RC) for State of Environment reporting using nets and electrofishing machines - with applications for a special licence to take sports fish, and a private individual seeking information to release perch.

1. Horizons Regional Council – SOE reporting surveys: Monitoring effects of removing fish barriers – before and after monitoring. A draft permit was presented – with low impact on sports fish anticipated with sports fish released immediately after capture. Fish and Game also requested that any sports fish caught be entered into the Freshwater Fish Database. Dr Kavermann can also access the data bi-monthly to keep up-to-date on survey progress.

After discussion it was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council issue a permit to Horizons Regional Council that is consistent with the draft permit presented

Jim Cook/John Hancock

Carried

2. Linton Private Property - Perch release proposal

If sports fish already exist in a waterbody, then releases can occur without too much additional documentation. It is uncertain whether perch are present at the specific site, but they are present in the catchment. While Fish and Game can support in principle the release of perch into a man-made pond as it is unlikely to compromise habitat values, there are wider responsibilities to ensure that fish releases do not compromise indigenous biodiversity values. If for instance DoC found banded kokopu at the site our policy may be to back DoC's findings – similar in principle to release of grass carp previously.

Following general discussion there was general support for the release with a view that new angling opportunities that may result, and suggested that eDNA be used to test the presence of other fish (both introduced and indigenous). Councillor Hancock supported the use of small farm ponds for perch and most catchments already had perch in them. Councillor Francis supported sites that guaranteed public access but if also in circumstances where there was a willingness to allow fishing on the waterbody.

Paul Shortis left the meeting at 5.20pm.

It was then moved that

There is a wider responsibility to ensure that fish releases do not compromise indigenous biodiversity values or lead to nuisance populations of fish, that Fish and Game would look at the merits of the proposal once the lead agency (DoC) had assessed its merits.

Jim Cook/Don Scott

Carried

3. GWRC - Application for sampling sports fish for SOE Reporting

The summary for the application was considered. Most of the application relating to electrofishing surveys was similar to previous years (and Horizons Regional Council) and there are few issues with that technique. Most site the timing of the work was the key variable – with the national standard criteria being from December to April but GWRC were seeking permits for much longer and beyond the normal summer monitoring period.

GWRC were again seeking to use gill nets over extended periods to sample fish. Fish and Game gave approval on a one-off basis in 2019 to undertake work on this basis but it was highlighted then that gill netting for surveys in the future would be unlikely to be permitted.

It was noted that GWRC have repeatedly requested to use a gill net despite the protocols and processes for shallow lake monitoring for DoC not supportive of these methods. Their proposal has the intention to use gill nets overnight to gather data on fish communities. The option given to them of regular check times was not acceptable to them. Gill netting is not as humane as it could be.

GWRC considered other options such as using GoPro camera but considered it was not feasible due to turbid waters and they did not want to set up alternative fish traps. It was noted that gill netting is sampling without replacement so it can have an influence in manipulating the population. It was suggested that GWRC provide a power analysis to justify and determine the sample size they were seeking.

It was noted that Fish and Game is responsible for sports fish and not sports fisheries per se. It was further noted that under DoC General Policy that DoC is required to liaise with Fish and Game on items of mutual interests – which puts the process that GWRC and DOC to establish an MOU for surveying fish (including sports fish) into question (even its legality entirely). It was suggested that DoC be approached to clarify MOU development and specific

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provisions used across the country, and specifically their codes of ethical conduct and assessment of potential impact on sports fish.

It was concluded that GWRC should reconsider the unlimited use of gill nets and be asked to modify their use to at least regular checks, acknowledging that while it would take more effort it is more humane. The use of gill nets was not the preferred method advocated by Council.

It was agreed that a permit could be issued to GWRC that aligns with national sampling methodologies that is humane and for the period December to April where sports fish are likely to be present. Staff were instructed to develop the permit with sensible level of detail for checking regularly, dealing with treating fish humanely, and the need to stipulate time periods.

It was then moved that

A permit be issued to GWRC that aligns with national sampling methodologies that is humane and for the period December to April where sports fish are likely to be present.

Jim Cook/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

14. Overview of Draft Wellington Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan

Mr Teal noted that Wellington Region had a current draft of its 10-year plan – Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan that was ready for consultation. It was the intention of staff to start circulating the draft to iwi and DOC prior to the formal consultation process for initial comments.

The meeting adjourned at 6.00pm for dinner.

