

## WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL,  
HELD ON TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2016 AT 3.05PM AT UPPER HUTT  
COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 11 LOGAN STREET, UPPER HUTT

1. **Present:**  
Chairman Strato Cotsilinis, Councillors Andrew Morris, Paul Shortis, Marc Flaws, Malcolm Francis, Chris O'Meara, Brad Johnson, Eric Neumann, Jim Cook, Simon Muckley, Dan Waechter
2. **In Attendance:**  
Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Hamish Carnachan
3. **Apologies:**  
Councillors Don Scott, Andy Tannock,  
Staff: Steve Pilkington  
Don Adams (Conservation Board)

**It was then moved that:**  
*the apologies be accepted.*

**Chris O'Meara/Marc Flaws**  
Carried

4. **Conflicts of Interest**  
A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of Interest. No new conflicts of interest were declared.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 7 June 2016**  
After a brief discussion it was moved that:  
*the Minutes of the Meeting of Wellington Fish & Game Council of 7 June 2016 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Malcom Francis/Marc Flaws**  
Carried

6. **Matters Arising**  
Discussion ensued on the recent announcement by Government for a goal to eradicate predator numbers in New Zealand, associated research, and control programme which may be linked to private funding (such as philanthropists and/or Game Bird Habitat Trust) and community initiatives. The initial findings of the Fish & Game mallard research programme undertaken in the

Waikato and Southland, showed the importance of predators affecting survival of hens and young birds. There was further research planned for the 2016/17 Financial Year in the Southland lowland farmscape to identify home range and interactions of predators relating to waterfowl breeding habitat.

It was moved that

*Wellington Fish & Game Council send a letter to the Minister of Conservation indicating support for the aspirational goals of reducing predator numbers and a willingness to be involved in efforts that are focused on waterfowl/game bird populations and habitat*

**Simon Muckley/Jim Cook**

Carried

A copy would be sent to the NZ Fish & Game Council for their information.

Concern was expressed by some Councillors regarding the new licence categories, pricing structure, and specific licence discounting that occurred for the 2015/16 fishing season. It was noted that some of the sales returns relating to incentives to purchase would only be realised 2-3 years in the future at which point a comprehensive review should be undertaken, in conjunction with the switching behaviour analysis.

## 7. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris provided a review of the NZ Council Meeting held on 22 and 23 July 2016:

Councillor Morris noted that the Federation of Freshwater Anglers (FFWA) had requested use of database information in order to undertake an exercise of assessing the economic value of trout angling in NZ. Chairman Cotsilinis noted that some region specific economic surveys had been undertaken in the early 1990s and the FFWA had considered the exercise had merits to update on a wider scale. The initial proposal was to link up with several stakeholders including Fish & Game and tourism interests to undertake a robust study. There was caution expressed that while this may be used by developers for unintended purposes, that it has potential to be used by wider stakeholder interests to assess the overall tourism value - including internal NZ economic value and not limiting to overseas tourists assessments.

Councillor Morris noted that there had been recent research undertaken by Otago University on resource use and spending patterns for overseas anglers which provided insight into their use of lowland fisheries which had not been identified in previous study designs.

Mr Teal noted that at the Fish & Game Managers Meeting there was discussion on the use of data held by Fish & Game by a third party and the consideration that Fish & Game should consider being the driver of such

research. Eastern Region F&GC was to produce a brief of an economic study for the Rotorua lakes area that could be used as a comparison to previous studies, and further assess if it could be used in a wider context.

Councillor Morris noted that there was a proposal from West Coast Fish & Game Council to have daily catch and release limit. The guides are supportive of the concept and discussions focused on the ethics of catch and release - and potential for fish stress and survival. Further discussion focused on the value of education as to the preferred and ethical procedures to release trout.

Councillor Morris confirmed that the Department of Conservation Director-General had attended the NZ Council meeting and discussed several issues including:

- Predator Free NZ
- Closure of some of the North Canterbury Fish & Game region fisheries for the winter period, and why the regulations had been changed and signed off.

Councillor Morris gave a brief review of Nelson/Marlborough Region's efforts to research the use of phosphorus to reduce the robustness of *Didymo* given an apparent finding that when both nitrogen and phosphorus are plentiful then *Didymo* is more benign.

