

## **WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2024 AT 3.00PM AT UPPER HUTT COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 11 LOGAN STREET, UPPER HUTT.**

**1. Present:**

Councillors Aaron Passey, John Hancock, Malcolm Francis, Don Scott, Jim Cook, Colin Shore, Prof. Stephen Haslett, Jennifer Yanko.

**In Attendance:**

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

**Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda**

Mr Teal opened the meeting and confirmed that Chairman Dewar was overseas and was unavailable to connect via video conference link. It was moved that

***Councillor Passey be the acting Chairman for the meeting***

**Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

Acting Chairman Passey welcomed all councillors and staff to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:**

It was noted that apologies were received from:

Chairman Paul Dewar, Councillors Andrew McGregor, Richard McIntyre, Steve Brown.

Staff: Ami Coughlan, Hamish Carnachan.

Licence holders: Paul Shortis, John Pansters

It was then moved that

***the apologies received be accepted***

**Malcolm Francis/Jennifer Yanko**

Carried

**3. Conflict of Interest**

The Conflicts of Interest Register was discussed with no additional items identified and therefore no amendments were required to the register and no specific items that needed to be identified for the current agenda.

Mr Teal confirmed that the current Conflict-of-Interest register and the Conflict-of-Interest Management Plan would remain unaltered.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 11 June 2024:**

Following consideration of the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish and Game Council of 11 June 2024 it was moved that

***the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 11 June 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.***

**Malcolm Francis/Jennifer Yanko**

Carried

**5. Matters Arising:**

Mr Teal referred to a letter addressed to Chairman Dewar from John Pansters (Secretary of the Masterton Fish and Game Club) regarding the liberalisation of allowable fishing methods in the Mangatarere and Kōpuaranga rivers and the decision to allow use of treble hooks in all waterways.

Council considered that a wide range of views on the issues had been well canvased at the June Council meeting – including taking into account the views previously expressed by the Wairarapa Fish and Game Club.

Dr Kavermann noted that Wellington Fish and Game region was the only region that had specifically limited treble hook use, prior to removing the treble hook restriction in June 2024. He further reiterated the rationale for that was used in the deliberations:

1. Ethical considerations for fishing methods are addressed nationally through the First schedule of the Anglers Notice
2. Nationally, Fish and Game has an objective to liberalise fishing methods
3. Complex and restrictive regulations are identified as barriers to participation
4. Hook type has little to do with trout mortality
5. Potential offences related to the use of treble hooks are unlikely to reach Crown Law thresholds for prosecution.

Discussion ensued on the wider consultation process to be undertaken regarding the simplification of fishing regulations – with the intent to consult all angling clubs in the region regarding the principles and implications – and it was agreed that the Wairarapa Fish and Game Club would be part of that consultation. It was also intended that surveying the opinions and perceptions of a wider randomly selected group of anglers might also form part of the consultation.

Discussion ensued on the consultation processes undertaken on how Council can effectively engage with clubs to get information out earlier to active

clubs for their commentary. It was acknowledged that while all meetings were public and that all anglers could attend and present views, there was an obligation on Council to proactively engage externally with the public (and specifically licence holders) on recommendations to changes in regulations – especially the extent of details that might affect their area of interest.

Further discussion was held on the national direction to liberalise fishing techniques – with it recognised that the principal responsibility of the regions was to set the rules in the context of managing the fisheries on a sustainable basis. There was not a high level of confidence expressed of the prospect of getting consistency across the country - based on perceptions of regional context and how regulations had been developed over many years.

Further discussion was held on the specific fishing techniques that had been considered:

- It was noted that from anecdotal accounts that handling fish to be released that were caught on treble hooks generally took longer to unhook and be released and especially so for small fish.
- It was considered that barb and barbless hooks are a potential consideration (even if only for education purposes) - especially if fish are to be quickly released.
- It was acknowledged that damage to fish using treble hooks is no different to single hooks – although the perceptions of damage from treble hooks remains.
- It was acknowledged that the principle being looked at was to allow more opportunities for all methods – while considering the sustainability issues associated with harvest (take).

#### **6. Public Forum**

An opportunity was afforded to members of the public to discuss specific issues but no public were present at this time. No specific issues were discussed.

