

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 9 AUGUST 2022 AT 3.05PM AT COACHMAN HOTEL, 140 FITZHERBERT AVENUE, PALMERSTON NORTH.

1. **Present:**

Councillors Malcolm Francis, Prof. Stephen Haslett, Jim Cook, Steve Brown, Don Scott, Colin Shore, Jennifer Yanko, John Hancock (Via Zoom Videoconferencing), Aaron Passey (from 3.20pm).

In Attendance:

Fish and Game Staff: Phil Teal, Dr Matt Kavermann, Hamish Carnachan

Licence Holder: Lee Cook (until 6.05pm), Paul Browne (from 4.10pm to 6.05pm)

Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Mr Teal opened the meeting and confirmed that Chairman Paul Dewar was currently overseas and had tendered an apology for this meeting.

He then sought nominations for a councillor to chair the meeting

Steve Brown nominated by Don Scott/Malcom Francis

There being no further nominations Steve Brown was confirmed as the Acting Chairman for this meeting.

Acting Chairman Brown welcomed councillors and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Chairman Paul Dewar, Richard McIntyre, Paul Shortis, Aaron Passey (lateness 3:20pm), and Andrew McGregor.

It was moved

that apologies be accepted

Malcolm Francis/Colin Shore

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

3. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflicts of Interest Register was reviewed, and identification of additional conflicts were sought specific to the agenda.

Councillor McIntyre had indicated to Mr Teal that he had changed his position on the Federated Farmers executive to Chairman Dairy Industry Group.

It was moved

That the Conflicts of Interest register be updated accordingly to note the changes for Richard McIntyre

Jim Cook/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

Mr Teal confirmed that the Conflict of Interest register was updated accordingly from the previous meeting, and Conflict of Interest Management plan was also updated with the new conflicts of interest that were identified and how Council intended to deal with managing a conflict.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 7 June 2022:**

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 7 June 2022 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Jim Cook/Colin Shore

Carried

5. **Matters Arising:**

Discussion occurred on the actions from the meeting of 7 June 2022 notably including:

- acknowledge the efforts of the iwi Muaūpoko at Lake Horowhenua to deal with avian mortalities and to try to initiate a meeting to develop an emergency response plan for all agencies should this occur at this scale in the future. Dr Kavermann organised a workshop between North Island Fish and Game Councils regarding botulism and invited Horizons and Muaupoko to attend.
- Staff look at the feasibility of opening up waters closed for fishing during winter fishing period (for 2023/2024 season) could be dealt with in a wider regulation review
- The Project 1113 River Control Trout Fishery Assessment report was not yet circulated to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Councillor Passey arrived at the meeting at 3.20pm.

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6. NZ Fish and Game Council Business

Councillor McIntyre was not available to provide a summary of recent NZ Council meetings on 16 June 2022 or significant Council business since.

It was noted that no further discussion had been held by NZ Council on the detail on how the \$500k budgeted for Ministerial Review recommendation implementation. Council reiterated its concern that NZ Council should not continue to spend that budget allocation without a business plan. Councillor Scott noted that for all regions were required to have a plan if they had a project such as expanding fishing opportunities (like stocking a put and take fishery such as Marton Reservoir).

It was moved

Wellington Fish and Game Council write to NZ Council indicating that it considered the indicative budget (\$500,000) included as a contingency in the 2022/2023 budget for Ministerial Review implementation (including facilitating amalgamations) requires a business plan to be formally adopted - before any spending occur.

Steve Haslett/Malcolm Francis

Carried

Discussion continued on the minutes of the NZ Council meeting provided including an unplanned budget item of \$10k for governance training in CSI Fish and Game Council – with a lack of detail surrounding the need for this level of expenditure.

It was moved that

A letter be sent to NZ Council indicating that Wellington Fish and Game Council considered that the minutes of the NZ Council meetings need to be more descriptive as to how decisions are made – as currently the lack of information in the official record does not provide enough transparency.

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

It was then moved that

the meeting report on New Zealand Council business be received

Colin Shore/Jim Cook

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

7. Public Forum

Acting Chairman Brown noted that there had been no items identified by the public prior to the meeting and offered the public an opportunity to present on relevant issues. No additional items were presented.