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of a recent paper by Phil Jellyman and Jon Harding regarding the potential effects on biomass of fisheries due to *Didymo*. They considered that both native fish and particularly brown trout are affected both directly (affected by the changes in habitat that *Didymo* causes), and indirectly (changes in fish food, such as small insects and invertebrates) by *Didymo* blooms. They showed that fish biomass in *Didymo*-affected rivers can be decrease by 70%, in particular brown trout were strongly affected and rivers with *Didymo* are liable to have much smaller trout and other fish. They further emphasised the need to limit the spread of *Didymo* to other rivers and for water users to adhere to the check, clean, dry procedures.

Councillor Morris noted that there was now a regular research update to NZ Council.

Councillor Francis noted that there was a petition circulating to remove the ban on felt soled boots.

It was then moved

***That the report presented by Councillor Morris relating to the NZ Fish & Game Council meeting on 22 and 23 July 2016 be received***

**Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

8. **Public Forum**

No items were brought forward by the public that required oral submission.

9. **Health & Safety Update**

Mr Teal noted that a generic operational Health & Safety operational manual template was being refined by a regional staff committee ó which would be considered by Wellington staff in September once it is completed.

Mr Teal indicated that it was intended to purchase three personal locator beacons (PLBs) for use by staff when in the field.

Mr Teal advised that there were no accidents noted during this reporting period.

10. **2016/17 Draft Annual Plan**

Mr Teal provided an overview budget process and that now the licence fee recommendation had been confirmed that the draft Annual Plan was required to be confirmed. Chairman Cotsilinis noted that this was derived from the planning process but could be altered throughout the year if variances were confirmed and justified.

After discussion it was moved that

*The draft Annual Plan as presented be adopted*

**Andrew Morris/Chris O'Meara**

Carried

11. **Draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan**

Mr Teal noted that staff were updating the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Analysis that was being undertaken by Adam Canning ó prior to finalising the document.

12. **Preparation of A Resource Management Strategy**

Council considered the paper *Preparation of an RM Strategy* by Robert Sowman (Policy and Planning Manager, NZ Fish & Game Council) dated 27 July 2016 requesting feedback on a draft strategy considered by NZ Council at a workshop held on 23 July 2016. Wellington Council were supportive of the draft RM strategy and emphasised the need for continued liaison between regions to ensure economies of learning are applied across the country. IT was considered that the issues were often too large for one region to resource and Fish & Game needed to avoid variations in approach ó eg. permitted activity with Good Management Practice vs controlled activity status.

The further development of tactical approaches and resourcing were considered a means-end issue and would follow from the adoption of the strategic direction given by Council.

It was then moved that

*Wellington Fish & Game Council provide feedback to NZ Council indicating that it is supportive of the Resource Management Strategy as drafted*

**Dan Waechter/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**13. Strategic Discussion**

Mr Teal noted that he had co-ordinated the responses from Councillors received from the meeting held on 5 April 2016 and broadly grouped them into functional areas and provided a brief commentary for explanation of current situation where required.

Considerable discussion ensued on the following:

Resourcing of staff and how data collection could be more efficient using voluntary helpers for getting data, and how monitoring is prioritised compared with advocacy to better manage issues such as floodways. Mr Teal indicated that there are some baseline monitoring requirements that were defined statistically and have long term strategic value. Discussion then ensued on the opportunities to utilise volunteers from clubs as there was potential interest and commitment to be involved in monitoring parameters if they had training to collect data. Other opportunities existed to undertake alternative/additional assessments such as rating rivers, formal questionnaires, and identifying issues that are apparent from river users.

Mr Teal was requested to look at how Council could engage clubs and critically look at the monitoring programme as to how to prioritise and rationalise the work plan to be made more efficient. This would involve a critical review of the monitoring programme including the drift dive strategy. There also needed to be consideration of strategic monitoring such as identifying resources at risk to ensure enough information was obtained to be proactive in advocacy.

Discussion ensued on how to increase participation of novice anglers from High School course or setting up junior clubs. Further discussion on introducing novice hunters to the pursuit included the *ōtake a mate duck hunting* concepts used elsewhere in New Zealand.

