

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2023 AT 3.00PM AT NGĀ MANU NATURE RESERVE, 74 NGĀ MANU RESERVE ROAD, WAIKANAE

1. **Present:**

Chairman Paul Dewar; Councillors Malcolm Francis, John Hancock, Jennifer Yanko, Jim Cook, Don Scott, Prof. Stephen Haslett, Aaron Passey.

In Attendance:

Fish and Game Staff: Phil Teal, Dr Matt Kavermann

Licence holders: None

Public: Lee Cook (part)

Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Chairman Dewar opened the meeting and extended a welcome to all councillors.

2. **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from

Councillors Richard McIntyre, Andrew McGregor, Colin Shore, Steve Brown.

Staff: Hamish Carnachan.

It was moved

that apologies be accepted

Malcolm Francis / Aaron Passey

Carried

3. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflicts of Interest Register was reviewed, and no additional conflicts were noted specific to the agenda.

There were no further additions required to the Conflict of Interest register.

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.

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4. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 7 February 2023:

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 7 February 2023 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Jim Cook /John Hancock

Carried

5. Matters Arising:

Mr Teal noted that the following actions had been completed:

- Draft Game Regulations be sent to NZ Council to provide to the Minister (including confirmation of black swan and paradise shelduck limits)
- Governance Training Module being offered by NZ Council had been requested
- Wellington Fish and Game's position that a transition to the use of non-toxic shot for 0.410 gauge shotguns for waterfowl hunting over water be made with at least a one year transition
- Wellington Council has indicated to NZ Council that it supports the general intent and strategic direction of the draft Fish and Game NZ Strategy document
- Council has sought external providers to give advice on iwi engagement and protocols.
- Mr Teal confirmed that communications had been sent to standholders regarding the Treaty Settlement for Wairarapa Moana, and that the implementation process had formally progressed to transfer of land titles and notifying the confirmation of the formation of the Statutory Reserves Board (which had to meet within 6 months of 7 March 2023 – the official settlement date), and a formal apology from the Crown being delivered on 25 March 2023.

6. New Zealand Fish and Game Council Business

Councillor Haslett provided an overview of outcomes from the February NZ Council Meeting:

- a. Research Programme was briefly discussed
- b. Future Finance committee confirmed – 2 NZ Councillors and 2 regional Chairs. Future Finance Committee is looking at longer-term view and potentially looking at ways to improve the finance structure of the organisation and budgeting /allocation policies.
- c. liability insurance with respect to councillors noting that current legislation doesn't stop someone from being litigious. He further noted that some work was being done to clarify any arrangements of what is required to protect councillors
- d. NZ Council reviewed the \$500,000 budget from reserves allocation for the Ministerial Review implementation.

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- e. Wages and salaries equity project progressed and a substantial budget consideration in the budget process for 2023/2024 financial year.
- f. the budget notification for NZ Council over \$100,000 must be notified in detail 10 days before a Council meeting seeking approval - unless an emergency item or trivial item
- g. nominations for NZ Council positions should be notified five working days before the meeting that it would be considered. The process should follow standing orders and provide for a transparent and robust process.

Councillor Passey noted that there was a new NZ Council Chairman was elected. He concurred that good governance process must be carried out and be seen to be carried out - including a notice of intent to be standing for Chairman. Councillor Haslett noted that there still existed in standing orders to remove a Chairman by confirming a vote of no-confidence and have an interim Chair until the following meeting. It was confirmed that this discussion was on clarification of process not referring to a current situation or any discontent.

- h. There was a brief discussion on the time for NZ Council takes to distribute the draft minutes of their meetings and the timeliness of undertaking this task.
- i. There are still concerns on the Freshwater Fish Futures project co-ordinated by Cawthron Institute – and there has been some discussion on developing a strategy for dealing with different eventualities.
- j. Resource allocation project – Councillor Haslett considered that the project needed to go beyond a basic approach using regional sales parameter as a focus. Councillor Scott considered this promoted the potential for parochial attitudes of regions
- k. A new executive of NZ Council was confirmed.

It was moved that

the report on NZ Fish and Game Council business by Councillor Haslett be received.

Aaron Passey/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

7. Progress on Implementing the Ministerial Review

Chairman Dewar noted that it was the intention of the regional Chairs to meet in Wellington to discuss the budget applications at the April 2023 NZ Council meeting. During discussions between the Chairs regarding the Ministerial Review, there was still enthusiasm for progressing change but few material actions to date have resulted. There was a risk of losing potential

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momentum for change (and reverting to Business As Usual (BAU) if there were commitments to taking actions within each of the regions.