8. 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.

Dr Kavermann noted that staff were currently setting up for summer monitoring programmes including:

- Replacing batteries in PLBs
- 4WD training course planned for 31 August.

It was moved that

Council receives the Health and Safety Report for June and July 2022

Malcolm Francis/Colin Shore

Carried

9. Draft Annual Budget and Annual Work Plan

Mr Teal provided an overview of the budget procedures and how the draft budget had been altered and the work plan that was expected to be completed for the upcoming year.

Discussion ensued on how depreciation was considered in terms of the budget and that Fish and Game used an Asset Replacement Fund as a budgeting provision for capital replacement.

It was moved that

the Operational Work Plan presented is adopted as the operative plan and the associated budget be approved for the 2022-2023 financial year

Jim Cook / Aaron Passey

Carried

10. Policy and Legislation Reviews

Council acknowledged the letter from New Zealand Council dated 22 June 2022 to the Department of Conservation regarding the review of the Wildlife Act 1953. This included the topics of operational and technical points,

potential licensing of land occupiers, enforcement and compliance issues, and management of indigenous species.

11. **Update of Progress – Ministerial Review of Fish and Game Governance**

Discussion ensued on the governance review programme being managed by the Implementation Steering Group with an indicative timetable provided suggesting a consultation document would be ready for distribution by the end of August and that consultation may commence in September. This was dependent on the acceptability of the document to the Minister who would need to approve its release.

It was further noted that a strategic planning and risk management workshop would be held by New Zealand Council to assist in defining a clear strategic direction, and it was indicated that this may also occur at a regional level to ensure a common strategy could be adopted across the organisation.

There was a brief overview of the meeting outcomes of the lower North Island Fish and Game Councils.

Wellington Council discussed this process further noting that the risk of appearance of procrastination increases the risk of not making meaningful positive changes to the organisation. It was noted that by delaying decisions and discussions into 2023 could be further delayed by election issues, and changes to configurations of Government. Continued delays could result in options to influence Fish and Game's direction in a negative manner. It was noted that the Structure Review Group's recommendations should have been the conclusion of internal consultation as there now appears to be an element within Fish and Game which considers there is self-determination – including the option of no change. Council concluded that there was increasing risk if there wasn't a clear recommendation either way in order to progress the debate.

Councillor Haslett noted that regardless of how much internal agreement there was, are we able to put something forward better than what was presented to the Minister in the original review.

Additional points of discussion focused on:

- Who runs the consultation process?
- Who picks up the bill for the running the process?
- There is an urgency to provide and define a business plan.

After further discussion it was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council send a letter to the Implementation Steering Group (set up following the Ministerial Review) to more

Draft and Unconfirmed

assertively define a proposed regional Fish and Game structure that achieves the objectives of the Ministerial Review, and publish a process for consultation and decision making. Wellington Council considered that changes to the original proposed boundary alignments must be principally made with objectivity and delays to making a final decision only increases the risk of external decisions being imposed on the organisation.

This letter would also be cc'd to NZ Council and regional Fish and Game Councils.

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

It was agreed that a formal letter be sent to Taranaki Fish and Game Council and Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council thanking them for their participation in the lower North Island workshop and provide positive indications of working together further to foster relationships.

There had been no further clarification from Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council as to their preferences for boundaries and amalgamations, but Taranaki and Wellington Councils had shown a willingness to discuss logistical options and issues regarding amalgamations.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the progress of the Ministerial Governance Review implementation of recommendations

Colin Shore/Malcolm Francis

Carried

12. Consultation 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 but had not progressed beyond socialising it with some iwi groups. Discussion was deferred on this item.

Paul Browne arrived at 4:10 pm

Acting Chairman Brown considered that staff could write a discussion document to define the principles of how rules and regulations are set to allow an evaluation of what rules are actually achieving and are effective. This new paper could be a discussion for future regulation setting process and focus on how to make things more simple - which in turn could be

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coordinated at a national level. Councillor Haslett noted that the issue requires broader thinking to collect concepts and options, and additional material would be required in order to define the principles. It was agreed to have a more holistic look at principles for regulation setting at a later meeting.