Councillor Francis discussed the merits of organising a public forum - such as a biannual conference in Victoria, Australia provided a forum to interact as a

public interface, engage with anglers, discussion of key issues. ó worth considering to discuss issues and engage

Discussion on increasing the general awareness of the function of Fish & Game including how clubs were active in the public interface to attract anglers but the public did not have a high awareness of the wider system.

**14. Functions for SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) Treatment**

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered the paper Functions for SOP Treatment prepared by Robert Sowman (Planning & Policy Manager, NZ Fish & Game Council) dated 27 July 2016.

Each regional Fish and Game Council was requested to consider priorities of regional Fish & Game functions that lend themselves to initial SOP treatment (and ranking the top five).

Wellington Fish & Game Council had considerable discussion regarding this and provide the following comments and ranked top five functions:

1. Health & Safety policy and operational implementation
  2. Approach to consultation with active interactions with key stakeholders
  3. Survey of licenceholders ó to set framework of questions and surveys undertaken in a standard way in order to combine data
  4. Inter-regional co-ordination (as arose from issue such as proposed carp farming, game preserves etc.)
  5. Approach to media (checklist) .
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6. Minutes and agendas ó consistent release of minutes to council and into public domain
  7. Reparation Implementation ó currently too many regional variables
  8. Ranger Training
  9. Responding to Resource Management issues in a hierarchical manner (small consents, significant consents, regional plans)
  10. Conflicts of Interest ó how identify and deal with these
  11. Elections ó how each region conducts their elections
  12. Complaints Policy
  13. Accounting ó policies and treatment of assets and reserves etc

Mr Teal was requested to respond to the request for provision of this information to NZ Fish & Game Council.

**15. Upland Game Properties With Special Conditions 2017**

Mr Cook declared a potential conflict of interest. Mr Teal updated Council that there was a requirement for Game Preserves (new and existing) to indicate to Fish & Game Council that they intend to operate in the following

hunting season. The three existing site operators have indicated their intention to continue with an indicative number (including 1000 releases at Rathmoy, Hunterville) and there were no additional inquiries for establishing new sites.

**16. Ban on Use of Lead Shot in 20 Gauge**

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered the paper *Ban on Use of Lead Shot* by Robert Sowman (Policy and Planning Manager, NZ Fish & Game Council) dated 26 July 2016 regarding the request by the Minister of Conservation to bring forward the review of sub-gauge exemptions for the use of lead shot.

Mr Teal tabled Councillor Tannock's email relating to the issue. Council considered that there was already a valid and considered approach to dealing with this issue. This was to involve further research to determine the comparative incidence of lead shot poisoning to historical levels. Further, consumption of sub-gauge ammunition has not increased by any significant level.

If any restrictions were to apply then Council considered that consideration should be given to exemptions for junior licenceholders, women licenceholders, or those with a disability, as this ammunition had lower recoil potential. There also appeared to be no effective steel alternative for other gauges other than 20gauge.

It was therefore considered that the decision should be made on sound empirical evidence and that if there is a problem identified with sub-gauge (20g) ammunition adding unacceptable levels of lead in the environment, then there is managed response to minimise the effect on young, disabled, and women hunters who are important part of the pursuit.

It was then moved that

*Wellington Fish & Game Council's position on use of lead in 20g remained unchanged and that the status quo should remain in the process in terms of considering the issue follow due course*

**Chris O'Meara/Simon Muckley**

Carried

**17. Land Occupier Licence to Fish or Hunt**

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered the paper *Land Occupier Licence to Fish or Hunt* based on a paper by Glenn Maclean and Robert Sowman dated July 2016.

The relative merits of introducing a land occupier licence were discussed with it considered that Council could support the desire to have more information on harvest and public awareness of regulations to land occupiers but from a public relations point of view alternative approaches needed to be considered ó not necessarily a licence whether free or not.

Councillor Johnson noted that it may not only be seen as a cost to administer but also potentially have negative public perception connotations as requiring landholders to be included on a database ó even if the intended use is purely information focused.

Councillor Francis noted that in terms of fishing licence privilege, the issue was to emphasise the value of enduring access rather than the benefit of giving a free licenceø may be the wrong move due to perception of allowing access ó and there could be more of an incentive to recognise enduring access or good land management practices. This discussion was deferred to a correspondence item in agenda item 28.