Chairman Dewar considered that discussion should focus on organisational change, however other issues were discussed:

- the use of non-toxic shot in 0.410 shotguns.
- the cost of firearm (re)licensing
- the implications of the current bill - National Build Environment Act (NBEA) and the strategy to advocate for inclusion of trout and salmon habitat as a matter of consideration.
- The progress of any resource allocation project - with the larger regions (particularly larger South Island regions) pushing for this to be carried out with more urgency. (noting that it won't benefit the Wellington region's resourcing).

Councillor Haslett noted that the finances do not always reflect the additional resources in the system as they are not included in council reporting, and any revision of the finances needs to include all financial arrangements for transparency.

It was noted at the Governors forum in April 2023 that NZ Council had formed a sub-committee to consider a review of finances and budgeting processes (the composition being two NZ Councillors and two regional Chairs).

Councillor Francis noted the inaction by NZ Council to drive change in the Ministerial Review showed poor governance and lack of supported leadership to move the organisation forward. Councillor Haslett noted that NZ Council was acutely aware of the regionally autonomous nature of the federal system and the lack of consequence if a region decided to 'dig in' on an issue – with NZ Council having few powers to influence an outcome. It was acknowledged that the new NZ Council CE was making efforts to implement some of the Review's recommendations.

Councillor Scott noted that an issue facing the organisation is that a collective decision to make change is required (or at Ministerial level to confirm change) even if it leaves some regions aggrieved. He considered a more directive approach was required to implement change and what is required to make change. Chairman Dewar noted that the organisation can't wait to be told what to do and were currently in the position to have an element of control of any changes. Councillor Haslett confirmed that the Minister of Conservation is unlikely to intervene and take action – especially in an election year. Councillor Francis reiterated the need to move forward on the changes or else it will be a continual distraction to other larger changes

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affecting the management of the resource. Chairman Dewar noted that he would keep Council informed of any meaningful engagement and timetables developed for actions.

8. Public Forum.

Chairman Dewar provided an opportunity for public to present items to Council – deferred as it was expected that public would attend later in the meeting.

9. Health and Safety Reporting – December 2022 and January 2023

Mr Teal noted that COVID-19 infections were still active in the wider public and protocols/restrictions developed in Health and Safety Plans were still recommended.

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

Discussion ensued on the WOF for the currently leased building – with it noted the presence of mould in a work environment is a high risk. It was agreed that Mr Teal would seek providers that could undertake such a Health and Safety check.

Mr Teal noted that the Drift Dive team on the Ruamahanga River, again had issues with substantial discharge of treated wastewater in the river during the week, and the lack of adequate public notification. Mr Teal was following this issue up with GWRC and Masterton DC.

It was moved that

Council receives the Health and Safety Report for February 2023 and early March 2023

Malcom Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

10. Strategy Planning Discussion

Councillor Scott noted that he considered focus on stillwater fishing opportunities was a continued high priority, and opportunities to promote other non-sports fish angling opportunities at stillwater sites (e.g. grass carp at Duddings Lake).

Councillor Passey noted that the Fish in Schools programme had been taken off the priority list and Fishing Day events had been elevated. Dr Kavermann

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noted that Dr Dave Pontin had undertaken a review of the Fish in Schools programme and the level of staff and maintenance resourcing required – with it concluded that specific objectives needed to be defined (environmental education/recruitment/social licence) if the programme was worth continuing with. COVID19 restrictions interrupted the programme for two years and momentum was also lost.

Mr Teal noted the existing Fishing Event sites that provided a recruitment opportunity but acknowledged that strategies to retain anglers following these experiences were key to longer term retention. Dr Kavermann noted that staff were always looking for additional opportunities such as an additional site at Kakariki adjacent on the Rangitikei River. This programme relied on the participation by Fishing Clubs to source additional funding and some volunteer input into event management. Mr Teal noted that Dr Kavermann had developed a concept of a more widely promoted “Festival of Trout Fishing” might garner wider public awareness and leverage social licence benefits.

Councillor Francis noted the benefits to anglers in undertaking the pursuit of trout fishing – in terms of health and mental wellbeing in connection with nature as part of the fishing experience.