13. **Project Report 1113 - River Control Trout Fishery Assessment**

Dr Kavermann noted that this report was being presented at this meeting to formally receive the report to allow for external release. Councillor Haslett noted he had some additional ideas for the data analysis. It was noted that:

Hutt River:

- numbers were quite low
- it was postulated that these were driven by large floods which affected median size trout
- Incredibly resilient – extreme weather events but won't affect the entire catchment

Waikanae River:

- poor evidence of spawning
- possibly due to loss of habitat
- impediments to fish passage
- carrying capacity has been reduced due to changes in habitat
- comparison with rainfall events accepted July and August less water in the river
- built up in gravel in lower reaches
- fish pass at Weir questioned
- fishery declined dramatically from in recent years
- intend to look at habitat loss and water flows
- moderate resilience of feeder streams as subject to similar rainfall events

Otaki:

- high number of fish including below recent river works
 - Councillor Haslett noted that for figure 2 there was an apparent periodicity and questioned whether it could be separated by long-term trends
1. GWRC – fish passage barriers at 4 sites investigated including Mangaterere
 2. Effects of flood events – frequency and intensity an issue
 3. Consider regulations when rivers become too hot – such as regulations used at Lake Otomangakau

Draft and Unconfirmed

It was then moved to

Receive the Project Report 1113 River Control Trout Fishery Assessment for 2021/2022 Financial Year

Malcolm Francis/John Hancock

Carried

14. Project Report 1112 – Rangitikei River Trout Fishery Management

Dr Kavermann summarised the report's key findings – noting that there were high density of fish at Springvale during the survey. He further noted that at Moawhanga sites the fishery is doing well and that community groups are undertaking good works in the area – with this being recognised at a recent Balance Farm Environment Awards. It was noted that more information was needed on areas below Springvale at Mangaohane sites.

It was then moved to

Receive the Project Report 1112 Rangitikei River Trout Fishery Management for 2021/2022 Financial Year

Jennifer Yanko/Aaron Passey

Carried

15. Licence Management System – Update

Mr Teal provided an update on development the upgrade of the Licence Management System (ESL) – and confirmed it was 'go-live' in late July and the updated system was up and running prior to the start of the 2022/2023 fishing season.

Mr Teal also noted that there was a scoping exercise being undertaken to enable a research project to confirm licence category price points and their continued applicability.

It was suggested that Wellington Fish and Game Council write to NZ Council supporting research being undertaken to look at pricing structure for all licence categories. This would include looking at price sensitivity of different licence categories, whether some categories are fit for purpose, and also looking at entry level pricing considerations for potential new participants. There would also a request to consider a joint North Island licence to include Taupo district, as there is increasing anecdotal accounts of anglers only buying Taupo licences in preference to also purchasing a Fish and Game licence.

It was moved that

The report on the Licence Management System and proposed research on the effectiveness of the licence categories be received

Don Scott/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

It was then moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council write to NZ Council supporting research being undertaken to look at pricing structure for all licence categories to ensure categories are fit for purpose, and also looking at entry level pricing considerations for potential new participants.

Wellington Council also requests that the research consider a joint North Island licence to include Taupo district.

Colin Shore/Malcolm Francis

Carried

16. **R3 /Marketing**

Mr Teal outlined the efforts of staff to provide positive messaging for the pre-Fishing Season – with the pre-season magazine, pre-season email communications, and weekly fishing reports providing relevant and timely information to licence holders.

It was then moved

To receive the Marketing R3 report

Colin Shore/Jim Cook

Carried

17. **Communications**

Wellington Fish and Game Council further considered and endorsed the Draft Communications Strategy as presented. Wellington Council considered that communications function had lacked direction and requested that it be implemented as soon as possible.

Wellington Council also acknowledged the work undertaken by the principal authors – Hamish Carnachan and Bruce Quigley (Otago).

It was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council endorse to NZ Council the draft Communications Strategy and implement it as soon as possible

Aaron Passey/Don Scott

Carried

Mr Carnachan outlined an initiative to improve access to mapping showing access points via QR links. This was intended to be available for anglers in the 2022/23 fishing season.