Councillor Muckley noted that the outcome was to try and get some connection with the landholder/occupier and questioned whether a licenceø was a necessity to achieve this outcome. The merits of other options for creating a landowner database, rather than a licence per se, was discussed. Councillor Shortis considered that Fish & Game needed to be looking at approaches to achieve the outcome to allow better management of the resource ó rather than focusing on the licence option only. Various on-line options were discussed ó in order to ensure regulations booklets could be provided. Councillor Neumann considered the costs and merits or value of surveying the exact numbers of land occupiers (unless their habits and harvest are significantly different) will not fundamentally change estimates in population change or regulations decision making. Councillor Francis considered that it may be relevant for hunting harvest estimates but not so of so much value for fishing harvest estimates. Councillor O'Meara considered alternate ways of generating a database such as voluntary uptake from rural communications (eg. farming magazines). Councillor Muckley considered that while there might be more huntersø identified in terms of numbers, it might not be a random measure of the hunting population per se.

It was moved that

***Wellington Fish & Game Council support the desire to have more information on harvest and public awareness of regulations to land occupiers but from a public relations point of view alternative approaches needed to be considered – not necessarily a licence whether free or not.***

Chris O'Meara/Dan Waechter  
Carried

It was further clarified that other industry advocates such as Federated Farmers needed to be involved in any consideration of initiatives ó prior to going to the wider public.

The letter from agenda item 28 correspondence from Kapiti Fly Fishing Club (KFFC) was then discussed due to its relevance to the preceding discussions. The KFFC considered that the farmers/land occupiers that provided assistance could be provided with a NZ wide licence (except Taupo) ó not just a landoccupier privilege ó in acknowledge their continued co-operation. Councillor Morris noted that there was a possible regional (Local Area Licence) that may be considered as an option ó rather than a NZ wide option. Councillor Francis clarified the Club's request by explaining that a lot of farmers are supportive or were aligned to these Fish & Game principles concerning development attitudes to waterways and what Fish & Game wants to achieve. The club was seeking a mechanism to positively reinforce and recognise the contribution of good landowners in terms of providing public access and undertaking good land management. Councillor Muckley noted the less formal gestures of appreciation given by individuals that don't necessarily put a specific value on the gesture. Councillor O'Meara noted current options for formal regional acknowledgement of good practice (certificate of appreciation) and how this could be adapted, as well as other public awareness options to publicise such as an annual dinner.

It was agreed that there were merits in recognising good farming practices and maintaining good public access, and it was recognised that further discussion was required to define who should get one and what it should entail.

## **18. Recommendations from 2015 regional Fish & Game Council Elections**

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered the paper *Fish & Game New Zealand 2015 Regional Council Elections – Returning Officer Report* prepared by Warwick Lampp (Electionz.com) dated 10 November 2015.

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered that the seven recommendations and it was moved that:

- 1. Support – there should be the same independent Returning Officer appointed for all twelve regions*
- 2. Support – that all licence holders are allowed to vote in the election as of right or allow registration up to the close of voting. In addition, if there is a requirement to enrol then there should be an ‘opt out’ option – i.e. an extra step ‘not to be enrolled’.*
- 3. Support – review the process around electorate selection with specific field included on all licence purchase options.*
- 4. Support – Encourage all licence holders to record their email address whenever possible – but not a mandatory requirement.*
- 5. Partially support – remove option for candidates to submit their candidate profile in handwritten form nut allow PDF format. No photos to be included.*
- 6. Support – Review the processes for updating of the databases to ensure all dates of birth are recorded email addresses are recorded (if possible but not mandatory), and*

- that overseas licence holders are not included. Current practices to update databases in Wellington Region appear to be good practice but needs to be consistent for all regions.*
7. *Support – extend the number of days that voting papers can be accepted to four days after the close of voting to allow for delivery by NZ Post.*

**Simon Muckley/Brad Johnson**  
Carried

**19. GWRC Hutt River Corridor User Survey2016**

Councillor Waechter initiated discussion indicating that he had attended the public information forum meetings on the Hutt River recreational usesurvey findings and that trout fishing did not feature predominantly in their findings or future focus. Direction for future research or management focus by GWRC may be supported by these types of recreational use surveys - but not focus on the hypoheric zone and function of the river.