#### **7. New Zealand Fish and Game Council Business**

Councillor Haslett outlined NZ Council's approach to finalising the recommendation to the Minister for the licence fee. He noted the dilemma of trying to acknowledge a preference from the Minister have no increases in licence fee but the implications would cause having insufficient funds to cover cost increases (an operating deficit) and a significant call on reserves. To proceed with this approach would only be a short-term strategy and a one-year adhoc response.

He acknowledged that the financial pressures were becoming more apparent for the organisation and that some hard decisions will need to be made in the near future to address budget allocations. Councillor Haslett confirmed that despite a perceived preference to maintain the same licence fee, the Minister had approved a modest increase.

This was also considered in the context of cuts to Government Department budgets and staffing levels. Councillor Scott noted that Fish and Game was not an organisation based on budget allocation from central government funding – rather on a licence fee determined by forecast sales and estimated total costs for operations to administer fishing and hunting – and reducing total budget is not a savings for the government per se. It was acknowledged that expenditure should be able to be shown to be prudent – to the Minister and licence holders.

Mr Teal confirmed that the final formal Ministerial sign-off of the Fees Forms Notice to confirm licence fees and for licences to be able to be sold was delayed until 22 August 2024 due to an administrative oversight beyond Fish and Game's influence.

Councillor Haslett noted that the recommendations on the management of Designated Waters were not universally adopted. The Minister retained the fee for a non-resident licence holder at \$40 per day rather than the \$60 per day requested by NZ Council. He also noted that additional waters recommended by Southland Fish and Game Council were declined to be added to the list of rivers. There was also some additional discussion on controlled fishery descriptions and whether non-resident anglers were contributing enough to the fisheries' management and the extent of Guides control of access to the resource.

Councillor Haslett noted that the Minister of Hunting and Fishing had indicated that he was going to attend the next NZ Council meeting for an hour and that this provided an opportunity for each appointee to ask 1 or 2 specific questions. It was agreed two questions proposed on the willingness and support of the Minister to make legislative changes for: supporting formal amalgamation of Taranaki and Wellington regions, and supporting legislative changes recommended in the Ministerial Review (Feb 2021). Discussion confirmed that confidence of licence holders was waning that Fish and Game being able to make meaningful changes in line with the Ministerial Review recommendations and have reverted to business as usual. It was recognised that while Ministerial action was required to make recommended legislative changes, there was still an opportunity for Fish and Game to proactively define what changes were needed even if there was not a uniformity of opinion across all regions. It was noted that these

considerations were a work in progress, and that a new NZ Council would be in place after the Fish and Game elections that might reflect that other regions are not interested in further change.

Councillors suggested additional questions that could be directed to the Minister might focus on:

- fisheries governance – with broad concerns over management of sports fish – with several examples of local fishery/hunting access being restricted, and management of waterbodies and their associated fisheries being predominantly controlled by iwi (e.g. Lake Wairarapa Treaty Settlement). Discussion ensued on how Statutory Boards of waterbodies would respect legislative responsibilities of all agencies including Fish and Game responsibilities for management of the resources.
- There exists an opportunity for clarifying Fish and Game's role in freshwater advocacy as complementary and get a steer on which direction to follow. There is currently an opportunity to get the Minister to confirm or strengthen the management functions of Fish and Game. It was acknowledged that if there was a clear move to reduce the RM advocacy function then this could have been an outcome with limiting budgetary funding increases.
- the expectations of meaningful mana whenua engagement given our resources and what the expectations of iwi groups were in exercising their kaitiaki.
- The value of waterfowl hunting to private landowners with farms - and forests – with landuse change affecting drystock farming units.

Councillor Haslett noted that NZ Council had received the reports on the working groups for Future Finance, Future Structure, and Research functions but their findings were not discussed in detail. This would be deferred until the Cost Optimisation Project is completed (now likely to be considered at the December NZ Council meeting) but discussion on this was deferred at the upcoming NZ Council meeting due to the Minister's intended attendance. Discussion proceeded on the concept of payment of councillors made by the Future Structure group – but there was currently no budget provided for this. By considering a payment options there is increased risk that there will be appointments made by the Minister rather than elected.

