

## **WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,  
HELD ON TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2013 AT 3.00PM AT MASTERTON  
COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 398 QUEEN STREET, MASTERTON.**

**1. Present:**

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Jim Cook, Richard Moore, Andrew Morris, Andy Tannock, Strato Cotsilinis, Chris O'Meara

**2. In Attendance:**

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington, Nic Cudby

Wellington/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board: John Hancock

Licenceholders: Mark Flaws, Keith Bradley, Neil Filer

**3. Apologies:**

Councillors Brad Johnson, Mark Grace, Eric Neumann, Simon Muckley

Staff: Corina Jordan

Licenceholders: Dave West, John Wilkinson

**It was then moved that:**

*the apologies be accepted.*

**Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore**

Carried

**4. Conflicts of Interest**

A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. There was no additional declaration of Conflicts of Interests declared.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 15 October 2013:**

After a brief discussion and noting attendance of staff at the meeting it was moved that:

*the Minutes of the last meeting of the previous Wellington Fish & Game Council of 15 October 2013 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Jim Cook/Strato Cotsilinis**

Carried

6. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal informed Council that the lease on the building for Palmerston North office had been confirmed and that the arrangements would be status quo for the Wellington office.

7. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris gave an overview of the NZ Council Meeting held on 23 and 24 November 2013.

Councillor Morris noted that there had been discussion on withdrawing the option of paper licences as a sales option – and/or a potential interim measure as a back up only.

Councillor Morris gave an overview of the discussions regarding funding resource management legal cases and the pressure this was placing on NZF&GC reserves. He noted that while there was continued funding extended to the current Hawke's Bay case involving the Ruataniwha /RPS/Regional Plan changes, in the future potentially some significant cases may not be funded. Chairman Martin Taylor considered that the NZ Council needs to be asking the right questions to ensure an efficient outcome for Fish & Game interests. He noted the potential scenario of a negative response to a funding request under the current arrangement, and whether Fish & Game regions would be prepared to accept this.

Councillor Morris confirmed that the governors meeting planned for November had been postponed until at least May. Councillor O'Meara also sought information on the strategy for managing the NZ Council's reserves.

Councillor Morris noted that mallard research projects were discussed by NZ with clarity being sought with respect to financing the research projects in relation to progress and milestones. It was agreed that NZ Council would be requested to clarify spending to budget in light of proposal development for mallard research.

Councillor Morris noted that there would be a consultation document to be circulated to regions relating to Compliance/Prosecution Policy.

Councillor Morris noted that there would be consultation document to be circulated to regions relating to Fishing Licence Categories. He noted that it was planned to introduce some for the 2014/15 season. He noted that Treasury had provided advice to the Minister regarding premium charges for an Adult Wholeseason licence for non-resident licenceholders.

Councillor Tannock informed that representatives of a major retail group had concerns at the proposals including lack of initiatives to attract recruitment, and whether potential financial impacts had been adequately considered (eg

effect of a regional licence). They had also indicated that any reduction in foot traffic to retailers would be viewed as negative from a partnership point of view given the extent of advocacy that retailers carry out on F&G's behalf as a principal point of contact. Discussion ensued on various merits of licence categories including regional licence option, and long-term licences

It was agreed to invite Policy and Planning Manager (NZ Council) to the next meeting of Wellington F&GC which would be held in Wellington.

It was also agreed to send to each Councillor a copy of a DVD presentation given to NZ Council which gives an overview of the research underpinning the justifications for additional licence categories.

Councillor Morris noted that NZ Council had discussed the RMA function, and governors' meeting proposal, as part of their strategy discussions.

Councillor Morris noted that Policy and Planning Manager (NZ Council) had presented a paper on potential changes to game regulations – which included one from Southland F&GC to phase out the use of lead shot in sub-gauges. He said that NZ Council had then voted to proceed with consultation to regional F&GCs to develop a programme to progress its potential implementation.

It was then moved

*The report be received on NZ Council meeting held on 23 and 24 November 2013 as presented by Councillor Morris as Wellington F&G's Appointee*

**Richard Moore/Chris O'Meara**

Carried

**8. Draft Game Season Regulations:**

Mr Teal confirmed from a question from Councillor Morris that neighbouring Fish & Game regions had recommended unchanged season regulations for mallard, but cautioned that they did not have robust monitoring programmes that monitor population changes.