Councillor Scott left the meeting at 6.00pm

The meeting reconvened at 6.50pm.

15. Research Proposal – Cawthron Institute Endeavour Fund – Future Freshwater Fisheries Governance

Mr Teal provided an overview of the study which was designed to get different perspectives of trout management in NZ, and then the proposal development of policy for future fisheries management.

Councillor McKenzie noted that NZ Council had been given a quick update on the project which had now been funded – and specifically the perceptions of native fish and trout interactions. At the next NZ Council meeting there was an intention that strategic discussions would include risk analyses of which this topic would be part of the discussion.

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Discussion continued regarding the project, where Wellington Fish and Game Council sought to identify the potential risks and outcomes that could be generated from such a project.

Council considered a parallel workstream should be ongoing internally to inform the organisation and avoid the perception of inevitability. Councillor Haslett noted that much of the published record relating to trout predation on native fish is either poor or very limited in location. He considered the information to support the contrary view on a wider scale for open systems is not good enough. There should be a strategy for critiquing current literature.

The project does not appear to consider licence holders per se, so a large stakeholder and recreational user of the resource is not well canvassed. It was acknowledged that it was preferable to be involved in the project rather than step away with no influence, as it will give Fish and Game the opportunity to understand the points of view, advocacy positions, and develop a public awareness programme and strategy. The latter work stream could involve external consultants and get regional public awareness of these issues to licence holders and the wider public.

It was then moved

A letter be sent to NZ Council to begin wider internal discussion on the project Fish Futures, including:

- 1. That a brief of opportunities and concerns regarding the Fish Futures research programme identified by Wellington Fish and Game Council to be more widely discussed by NZ Council.***
- 2. That NZ Council seek more information before a decision is made on behalf of licence holders.***
- 3. That NZ Council establish a working group of regional expertise to work alongside Cawthron for the duration (five years) of the Fish Futures research programme and liaise and disseminate knowledge to NZ Council and regions.***
- 4. NZ Council asks for nominations from two regional appointees (suitably qualified personnel to liaise with the Fish Future working group.***
- 5. NZ Council embark on a parallel, but separate, social science research (conducting its own surveys) and a long-term PR campaign as an urgent priority.***

Paul Dewar/Aaron Passey

Carried

The Meeting was adjourned at 7.04pm to conduct the Wellington Fish and Game Council AGM for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

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The meeting reconvened at 7.14pm

16. GWRC Western Rivers Global consents

Mr Teal noted that no progress had been made by GWRC on engaging with iwi – therefore the Waikanae and Otaki river consents were being operated under their existing historical consents.

It was moved to

Receive the report on the GWRC Western Rivers Global Consents

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

17. GWRC Natural Resources Plan Environment Court Appeal

Mr Teal provided a brief overview confirming that all of the appeals had been settled and that now only administrative aspects of drafting consent orders remained.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the GWRC Natural Resources Plan Environment Court Appeal

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

18. GWRC Implementation of the Whaitua WIPs

Mr Teal updated Council on the recent deliberations by GWRC in considering implementing recommendations for completed Whaitua Implementation Plans for Porirua and Ruamahanga. This focuses on a restructuring of GWRC internally to focus on catchment management units.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the GWRC Implementation of the Whaitua WIPs

Colin Shore/Steve Haslett

Carried

19. One Plan – Plan Change 2 Environment Court Appeal

Mr Teal noted that Horizons Regional Council were developing technical and legal advice on how to proceed with the Plan Change 2. A further meeting will be held later in the first week of December 2021 to progress mediation.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the One Plan – Plan Change 2 Environment Court Appeal

Paul Dewar/Malcolm Francis

Carried

20. Wairarapa Water Irrigation Project

Mr Teal provided an overview of the final Newsletter presented by Water Wairarapa which provided more insight into their final position to abandon the proposal. Only a watching brief will be maintained to monitor what alternatives will now be pursued by Masterton District Council and other key players.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the Water Wairarapa Irrigation Project - Final Report

Paul Dewar/Malcolm Francis

Carried

21. Wairarapa Moana Update

Mr Teal outlined that the Treaty Settlement process which had been in quiescence due to High Court clarifications on iwi mandating, and although it had been active and looked like it would progress it has been stalled by future legal action by factions within iwi.

Dr Kavermann confirmed that 131 ballot applications had been received for 3 positions at Pukepuke Lagoon (Manawatu) and 7 around Lake Wairarapa (with the potential for more stands to become available). There has been a more active response to match hunters to stands to set them up for success, but this has required more staff resources.