It was noted that the conservation and advocacy work undertaken by Fish and Game should be used to build social licence perceptions – in terms of what has been achieved in improving the environment. Councillor Yanko noted that these advocacy achievements benefiting the wider public interests and should leverage the habitat focus to reinforce Fish and Game’s social licence.

Dr Kavermann noted that Fish and Game need to develop an improved understanding of the relationship with iwi – as this will be the new operating paradigm. Councillor Hancock concurred that the first step in achieving an understanding is engaging with iwi (and mana whenua) to develop understandings and relationships.

After further discussion it was agreed that high priority should be given to the projects that:

- Provide fishing opportunities for stillwater fishing;
- Develop opportunities for iwi engagement and developing relationships with iwi/mana whenua.
- Continue to investigate and make the public aware of interspecies interactions, with robust science backing up claims, and

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- Continue to leverage the value of freshwater protection provided to all species using trout as the indicator species (the 'canary in the coalmine').

11. **2023/2024 Draft Annual Budget + OWP**

Chairman Dewar confirmed that Council needed to confirm its broad Operational Outputs – which don't change much from year to year, but this is an opportunity to review. The main purpose of the outcome from discussions is to identify contestable fund bids to be considered in the organisational budgeting process.

He noted that the Operational Work Plan is confirmed at the August Council Meeting – so the detail on the OWP is determined by the budgeting process in the first instance.

Chairman Dewar noted that there was a wider organisational project and discussion on pay equity amongst staff in the organisation.

It was then moved at 4.30pm that

the public be excluded from the open meeting the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss Council's approach to organisational pay equity project and Wellington Fish and Game Council's staff salaries.

The reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are to protect the privacy of staff and individuals, and to allow for free and frank discussions by councillors.

Paul Dewar/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

It was then moved at 4.45pm that

the public be included in the open meeting.

Paul Dewar/Malcom Francis

Carried

After brief discussion it was moved that the resolutions resulting from the in-committee session be confirmed:

It was moved that

A sub-committee be formed to look at KPIs for the Chief Executive (comprising Councillors Dewar, Haslett, McIntyre) and for this exercise to be completed before the staff performance review next year.

Malcolm Francis/Jim Cook

Carried

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Following further brief discussion it was moved that

A contestable fund application be made in the budgeting process in April that increases salaries by \$50,000 - cumulative for all staff for pay equity, and that a CPI adjustment be applied in addition to this

Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis

Carried

It was noted that Wellington Council could demonstrate the workload and output of staff, and noted that Strategic Pay had provided some guidance on developing KPIs for all staff categories including the Chief Executive.

Gordon Baker and Michael Murphy arrived at the meeting at 4.55pm

A brief discussion ensued on:

1. Pheasant releases – which are purchased by any surplus in the dedicated reserves from permit sales
2. Trout Liberations – currently the Capital Trout Centre contributions are noted as trout liberations but would be more appropriately classed as novice angling opportunity project 1354.
3. Vehicle cost adjustments and ARF (asset replacement Fund) adjustments.

It was moved to

Change the allocation for provision of trout to the Capital Trout Centre as part of the Novice Angler programme 1354 to better reflect the purpose of expenditure.

Malcolm Francis/Jim Cook

Carried

It was then moved that

The draft Budget for 2023/2024 for Wellington Fish and Game Council be approved for presentation in the Fish and Game budgeting process and that contestable fund applications for pay equity adjustments and CPI be forwarded, as well as vehicle cost increases and ARF funding adjustments.

John Hancock/Jim Cook

Carried

12. LEGISLATIVE, POLICY REVIEW CONSIDERTIONS

Mr Teal provided an overview of the policy development requiring priority (identified in the audit 2021/22) – Protected Disclosures Policy (Whistleblower Policy)

After discussion it was moved that

The Protected Disclosures Policy be adopted for Wellington Fish and Game Council

Aaron Passey/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the legislation and policy developments:

a. Natural Build and Environmental Bill

considering the implications and response to changes proposed in the Natural Build and Environment Bill which replaces the Resource Management Act 1991

b. Use of Lead in .410 shotguns

DOC considering immediate phase out of lead shot from -410 calibre shotguns, deferred for at least one year 2024 Game Season.

13. Draft Sports Fish & Game Bird Management Plan

Chairman Dewar confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game had a draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan ready for consultation but the process has been paused to work out changes that might occur in amalgamation and improve other key objectives such as improving iwi engagement.