**Mallard Duck**

Discussion focused on the need to make a management decision for influencing harvest numbers based on results from the transect counts which confirmed a lower population for mallard. Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the modeling exercise that gave an indication of on potential harvest under different regulatory conditions – but noted that the figures were estimates based on certain assumptions. He also gave an overview of the email survey conducted which sought hunters views on preferences for more restrictive options.

After considerable discussion it was moved that

*The hunting season conditions for mallard duck in the Wellington region be 6 week duration (3 May to 15 June 2014) and 6 bird limit.*

Andrew Morris/Jim Cook

Carried

Abstention by Councillor O'Meara regarding the season length aspect.

Discussion also ensued on the potential for pinning semi-auto shotguns to three shots but there was no research to substantiate a significant reduction in harvest effect.

### **Paradise shelduck**

Discussion ensued on the possibility of extended the paradise shelduck season length by at least two weeks (compared with Hawke's Bay season till the end of July). It was agreed that, following the trend counts undertaken in January, assuming trend numbers were similar or higher that an extended shelduck season be considered for recommendation to the Minister.

### **NZ Shoveler**

Following an overview by Mr Pilkington of the NZ shoveler monitoring results, he recommended that similar restrictive season conditions would be appropriate – and that it be in-line with the other dabbling duck (mallard/grey) waterfowl season length.

It was then moved that

*The hunting season conditions for NZ shoveler duck in the Wellington region be 6 week duration (3 May to 15 June 2014) and 2 bird limit.*

Andy Tannock/Chris O'Meara

Carried

### **Pukeko**

After discussion it was agreed that the same season conditions be retained from the previous year, with season length being consistent with upland game season length. Councillor Tannock also noted that recent research that confirmed the relatively high prevalence of predation on other birds by pukeko.

It was then moved that

*The hunting season conditions for pukeko in the Wellington region be a from 3 May to 31 August 2014 and 5 bird limit.*

Jim Cook/Andrew Morris

Carried

### **Black Swan**

After discussion it was agreed that the season conditions be determined after the trend counts in January in line with regulation setting policy and consideration of specific conditions for Queen's Birthday weekend only with more liberal conditions.

**Bobwhite Quail**

It was moved that

*The no limit be appropriate in all areas for the duration of the upland game season*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Andrew Morris**

Carried

**Pheasant**

It was moved that

*season limits remain the same as last year for the duration of the upland game season (3 May to 31 August 2014)*

**Richard Moore/Chris O'Meara**

Carried

**Red-Legged Partridge**

It was moved that

*The same season lengths (3 May to 31 August 2014; and 1 April to 1 May 2015) and no limit be appropriate in Upland Game Properties With Special Conditions only*

**Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock**

Carried

**Californian Quail**

It was moved that

*season limits remain the same as last year (5 birds per day) for the duration of the upland game season (3 May to 31 August 2014)*

**Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore**

Carried

**9. Meeting Timetable:**

After brief discussion on the proposed timetable it was moved that *the meeting schedule for 2014 would be:*

<i>18 February 2014</i>	<i>Wellington</i>
<i>8 April 2014</i>	<i>Palmerston North</i>
<i>10 June 2014</i>	<i>Masterton</i>
<i>19 August 2014</i>	<i>Palmerston North</i>
<i>14 October 2014</i>	<i>Masterton</i>
<i>9 December 2014</i>	<i>Wellington</i>

**Andrew Morris/Richard Moore**

Carried

**10. One Plan Update:**

Mr Teal gave an overview of the background regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been drafted between F&G, Horizons Regional Council, and Federated Farmers. Chairman Taylor noted that this approach is useful as a relationship document, that might ensure regular meetings, and

provide information up to three times a year. After brief discussion it was moved that

*The draft Memorandum of Understanding relating to the implementation of the One Plan Regional Plan with the changes noted by F&G be progressed to Horizons and Federated Farmers for consideration.*

Strato Cotsilinis/Andrew Morris

Carried

**11. Mallard Research Update:**

Mr Teal gave an update of progress on the five research projects being undertaken by NZF&GC. The advertisement and selection of a PhD candidate has been a significant step forward in project relating to the mallard productivity model development.