Wairarapa Moana have selected consultants to progress research proposals and wetland management projects (planting).

Staff are actively engaging with all parties to Wairarapa Moana to progress the weir proposal for JK Donald Wetland – with a meeting in late January/February anticipated with all key parties.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the Wairarapa Moana Projects and Issues

Colin Shore/John Hancock

Carried

22. Research Update

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the research projects still active:

1. eDNA project: used winter data collection and have developed a manuscript and anticipate next draft by the end of the calendar year.
2. Native Fish/Trout Interactions: draft to be completed by end of calendar year for thesis work with expectation that completion at end of February. While this won't be published work, it is anticipated that papers will result from this work.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the current Research Projects

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

23. Junior and Novice Participation Project

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the trout that are ordered for delivery to the Otaki pond site. Work has been completed on the site to ready it as a basis for a fishing pond. An opportunity also exists to link in trout release at Marton Reservoir to provide additional angler opportunities – for novice anglers and potentially families based at Ohakea Defence site. Another site at Carterton was also being investigate by staff at Sparks Pond – which could seasonally dry up depending on their management regime. It still represents an opportunity for winter fishing to leverage one off or several events.

After discussion it was moved that

Funds be allocated up to \$5000 for the cost of fish and additional for transport costs from the dedicated reserve for Educational and Enhancement Fund.

Paul Dewar/Malcolm Francis

Carried

24. Management Report for the Period 1 October to 30 November 2021

Mr Teal provided an overview of the Management Report for the relevant period.

Discussion ensued on the Waikanae Conservation plan that was being led by DoC and Iwi, with support from the regional and district councils – which was not undertaking wider consultation nor obligations to consult and engage Fish and Game under the General Policy of the Conservation Act.

After further discussion and clarifications it was moved that

Council receives the Management Report for period 1 October to 30 November 2021 be received.

Malcolm Francis/Paul Dewar

Carried

25. Licence Sales Report – 1 September 2021 up to 30 November 2021

Mr Teal noted that the start of the 2021/2022 season for fish licence sales were ahead of the previous year - about 100 LEQs better than last year at the same time. He noted that staff would be making efforts to maintain those licence sales in December and January.

After brief discussion it was moved that

The licence sales reports for Fish Licence Sales 2021/2022 as at 30 November 2021 be received

Jim Cook/John Hancock

Carried

26. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

The summary of income and expenditure to 31 October 2021 was considered.

Mr Teal alerted Council the internal phone system had been replaced.

Mr Teal confirmed that a vehicle had been ordered for a vehicle replacement but delivery was taking longer than expected.

After brief discussion it was then moved

Receive and Accept the Expenditure Reports to 31 October 2021 and Financial Transactions for September and October 2021.

Paul Dewar/Colin Shore

Carried

27. Correspondence / Media

Mr Teal referred to the item that confirmed the Manawatu River Accord had been recognised by the Cawthron NZ River Awards for most progress to river health. Dr Kavermann acknowledged that there had been improved angler reports this year including good condition fish. Mr Teal noted that the nitrogen levels in the river had improved very little if at all, and the immediate improvements have been associated with improving wastewater treatment sites and/or discharging more wastewater to land. Efforts to fence waterways should provide longer term benefits in terms of sediment release but nitrogen levels remain similar to those noted over ten years ago.

28. Recognition and Contribution Awards

Potential recipients were discussed, and additional nominations called for consideration at future meetings. No presentations were made at this meeting due to the last-minute decisions to restrict personnel with COVID vaccine passports.

Mr Teal noted that Peter Taylor was seriously ill, and would present his contribution medal at the February 2022 meeting.

29. Wellington Conservation Board - Liaison

Councillors indicated that they wanted fisheries management and research for Wairarapa Moana to be discussed with the Wellington Conservation Board. Dr Kavermann and Councillor Shortis indicated that they were

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prepared to attend – although the provisional date and location (at Wairarapa DoC Office may change. Councillor Francis indicated potential availability if required.

30. General Business

Chairman Dewar and Mr Teal undertook to work through staff Leave Plans to ensure they receive adequate rest and recuperation.

There being no further items of general business the meeting was closed at 8.01pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Zoom Meeting and/or Hotel Coachman, 140 Fitzherbert Ave, Palmerston North, 8 February 2022 at 3pm.

Chairman_____ Date_____