Draft and Unconfirmed

Discussion ensued on the update of the website – which was seen as something that was urgent to complete but progress had appeared to have stalled.

Wellington Fish and Game Council will be seeking from NZ Council an urgent update on progress of updating the Fish and Game website. In February 2021 regions were informed that the update was urgent given the lifecycle of the website. It was confirmed that the support for the Content Management System - CMS 3 - would cease in September 2021 and risk security vulnerabilities. It was also noted that full support for CMS 4 would cease in mid-2022 and limited support until end 2023.

18. Action Plan for Healthy Rivers

Mr Teal provided an overview of activity relating to implementation of the NPSFM and NES. He noted that NZ Council had submitted feedback on the requirements to gain resource consents on any work to enhance degraded wetlands – with little discretion provided for Regional Councils to grant consents.

Mr Teal noted there is intent to better co-ordinate the Fish and Game regional approaches with templates for common regional positions and legal precedents.

19. Regional Plan Updates

One Plan – Plan Change 2 Environment Court Appeal:

Mr Teal noted the technical and planning consultants were developing risk matrices that guided management practices required, as an interim option.

Greater Wellington Regional Plan:

Mr Teal noted that there was still a residual of consent orders being processed through the Environment Court – despite the principal agreements being reached several months ago.

Horizons – Freshwater Futures Update:

Mr Teal outlined that Horizons had started engagement to progress the Regional Plan review regarding NPS FM 2020. This involved an effort to define community values within Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). Staff intended to meet with Horizons Regional Council staff to discuss the findings from this community engagement – but it is anticipated that any results would be set aside to a preconceived outcome.

Draft and Unconfirmed

Regional Plan Approach for NPS FM 2020 Implementation:

Mr Teal conformed that 16 regional councils/unitary authorities would be producing plan changes within a very short period in 2024.

It was then moved that

The report on Regional Plan planning processes be received

Jim Cook/Aaron Passey

Carried

20. Wairarapa Water Irrigation Update

Mr Teal noted that no additional information had come forward to indicate a concerted renewed interest in the project.

It was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council would request to NZ Council that the legal funding project be closed and the residual \$750 be reallocated to the Regional Legal Fund for allocation to other projects. If the project is resurrected, then a new application would be made/required.

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

It was then moved that

Wellington Council receive the report on the Wairarapa Water Irrigation project

Malcolm Francis/Jim Cook

Carried

21. 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 rivers consents were being operated under their existing historical consents.

He noted that some work was progressed on the Hutt River and Waingawa River with the placement of groynes – as part of the ‘Shovel Ready – COVID funding’ climate resilience projects.

Mr Teal outlined the potential contract work required by Fish and Game staff to provide information on the Hutt River – RIVERLINK project update.

After discussion it was moved that

A dedicated reserve be established to accommodate for income derived from contract work for Hutt River RiverLink project and Hutt River monitoring. The expenditure would be used on projects relating to the Hutt River catchment.

Colin Shore/Malcolm Francis

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

It was then moved that

Wellington Council receive the report on the GWRC Western Rivers Consents

Aaron Passey/Colin Shore

Carried

22. **Wairarapa Moana - Update**

Mr Teal provided an update of the current legislative process involved two Bills to give effect to the principles agreed to in the Deed of Settlement. He indicated that Fish and Game would present at each of the two open submissions to the Maori Affairs Select Committee –

1. relating to the Joint Settlement Bill and seeking clarification of the potential for joint authorisations for management of sports fish, and potential for Fish and Game to be a statutory advisor to the Statutory Reserve Board, and
2. relating to the Kahungunu Settlement Bill relating to codifying public access to the lake and wetlands for recreational use.

Dr Kavermann gave an overview of the draft Exotic Fish Management Plan being progressed and developed by Cawthron Institute, where he considered the focus was on:

- Eels and flounder as a local food source
- limitations to indigenous fish abundance in general
- Habitat for native fish
- Look at water levels management (and the barrage gate operational range).