Discussion ensued on Wellington Fish & Game Council's approach - with is postulated that it could do its own survey to highlight that: highly valued by anglers, high use by anglers (National Angler Survey) and must look after fishing (and trout habitat) in the resource management processes in terms of flood management. Councillor Shortis noted that Fish & Game needed to engage at the right part of GWRC Council governance and staff structure. Options for highlighting the issues could include sending a letter to every GWRC councillor indicating key outcomes and principles of Fish & Game. The key questions of 'what are the candidates or councillors going to do for the state of the river?' The merits and options for getting into wider public circulation through newspaper advertisements were discussed - as other advocates had undertaken. Councillor Shortis considered it was timely to get highlight issues in the Manawatu, Ruamahanga, and Hutt rivers

Councillor Neumann noted the value of getting facts in front of candidates ó noting exactly what their obligation as councillor ('where's your role') and focus on issues for river users and managing ecosystem health. It was considered appropriate for staff to develop press releases and an information/education pack that could be distributed as a 'manifesto' and it was an opportune time to bring concerns in Wellington region to public consideration.

It was then moved

*To produce appropriate press releases, and information sheet on the wider issues of water use*

**Malcolm Francis/Chris O'Meara**  
Carried

**20. Wairarapa Water Updte**

Mr Carnachan noted that the additional funding applied from Irrigation Accelerated Fund had used outdated payout estimates to develop economic projections and successfully progress the application. This has implications as to the eventual land use (and downstream effects) that could ultimately determine the viability of the proposal. Councillor Shortis considered that

Fish & Game should lead some of the debate on key issues of land use change effects on water quality and life supporting capacity to ensure the community is well informed. He noted some key upcoming milestones including release of the draft findings of the Waitua Committee report in November which will inevitably consider the irrigation proposals.

21. **Licence Fee Confirmation**

Mr Teal confirmed that the licence fee recommendation was accepted by the Minister of Conservation - Adult Wholeseason Fishing Licence \$125 (an increase of \$1) and Adult Wholeseason Game Licence \$90 (\$0 licence fee increase) ó but an increase of \$1 to the Game Bird Habitat Stamp which is now \$3.

22. **Research Proposal for Exotic Fish Control Methods**

Councillors considered that GWRC were only part way through a long term trial at Bartons Lagoon and that the findings would only provide very short term insight. Council questioned what are the specific issues against perch in Boggy Pond were and the long term objectives to achieve a specific outcome at Boggy Pond. It was also considered atypical practice to obtain a project proposal from a potential contractor where there was little process for wider appropriate peer review.

It was moved that

*Wellington Fish & Game Council send a letter to GWRC to seek the overall objectives and specific outcomes of undertaking perch egg removal from Boggy Pond.*

**Simon Muckley/Dan Waechter**

Carried

23. **Mallard Project Update**

Mr Teal confirmed that the PhD researcher was currently analysing the data from the previous two seasons work and was currently with supervisors in the US.

Southland F&GC were modifying their research proposals but still focused on predator home ranges in intensively farmed environments.

24. **Lake Wairarapa Update**

Mr Teal confirmed no communications from the Department of Conservation or Office of Treaty Settlements as to progression of the treaty settlement.

25. **Junior Novice Angling/Hunting Programme Update – Fish in Schools**

Mr Carnachan confirmed eight schools had aquaria to raise brown trout ó although an issue of ÷pinhead syndromeø was noted due to the newly hatched fry not being adequately fed immediately after hatching.

Mr Carnachan had been involved with fine tuning the Life Education Project to ensure there was now a brown trout focus to complement the previous salmon focus. It was currently on-line and close to finalising for wider release although some schools are using this already. An extension module on teaching how to fish is currently being developed by the other regional staff.