Council considered their responsibilities under section 4 of the Conservation Act to give effect to the Treaty Principles. Councillor Scott noted the issue of requiring taking of sports fish and game bird with a licence and certain rules. He highlighted the McRitchie Court of Appeal case in 1999 regarding the rights of Maori to fishing rights – which concluded at that stage as Maori fishing rights do not apply to trout. This legal decision remains law in New Zealand until such time it is challenged in the Supreme Court or legislation is changed.

Dr Kavermann also emphasised that in 1953 when the Wildlife Act was passed that disenfranchised indigenous species population management and this management function was conferred to the Crown. He noted that some empathy should be afforded to this concept in context of other legislation developed over the decades to transfer perceived management rights. He concluded that Fish and Game needed to get a perspective on how Maori look at indigenous species management and how Fish and Game can develop a partnership to manage the populations based on science taking into consideration matauranga principles. The current mandate for Fish and

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Game is to do the best for licence holders and this might be reflected in a different mix of management approaches.

Councillor Passey noted the potential for customary permits for game birds (providing the example of harvesting swan eggs in the South Island) - a similar concept to saltwater fisheries management. The 'tikanga' might incorporate current practices such as a rod and running line for fishing for sports fish, and the kawa might incorporate rules and limits.

Councillor Hancock left the meeting at 5.25pm

14. **Licence Management Contract**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the functioning of the Licence Management System operated by ESL.

A. Update on Licence Management System

Mr Teal provided an overview of the current contract – where ESL have provided a Minimum Viable Product and is working adequately.

Other functionalities and improvements had being refined (i.e. management of initial 'bug fixes'). NZ Council was currently negotiating with ESL moving from the 'development' phase to an 'operational' phase.

There are two other functionalities that will be developed before August this year (in addition to initial contract) including sensitive fisheries management and booking systems.

B. Research Project on Licence Category Pricing Review

Mr Teal noted that this research project was scheduled to start by the end of 2022 – to investigate and provide objective advise on the licence categories introduced from 2015 and ensure they are still fit for purpose.

A research brief had not yet been developed by NZ Council as was expected – and this would allow potential research providers to indicate interest in the project and provide a formal project proposal.

15. **R3 / Marketing Update**

Mr. Teal provided an overview of the R3 marketing actions:

A. Marketing Update – Mid-Fish season

A brief summary of the actions undertaken by staff in terms of communications.

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- Email to all previous season fish licence holders and lapsed participants from two years prior – prior to Waitangi Holiday
- Weekly Fishing Bulletin – timely information for anglers and to encourage activity
- Mapping information sent in newsletter distribution – with QR codes linking. Update of access information maps required.
- It was noted that the Game Season magazine would be the last produced by the current provider and a new provider would be required for the next Fishing edition – and a review of the magazine in its entirety due to cost.

B. Marketing Update – Prior to Game season

- Magazine articles completed for Game Magazine 2023
- Weekly Hunting Bulletin template confirmed.

After further discussion it was moved that

The R3/Marketing Report for February 2023 be received

Malcolm Francis/Don Scott

Carried

16. Communications Update

Mr. Teal provided a brief summary of key communications actions undertaken – including additional work that will result from the media campaign to maintain Fish and Game’s social licence.

He noted that Mr Carnachan had been providing a regular communication advice and contributions to NZ Fish and Game Council.

17. Regional Plan Updates

Mr Teal provided an overview of regional planning processes in train:

A. Horizons RC – One Plan – Plan Change 2 Appeal Update

An update was provided on the PC2 Appeal - regarding risk matrix development and use of GMP (Good Management Practices). It was noted that focusing on GMP had not provided surety when used as a monitoring and compliance tool in other regions.

The issue of how (or if) Overseer could be used as a tool was a common issue across the country with Waikato Regional Council at a similar stage in the planning process for consideration of risk matrices.

Environment Court Mediation was conducted on 15 March 2023 with several further meetings being undertaken by expert on farm systems, and planners to see how any proposed policy would be effectively implemented.

B. Horizons RC – Freshwater Futures Update

Mr Teal provided an update of Horizons Consultation and Community Engagement Process. He confirmed that more effort is being placed on mana whenua consultation rather than wider community consultation as they haven't defined local interpretations of Te Mana o Te Wai. This is also due to Horizons' staff considering that they already know the existing list of community values is adequate for pursuing the plan review..

Mr Teal noted that Horizons had supplied Fish and Game with copies of information provided to Horizons councillors on the Freshwater Future programme.

