

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2013 AT 3.00PM AT HOTEL
COACHMAN 140 FITZHERBERT AVE, PALMERSTON NORTH.**

1. Present:

Chairman Martin Taylor, Councillors Andy Tannock, Richard Moore, Chris O'Meara, Brad Johnson, Simon Muckley, Strato Cotsilinis, Andrew Morris, Jim Cook, Eric Neumann

2. In Attendance:

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager),

Licenceholder: Paul Browne, Neil Filer, Keith Bradley, Andrew Watt (part)

3. Apologies:

Councillor Mark Grace

Staff: Steve Pilkington, Nic Cudby, Corina Jordan

Licenceholder: Reg Cull

It was then moved that:

the apologies be accepted.

Richard Moore/Jim Cook

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 18 June 2013:

After a brief discussion it was moved that:

the Minutes of the last meeting of the previous Wellington Fish & Game Council of 18 June 2013 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Chris O'Meara/Richard Moore

Carried

6. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal confirmed that the Licence Fee Recommendation to the Minister had been approved and drew Council's attention to the letter from the Minister informing NZ Council of this and reasons for delay in making the decision.

Mr Teal noted that Southland F&G had withdrawn its initiative to require non-toxic shot for sub-12 gauge for the upcoming season, although would review their position in the future. It was confirmed that Wellington F&G preferred the status quo of providing an exemption for use of non-toxic shot for shotguns less than 12gauge.

7. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris gave an overview of the NZ Council Meeting held on 19 to 21 July 2013.

Councillor Morris noted that §5.4 of the Minutes of that meeting recorded how NZ Council were dealing with historical internal organisational issues, and their intention to better define the roles of CE and governors.

Councillor Morris outlined the proposal of NZ Council to hold a meeting in November to focus strategic direction, involving NZ Council, managers, and regional F&G Chairmen.

Councillor Morris referred to NZ Council's intention to get an independent economic and environmental review of the Lake Opuha water storage project. Councillor Cotsilinis also sought verification of accounts of potential impacts of reduced flushing effects and build up of sludge,

Councillor Morris referred to a correspondence from Federation of Freshwater Anglers that sought consideration of an option for licenceholders to vote for each Council member to the NZ Council, rather than current situation of appointees being elected by regional Council members only.

Councillor Morris noted that there were some interesting fieldtrips conducted around Taranaki region as part of the NZ Council proceedings, which showed good examples of riparian planting which may benefit water quality.

Councillor Morris confirmed that Andy Tannock had been nominated by NZ F&GC to the Minister of Conservation for a position on the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Acclamation.

It was moved that

*The report be received on NZ Council meeting held on 19 - 21 July 2013
as presented by Councillor Morris as Wellington F&G's Appointee*

Chris O'Meara/Brad Johnson

8. **Lake Wairarapa Update:**

Mr Teal confirmed that Fish & Game had been afforded observer status at the Wairarapa Moana Management Group meetings.

There was brief discussion on the overview provided by Nic Cudby for the Yules Lagoon project and agreed that staff continue to progress the project.

A proposal from Greater Wellington Regional Council (on behalf of Wairarapa Moana) was discussed that involved the removal of exotic fish (including sports fish) from Barton's Lagoon. It was agreed that a letter be sent outlining Council's views:

- The process and methods by which which trout are removed is agreed;
- Fish & Game would prefer netting of fish and do not consider poisoning appropriate;
- Fish & Game's support of this proposal on this site does not confer support for ongoing fish removal from any other sites in the Wairarapa Moana area – these will be considered on a case by case basis;
- Any publicity surrounding fish removal will be undertaken in a sensitive manner and mutually agreed prior to release;
- Confirmation is sought that flood frequency and intensity are not insurmountable factors for this site;
- The statutory responsibilities of Fish & Game and other parties are recognised;
- Fish & Game are considering this as a stand alone proposal, not a trial for wider programmes;
- Fish & Game is provided with methodology to review prior to field studies, and that this methodology is considered acceptable;
- Ensure that the data collected is representative;
- Results of raw data of what is caught is provided in a timely manner to Fish & Game;
- Fish & Game wish to have the option of having an observer present during any field work; to assist and observe;
- The desired responses should be objective and not presumptuous.

9. **Resource Management Overview**

Mr Teal gave an overview of the resource management representation function of Fish & Game with particular reference to the regional planning process. He gave an overview of possible ways of undertaking the function in a more consistent and efficient manner. It was agreed that a letter be sent to NZ Council outlining the issues and possible solutions for Fish & Game's engagement in future RM cases.

10. Draft Annual Plan 2013/14:

The Draft Annual Plan was briefly discussed noting the licence fee recommendations had been approved. It was noted that Councillor Moore's residence was now Kapiti Coast rather than Upper Hutt.