**12. Trout Reservoir Options Update:**

Mr Cudby gave a brief update and overview of options for establishing new sites, or supporting and developing existing sites used as a trout fishing resource. It was confirmed that the focus is on maintaining junior/novice fisheries opportunities that provide general access. After discussion, it was agreed that two sites (repeating Centennial Lagoon/ Avalon Boat pond) be focused on (with Henley Lake as a possible third option).

It was moved that

*The viability of two events similar to the event management be carried out at Hokowhitu Lagoon (Centennial Lagoon) and Avalon Boat Pond*

Andy Tannock/Chris O'Meara

Carried

Councillor Cotsilinis gave a brief overview of the successful operations at Capital Trout Centre, Happy Valley. Mr Teal gave an overview of the successful children's fishing day at Hokowhitu Lagoon in Palmerston North – and commended Steve Pilkington's efforts in co-ordinating the event with the Manawatu Freshwater Angler's Club.

Messers Filer and Bradley left the meeting at 5.00pm

**13. Junior Novice Participation Update:**

Mr Teal gave an overview of the strategy document "Supporting Novice Hunter and Angler Participation" and provided examples of potential interest and synergies possible. Nic Cudby gave an overview of the recent efforts in establishing contacts with schools and other similar outdoor programmes that could be supported. Chairman Taylor noted that the next step is to develop a more formal defining of tasks with timeframes and milestones noted. This would get the planning requirements for schools undertaken and commitments made for the upcoming school year. Mr Cudby was requested to define a

programme of implementation with a view to introducing into at least two schools for the 2014 year.

**14. Lake Wairarapa Update:**

Mr Cudby gave an overview of work being planned or undertaken on Yules Lagoon for re-opening the diversion channel as a water supply, and ensuring a shallow bund of less than 30cm at the lower end of the site. Mr Cudby was requested to develop a work programme that would define tasks and milestones to have two operational maimais available for the start of the 2014 season. This would also include a briefing paper on policy regarding how to select novice hunters (adult plus novice hunter), club involvement, and conditions of tenure.

Mr Cudby gave a brief overview of the spraying proposed for the JK Donald wetland in conjunction with DOC and Regional Council – with priority areas identified. John Hancock considered that there were opportunities for wetland enhancement that may benefit hunters through water level management while providing nutrient stripping benefits.

It was agreed to retrieve copies of all the minutes of the Wairarapa Moana Governance meetings to date.

**15. Animal Welfare Bill:**

The NZ Fish & Game Council submission (dated 4 October 2014) made on the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill and was noted and briefly discussed.

**16. Management Report 1 October – 30 November 2013:**

Mr Teal briefly commented on:

- Barton's Lagoon fish removal study – letter to Ian Gunn (GWRC) confirming our involvement and interest as a research partner.
- Collaborative project with Cawthron Institute noted, and commitment given to assisting.
- Zone committee appointment process for Ruamahunga catchment

After discussion it was moved that

*The management report for 1 October – 30 November 2013 be received.*  
**Strato Cotsilinis/Andrew Morris**

Carried

**17. Licence Sales Report to 28 November 2013**

After brief discussion it was moved that

*The Fish Licence Sales and Game Licence Sales reports as at 28 November 2013 be received.*

**Jim Cook/Richard Moore**

Carried

18. **Expenditure Report**

After discussion it was moved that

*the Expenditure Report for 31 October 2013 and Financial Transactions for September and October 2013 be approved*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Jim Cook**

Carried

19. **Correspondence**

Brief discussion ensued on correspondence.

No Action on petition regarding use of lead shot – unsure of who instigated this - no return address

Suggestion of a Free Family Licence for the Ohingaiti Kids Fishing and Hunting Competition as part of Fish & Game's future contribution/sponsorship

20. **General Business**

Copy of newsletter distributed to Councillors

**Annual Report** - after discussion it was moved

*That the 2012/13 Annual Report be approved*

**Jim Cook/Richard Moore**

Carried

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.55pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Logan Street Upper Hutt, Tuesday 18 February 2014 at 3.00pm

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_