Mr Teal also noted that Horizons has engaged with recreational river users (including anglers) over summer to gauge usage and site coverage along catchments.

C. GWRC – Natural Resources Plan

Nothing to report

D. GWRC – proposed changes to Regional Policy Statement

Mr Teal noted that Fish and Game had submitted on the proposed changes to the GWRC Regional Policy Statement. Further submissions were sought from the public as part of the formal consultation process. It is likely that hearings will commence in mid-Year to consider the proposed changes.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

The report on active regional planning process cases be received.

Jim Cook/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

18. Western Region Flood Protection Works Resource Consent Applications Update

Mr Teal provided an overview

:

A. Otaki and Waikanae River Catchments – no progress

B. Hutt River – RIVER LINK project update provided.

A substantial project intended to recontour the Hutt River for about two kilometres near Melling Bridge have resource consents granted by the Environment Court. This work will include substantial work in the river, and

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be prolonged (over 2 years). It is anticipated that work will start in spring 2023 for the summer construction period.

Initial contracts for any of the Fish and Game involvement (beyond core functions) are being finalised.

After brief discussion it was moved that

Council to receive the reports on the GWRC Western Rivers Global Consent and resource consent for Hutt RiverLink projects

Aaron Passey/Don Scott

Carried

19. **Wairarapa Moana Update**

A. Treaty Settlement update

- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Claims Settlement Bill progressed now confirmed legislation
- Transfer of Land Titles and establishment of Statutory Reserve Board occurred on 7 March 2023. The latter is required to meet within 6 months of establishment.

B. Exotic Fish Management Plan Progress

- Fish and Game provided comments on the draft Fisheries Management plan with suggested refinements but it is anticipated that this will be discussed at the Wairarapa Moana Governance meeting on 8 May 2023.

C. Fish Removal Proposal

- No further updates – GWRC recommendation was to continue at Barton’s Lagoon

D. Fish Research Project Update

- No further updates – DOC recommendation was to implement perch egg removal on other sites – Matthews Lagoon was initial site.

E. Jobs for Nature Project Management – Wairarapa Moana Research Funding and Restoration Plan

- It had been reported that nearly 30,000 trees had been planted on the margins of Lake Wairarapa – but survival rates have not yet been assessed.

F. Stand Allocation and Management

- Ballots undertaken and hunters are being provided direct guidance for stand location and expectations

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After brief discussion it was moved that

Council receive the report on Wairarapa Moana activities and management issues

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

20. **Research Update**

Native Fish – Trout Interaction –

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of research projects and highlighted the copy of the presentation that Ami Coughlan gave at an International Conference in February 2023.

Two manuscripts are being prepared but anticipate the process to take several months until peer review completed and formal journal publishing.

After brief discussion it was moved that

Council receive the research update report for March 2023

Malcolm Francis/Jim Cook

Carried

21. **Licence Holder Engagement**

Mr Teal provided an overview of various initiatives to engage with licence holders:

A. Junior Novice Fishing Days

- a. Marton Reservoir – Promotion of fisheries is still being positively encouraged by the Rangitikei District Council
- b. Capital Trout Centre– Regular events continue to be successfully run.

B. Woman on The Fly Programme

- a. Regular casting days planned and/or completed

Councillor Francis noted that Leigh Johnson and Ruth McKenzie were preparing a useful summary and analysis of the first Women on the Fly programme held in November 2022.

Follow up surveys planned for this year to determine improvements and/or continuance of positive aspects of the programme.

After discussion it was moved that

The report on Licence Holder Engagement for February 2023 be received

Jennifer Yanko/Malcolm Francis

Carried

Draft and Unconfirmed

22. Access issues update

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the continued hunting access for hunters at the Otaki River mouth for the 2023 Game Season.

Discussion ensued on the landing sites used in the Upper Rangitikei and the permissions obtained the Sika Foundation for helicopter use in the Remote Experience Zone. It was noted that no progress had been made on securing access to the New Zealand Defence Force land in the Upper Rangitikei / Otamateanui confluence landing spot.

23. Management Report 1 February 2023 – 15 March 2023

Mr. Teal reiterated to Council the progression of the current Wai 2200 Waitangi Tribunal claim that involved considerable areas on the western side of the region.