It does not appear that there is a proposal for widescale removal of sports fish per se as this task is extremely large and has uncertain outcomes.

Dr Kavermann confirmed that Fish and Game should consider liberalising the limit of perch when defining regulations for 2023/2024.

It was moved that

The update report on activities and issues at Lake Wairarapa/Wairarapa Moana be received

Jim Cook/Colin Shore

Carried

23. **Research Update**

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the trout native fish interaction project – confirming that Ami Coughlan had submitted a final draft of the thesis. It is anticipated that two papers will result from this work and have formalised a contract with Dr Adam Canning to complete.

It was then moved to

Receive the report on the Research Projects

Jim Cook/Don Scott

Carried

24. Junior and Novice Participation/Retention Projects

Council discussed the fishing activity projects for novice or family fishing events.

It was confirmed that:

Hokowhitu Lagoon: Funding applications from the Manawatu Freshwater Anglers for the Hokowhitu Lagoon event had been made and it was anticipated that the event would occur last weekend of the school holiday in October

Otaki Lake: preparations by Kapiti Fly Fishing Club were being undertaken with a view to hold events from mid-November

Marton Reservoir: preparations for releasing fish into a put and take fishery were confirmed and options for funding were being confirmed. The release date would be concurrent with the releases into the Otaki lagoon area.

It was confirmed that Kapiti Fly Fishing Club and Leigh Johnson in particular were progressing with the Women on the Fly panned for end of November 2022. Councillor Francis reiterated an overview of similar activities undertaken at central North Island events and that the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club was seeking seed funding to underwrite the project for its first iteration in Wellington region.

Acting Chairman Brown noted that the weekend workshop was a great opportunity for Fish and Game to establish a programme of engagement for a growing angler cohort overseas and an opportunity to ask participants for feedback to see how effective workshop can be and potential barriers to recruitment. This included information on retention and mentoring as it was clear that the traditional club structure was not getting the level of recruitment expected which may be due to their composition being predominantly older male participants.

Other initiatives such as children's fishing days serve for long-term recruitment in 20 years' time with uncertain uptake over that period as society and activities change. It was considered that at recruitment level there needed to be efforts linking opportunities that were self-sustaining and self-funding for several cohorts.

Draft and Unconfirmed

It was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council underwrite the Woman On the Fly Programme up to \$3800 and that a proactive approach be undertaken by Kapiti Fly Fishing Club/event organisers to seek external funding through sponsorship. The funds to underwrite this project would come from dedicated reserves – Reparation Reserves.

Jim Cook/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

25. **Access Management Issues Update**

Mr Teal provided an overview of various hunting sites that are actively managed by Fish and Game. It was noted that Erindale Forest had been opened up for access for first year and that the process that the forest managers had been approved – further feedback from hunters would be sought on the experience and opportunity this provided.

Mr Teal confirmed that no progress had been made with NZDF on resolving helicopter access at the lower end of the Remote Experience Zone in the Upper Rangitikei River. It was noted that there was some level of flexibility provided by DOC to consider landing sites for the Sika Foundation and that Fish and Game could re-engage options to land at the upper most site and lower most site on the REZ/Rangitikei River boundary. It was agreed that renewed efforts be made to the Conservation Board to amend the Management Plan to secure helicopter landing sites at the top end of the REZ and the lower end at the Otamateanui River junction.

It was moved that

The report on access issues be received

Colin Shore/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

26. **Management Report for the Period 1 June to 31 July 2022**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the Management Report for the relevant period and provided clarification on a number of points.

After further discussion and clarifications it was moved that

Council receives the Management Report for period 1 June to 31 July 2022 be received.

Jim Cook/Steve Haslett

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

27. Licence Sales Report – 1 September 2021 up to 31 July 2022

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of licence sales – cumulative sales for season to-date.

He noted that the fish licence sales for the 2021/2022 season for about the same as the previous year - about 49 LEQs less at the same time last year.

He also noted that the game licence sales for the 2022 game season were similar to last year at the same time – about 5 LEQs less than at the same time last year.