It was then moved that

the 2013/14 Annual Plan for Wellington Fish & Game Council be adopted

Richard Moore/Jim Cook

Carried

11. Fish & Game Council Elections Review

Reports prepared by Robert Sowman (NZ F&GC) and Warwick Lampp (Electionz.com) provided a review of the recent triennial Fish & Game elections and suggested changes to the management of the elections provided the basis for discussion. The following decisions were made:

Proposed Change	Decision (agree)	Comment	ref
Lower threshold for election to more than 9 candidates	NO	Unanimous	12
To utilise reminder prompts and methods to make it easier and quicker to vote in future F&G elections	YES	Methods to make it easier to enrol	14
Set 1 September as the deadline for current or preceding season eligible licence holders to have their name added to the electoral roll	YES		16
Adopt a set date (say 1 September) as the deadline for enrolment	YES		18
Allow for licence holders to change regional preferences for voting up to 1 September of election year	YES		21
Make provision to accept postal voting up to four days after voting closes on Election day	YES	Issue of possibly using postdate as final determinant	24
Prompt licence holders to record their email address	YES		26A
Provide for text and email prompt messages prior to Election Day	YES		26B
Require electronic registration of candidate profiles with a photograph	NO		27A
Require candidates to acknowledge possible conflicts of interest in their profiles	NO		27B

Proposed Change	Decision (agree)	Comment	ref
Require candidate profiles on website and in special election newsletters	YES		27C
Adopt a new Election Day early to mid October of the third year	YES		31
Allow for first meetings of a new Council to be held prior to the final week of November	YES		35

12. **Proposals for Additional Fishing Licence Categories:**

Discussion focused on a document prepared by a F&G Working Party on the potential licence options proposed and possible implementation strategy. A level of comfort with the proposed categories was given by Council:

Loyal Senior Licence

Discounted AWS for over 65 yrs who have held an AWS for the last 5 seasons	General favour (2 against)
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Adult Loyalty Prepaid

Discounted AWS three year licence	Ambivalent – neither for or against
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Family Loyalty

Discounted Family three year licence	Ambivalent
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Local Area Licence

Discounted Licence – valid only in one region	Disagree – how fund national issues
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Adult Dual Licence

A dual Fishing and Gamebird Hunting Licence discounted	Agree
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Family Dual Licence

A dual family Fishing and Gamebird Hunting Licence discounted	Disagree
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Adult Short Break

Three day licence for the price of two	Ambivalent
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Adult Long Break

9 Day licence	Ambivalent
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“Have a go” licence

4 hour licence	Disagree
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Non-resident licence

Licence for non NZ residents	Agree
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There was some concern expressed regarding the National Revenue Impact Results and the underlying assumptions made to derive these figures. It was agreed that a precautionary approach be undertaken prior to implementation.

Licenceholder Andrew Watt arrived at the meeting at 4.45pm

13. Research Strategy

Council discussed the NZ F&GC Research Strategy and its implementation.

14. Regional Hunter Survey Report Project 1124:

Mr Teal gave an overview of the report prepared by Nic Cudby on the Regional Hunter Survey conducted as part of the National Gamebird Harvest Survey.

Brief discussion occurred on the question relating to use of sub-12 gauge shotguns on opening weekend and the use of non-toxic shot. Councillor Tannock noted that an education initiative was being planned for southern NZ, relating to the efficacy of smaller shot size on shotgun patterns.

It was then moved

That the Regional Hunter Survey Report (Project 1124) be received,

Richard Moore/Andrew Morris

Carried

General Business – Licenceholder

Andrew Watt was given the opportunity to speak to a paper on potential changes to the regulation conditions for the Pohangina River near Ashhurst. It was noted that the issues highlighted would be considered in the next review of angling conditions in June 2014.

Mr Watt left the meeting at 5.20pm

15. Management Report 1 June – 31 July 2013

After discussion it was moved that

The management report for 1 June – 31 July 2013 be received.

Jim Cook/Andrew Morris

Carried

16. Expenditure Report

Mr Teal referred to the potential variances to expenditure compared with what was planned, noted in the agenda after which it was moved

the Expenditure Report for 30 June 2013 and Financial Transactions for May and June 2013 be approved

Strato Cotsilinis/Brad Johnson

Carried

17. Licence Sales Report to 31 July 2013

Mr Teal indicated that the final collection of all current season licence books was being undertaken from the agents. He considered that that fish licence sales would align with budget and game licence sales were slightly lower than budget.

It was moved that

The Fish Licence Sales and Game Licence Sales reports as at 31 July 2013 be received.

Chris O'Meara/Eric Neumann

Carried

18. Licence Working Party Update:

Mr Teal gave a brief overview the development in the new licence management system – due for 'live' introduction in early December by Eyede Solutions Ltd as provider for licence management function. He also confirmed that all regional Fish & Game councils had signed as parties to the agreement.

19. One Plan Update:

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the High Court hearing, and the proposed Regional Council's implementation plan.

20. Mallard Research:

Mr Teal gave a brief update on the mallard research indicating that the proposed PhD student had withdrawn from the proposed telemetry study. The study was however still proceeding with some additional staffing for the first year while alternative project options are canvassed.

21. Junior Participation Update

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the project and initiatives being investigated including: educational initiatives ("Fish in Schools" and "Water Means Life", recreational initiatives (Wairarapa Kids Outdoor Expo, School Participation Recreation Module), and fish-out opportunities and follow-up.

22. Correspondence

Brief discussion on correspondence.

23. General Business

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.45pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, Upper Hutt Tuesday 14 October 2013 at 3.00pm

Chairman _____

Date _____