It was then moved that

Council receive the Management Report for period 1 February 2023 to 15 March 2023

Jim Cook/ Jennifer Yanko

Carried

24. Fishing and Game Licence Sales

A. Fish Licence Sales for 2022/2023 Fishing Season

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of fish licence sales for the 2022/2023 Fishing Season being about 290 LEQs down compared to previous year. He referred to the cumulative licence sales graph which showed the previous two years were exceptional with high and early licence sales – but the sales pattern had reverted to the average prior to COVID. (down around 85 LEQs cf pre covid). Discussion ensued on the potential effects of weather and subsequent swollen rivers for extended periods throughout the first part of the season.

Mr Teal noted that Game Licence sales had only commenced on the 18 August 2023 so no meaningful tallies were available.

Mr Teal noted that the revision of licence sales for the eastern North Island were likely given the immediate effects on sales in areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

It was then moved

That the Fish Licence Sales Report for 2022/23 to 10 March 2023 be received

Aaron Passey/John Hancock

Carried

The meeting was suspended at 6.20pm for dinner.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.00pm

25. Recognition of Contributions Awards

Mr Teal provided an overview of the contributions of Michael Murphy – who had been a key driver in club activities for the Kapiti Coast for many years and was a totally reliable contributor to recruiting new anglers into the pursuit. Chairman Dewar presented the award to Mr Murphy for outstanding contributions to the promotion of freshwater angling in the Wellington region. Mr Murphy thanked the Council for the recognition of his work and the support received by the Council over the years was appreciated.

Mr Teal then provided an overview of the contributions of Gordon Baker - who had taken a lead role in teaching new anglers fly casting techniques as an expert fly fishing instructor. This had been focused on the Wellington and Kapiti clubs in recent years but had also been a key person in assisting in teaching the skills for the Kapiti Women on the Fly programme. Chairman Dewar presented the award to Mr Baker for outstanding contributions to the recruitment and training of anglers in the Wellington region. Mr Baker noted his background in obtaining the certification for instructor status and his commitment and enjoyment of being a mentor to new anglers.

Councillor Francis noted the recent contributions of both individuals to the success of the Women on the Fly programme lead by Leigh Johnson and other key contributors, and reiterated the appreciation of Council for their regular and longstanding contributions.

26. Expenditure Report to 28 February 2023 and Transaction for November/December 2022 and January/February 2023

Mr. Teal provided an overview of the Financial Expenditure papers noting that:

- Legal Advice on implications of Treaty Settlement Acts for Fish & Game management and interests – confirm unbudgeted from reserves.
- Legal Advice required on GWRC proposed Regional Policy Statement which affects Regional Planning processes
- Two vehicle replacements were received in early 2023 and the replaced vehicles would be sold in an open auction process through Turners Car Auction

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It was then moved that

Council Receive and Accept the Expenditure Reports to 28 February 2023 and Financial Transactions for November and December 2022, and January and February 2023.

Don Scott/Jim Cook

Carried

27. Correspondence and Media

A brief discussion was held on media reports and correspondence – with nothing specific to note.

It was moved to

Receive the correspondence and media items

Malcolm Francis/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

28. Wellington Conservation Board – Report and Update

Council sought clarification on the timing of different Conservation Management Strategy reviews and what could be considered for review in the interim - referring to landing sites in the Upper Rangitikei River area.

The Council were also seeking information on the extent of work required to mitigate the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle on DOC infrastructure.

A brief discussion ensued on the issues of the occasional presence of jetboats in Tararua Forest Park areas in high flow and timelines for reviewing Conservation Management Strategies that were being considered for review.

Further brief discussion to reconfirm Wellington Fish and Game's interpretation that there was a responsibility of the Conservation Board to provide direct liaison on issues - rather than relying on public forums in meetings as the place for dialogue.

29. General Business

Dr Kavermann noted that anglers had alerted Fish and Game of some jet boats operating in the upper Ruamahanga River and confirmed that some signage would be erected accordingly outlining operating conditions and expectations.

Dr Kavermann noted that the preliminary trout orders from Eastern Fish and Game for the 2025 year were being confirmed (2 year old trout numbers required).

Councillor Scott reiterated that he sought the consideration of another possible site near Palmerston North (old quarry sites adjacent to the river) as a reservoir fishery.

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Councillor Francis noted that receiving the fish early in the fishing season (in October to December) was not ideal for events organised by the Kapiti Freshwater Angling Club at the Otaki site due to other commitments.

There being no further items of general business the meeting was closed at 7.25pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Meeting on Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at Club Wairarapa 20 Essex Street, Masterton at 3pm.

Chairman_____ Date_____