After brief discussion it was moved that

The licence sales reports for Fish Licence Sales 2021/2022 and Game Licence Sales as at 31 July 2022 be received

Jim Cook /Aaron Passey

Carried

28. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions

The summary of income to 31 July 2022 and expenditure to 30 June 2022 was considered.

After brief discussion on cash flow and licence sales within expectation it was then moved

Receive and Accept the Expenditure Reports to 30 June 2022 and Financial Transactions for May and June 2022.

Don Scott/Colin Shore

Carried

The meeting was suspended at 6:05pm for dinner, and reconvened at 6.50pm.

Councillor Hancock, Lee Cook, and Paul Browne left the meeting at 6.05pm.

29. Correspondence / Media

Brief discussion occurred on various items including the new CE for Forest and Bird, and how Fish and Game should leverage public awareness on Corina Jordan's role as CE of NZ Fish and Game Council.

It was moved to

Receive the correspondence and media items

Colin Shore/Aaron Passey

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

30. Recognition and Contribution Awards

Potential worthy recipients were discussed, and additional nominations were made:

Gordon Baker – *for outstanding contributions to the recruitment and training of anglers in the Wellington region*

Jeff Evans - *For contribution to management of the fish and game resource in the Hutt River catchment*

Malcolm Francis/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

31. Wellington Conservation Board Liaison

Councillor Cook provided an overview of the discussions and agenda at the Conservation Board meetings. It was noted that several CMS (Conservation Management Strategies) are being reviewed – not necessarily with active consultation with Fish and Game. It was noted that timelines for reviewing Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) be sought to enable potential implications for Fish and Game to be assessed.

It was agreed that Paul Shortis would be representing Wellington Fish and Game Council to the Conservation Board as Jim Cook was independently an appointee to the Board - and as such does not formally represent Fish and Game on the Board.

After discussion it was agreed to seek advice from the NZ Fish and Game Council on how to best strengthen links to the Conservation Board which reflects the intent in legislation. NZ Council might have some comment or advice – relating to MOUs etc.

Wellington Fish and Game Council was intending to write to the Minister to ensure the connections between Fish and Game and Conservation Boards are actively encouraged.

It was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council write to the Minister of Conservation to request a proactive liaison and relationship between Fish and Game councils and Conservation Boards be re-emphasised to reflect legislative intent. This would be following advice from NZ Council regarding best approaches to achieve such outcomes.

Malcolm Francis/Don Scott

Carried.

Draft and Unconfirmed

Discussion ensued on potential topics of interest to discuss with the Conservation Board. Councillor Scott reiterated that the potential for recreational fisheries in reservoir sites was important potential R3 initiative worth discussing with the Conservation Board. He noted the potential external financing of a small put and take fishery at Marton. He considered that there would be other sites around that could be suitable for promoting outdoor activities and an awareness of the environment.

32. General Business

Discussion ensued on Governance training with it agreed that Fish and Game needed to be seen to be willing to update governance training skills. While there was a potential preference for face-to-face training – there are now other cost-effective options available such as webinars and bespoke video training.

Wellington Fish and Game Council noted that there had been no organisational wide approach to regional governance training – and requested if a cost-effective webinar option for all governors could be considered (similar to what was provided at NZ Council/Governors meeting 1 May 2022). NZ Council would be contacted seeking clarification of the above and identification of options available to the organisation.

Discussion ensued on how to engage more widely with iwi organisations and at different levels of operational and governance. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail to work out a strategy and develop an understanding of how best to maintain relationships.

It was agreed that Wellington Fish and Game Council would seek further advice from NZ Council on how to develop better/formal iwi engagement moving into the future. While this will be an agenda item at the next Wellington Fish and Game Council meeting for further discussion, are there any initiatives being considered by NZ Council to assist regions in this respect.

Councillor Passey noted that we should be focusing on positions where we positively align and gain empathy to what's important to iwi and their specific interests for each iwi group – as they will most likely differ for each rohe.

There being no further items of general business the meeting was closed at 7.23pm.

Draft and Unconfirmed

Next Meeting to be held: Meeting on Tuesday, 11 October 2022 (Club Wairarapa RSA, 20 Essex Street, Masterton) at 3pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____