After discussion it was confirmed that a working group be established to further refine and potentially expand the Fish In Schools work programme. In addition to staff, it was agreed that the following councillors were to be involved: Councillors Don Scott, Malcolm Francis, Dan Waechter and Strato Cotsilinis

**26. Management Report 1 June -31 July 2016**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the otolith microchemistry analysis for the Ruamahanga, Rangitikei, and Hutt rivers using Cawthron Institute staff and Otago University facilities with the contractual arrangement with Cawthron Institute and reporting milestones outlined.

After further discussion it was moved that

*The Management Report 1 June – 31 July 2016 be received*

**Andrew Morris/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**27. One Plan Implementation**

The Council agreed ***to move into Public Excluded session (at 6.05pm)***

**Strato Cotsilinis/Jim Cook**

Carried

***That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely the agenda item:***

***One Plan Regional Plan Implementation***

***The withholding of information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by councillors or officers and to maintain legal professional privilege and potentially commercially sensitive information.***

***This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a)(II) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public***

***Wellington F&GC move out of committee (at 6.20pm) and that the public be invited to return to the meeting.***

**Strato Cotsilinis/Jim Cook**

Carried

The meeting was adjourned for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm

**28. Fish & Game Licence Sales**

Mr Teal gave overview that licence sales indicating that they were similar for game season compared to 2015 but were about 4% below budget for fish licence sales.

After further discussion it was moved

*To receive Fish & Game Licence Sales Report for 31 July 2016*

**Dan Waechter/Paul Shortis**

Carried

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered the two year extension of the contract with EyeDe Ltd (as one of twelve regional signatories) for services for licence management as part of the intended 3+2 year original contract.

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered that it would approve the two year extension given that Eyede Ltd had performed within its key performance indicators, continued to provide a quality service, and that the service contract would remain the materially the same.

**29. Expenditure Report**

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of significant transactions including:

The contract for office premise for lease extension;

Disposal of vehicle via auction;

Mr Teal indicated that he had discussed the financial reporting style with the Chairman and there would be some rationalisation of the 2016/17 financial reporting reports to Council to ensure clarity and relevance for Councillors reference.

Mr Teal confirmed potential extraordinary expenditure items of otolith analysis work contract obligations (which was budgeted) and final salary payments and annual leave obligations for staff that had left. He also made available copies of financial reports and amendments required that arose from using Xero accounting software.

It was then moved that

*Receive and accept the Expenditure Reports to 30 June 2016 and  
Financial Transactions for May and June 2016*

**Andrew Morris/Brad Johnson**

Carried

**30. Correspondence**

After discussion it was considered appropriate to write a letter to Michael Woodcock to acknowledge his work on highlighting issues regarding the irrigation proposal in the Wairarapa.

A letter from Catherine Delahunty from the Green Party was tabled acknowledging the assistance of Mr Carnachan in showing her key sites in the Wairarapa value that were relevant to gain an understanding of the issues regarding irrigation. It was also acknowledged that this would be an activity that would be undertaken for any political party.

It was noted that a keen duck hunter had requested consideration of licence categories that considered senior loyal licence options for game licences.

A letter was received from Land and Water Forum Chairman to clarify Corina Jordan's role in attending specific sessions as an independent expert or assisting Massey University representatives ó given that it had been perceived that NZ Fish & Game Council had formally withdrawn from the Forum.

After further discussion it was moved

*That the correspondence and media be received*

**Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**31. General Business**

Mr Teal indicated that he had recently received (via DoC) a draft application from Pukaha Mt Bruce operations to remove trout from a local stream with a permit to remove. It was considered that more information was required and a more formal direct consultation should be undertaken with Fish & Game.

Mr Teal noted that Otago Fish & Game Council had recently sent all agenda items electronically and provided councillors with an electronic tablet to access. Mr Teal undertook to investigate the cost effectiveness of this approach as well as the preference of councillors as to how they preferred to receive their agenda.

Mr Teal acknowledged the recent appointment of Peter Wilson as a Senior Environmental Planner to replace the vacancy created by Corina Jordan's departure. Mr Wilson had considerable experience as an environmental planner for Otago Fish & Game Council and has relevant experience to face the challenges in the regional resource management field in Wellington region and beyond.

In response to a general question Mr Carnahan noted that there were new CAA rules for use of drones and this could constrain use of drones for checking rivers.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Hotel Coachman Palmerston North, Tuesday 11 October 2016 at 3.00pm.

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