After brief further discussion it was moved that

***The report from Wellington Council's appointee Councillor Haslett on NZ Fish and Game Council business and meetings be received***

Don Scott/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

8. **Public Forum**

Public are afforded an opportunity to speak to any issues – but no additional members of the public indicated that they wanted to address Council.

9. **Regional Governance – Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Dewar had indicated to Mr Teal that there was nothing material to report on regional governance matters.

Mr Teal clarified that there had been no additional follow up from the Minister of Hunting and Fishing regarding the request for details on financial and operational resources.

10. **Inter-regional Business - Governance**

**A. Shared Resources Update**

Mr Teal provided a brief update (on behalf of Chairman Dewar) regarding on the progress of shared resources between Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Councils – which was progressing without issue. It was noted that Taranaki Fish and Game were currently employing a replacement Fish and Game Officer.

**B. Regional Chairs’ Forum Update**

Mr Teal provided a brief report (on behalf of Chairman Dewar) of any interactions of the Fish and Game Regional Chairs’ Group – which focused on budgeting determinations and potential changes to structures – but there appeared to be little enthusiasm to progress past business as usual.

It was then moved that

***Council receive the brief update report presented by Mr Teal on behalf of the Chairman on Inter-regional Business – Governance focus for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.***

**Aaron Passey/Jim Cook**

Carried

**C. Discussion on Topics for Formalising Taranaki – Wellington Arrangement**

In order to progress the formal process of amalgamation with the Minister, it was agreed by the joint governor working group that each Council confirm detailed positions and significant issues to confirm points of agreement and/or differences.

Council expressed continued keenness to get a proposal developed to retain momentum change and to alert the Minister of the desire to formally share resources with a view to amalgamation.

It was agreed that it would be preferable for Fish and Game to develop a proposal with preferred options and approaches which retains an element of control and insight as to what would work best internally.

Council considered the discussion paper as a basis for systematically considering the issues, including the following topics:

1. Governance Structure:
  - Geographic representation, numerical proportional representation, total number of councillors, and payment of non-elected governors
2. Coverage of Staff Operations
  - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations, location of staff
3. Identification of Significant Assets and Management Obligations.
4. Identification of Significant Legacy (extension) Projects of Current Councils
5. Key Project or Management Issues (Emphasis)
6. How are we going to be placed to meet future challenges and opportunities?
  - How is Fish and Game going to plan to meet our responsibilities for iwi engagement – collaborations and/or resource governance?
  - Membership on NZ Council - will there be loss of a 'voice'
  - Consistency in reporting and governance material
  - Maintain funding from Fish and Game budgeting model
  - Identifying differences in culture – urban v rural focus etc.

There were a wider range of topics discussed:

- The concept of focusing discussions on the best options for a new entity - without trying to address or retain any legacy issues of two previous entities.
- The concept of legal (personhood) entity of a waterbody (Whanganui River) being retained as a single management unit– which might necessitate a boundary change to link Whakapapa and Upper Whanganui tributaries to the rest of the wider catchment management unit – to provide respect and justice to the principles of the Treaty Settlement.
- The approach of seeking feedback from licence holders as to their interest and support in undertaking an amalgamation as it was seen as important to retain support to maintain connection with licence holders. One alternative postulated is that licence holders have lost interest and confidence that Fish and Game as an organisation can make meaningful changes internally. There was confirmation that Council did not want to see the Wellington and Taranaki proposal fall over because other regions refuse to engage on change.

- Councillor Cook suggested that the Minister could be invited to a joint Taranaki and Wellington Council meeting to highlight the benefits of sharing resources but don't give options for external determination.
- It was agreed to progress a draft agreement to get agreed principles defined and established in terms of governance and build on the gains in operational effectiveness – and to do what is best for our regions. It was noted that any formal amalgamation agreement should be rock solid (which might require some external advice) rather than progressed with the main focus being on haste. It was suggested that a timetable be developed for 2025 that provided a measured progression of amalgamation in 2025 and 2026 in order to resolve issues with a view to the entities being disbanded by the 2027 election cycle.
- Confirm that a liaison sub-committee continue to refine and confirm a set of recommendations on amalgamation. It was suggested that this group be empowered to continue with the discussions and defining options.
- Discussion on the number of councillors - with smaller Councils being more efficient. Focus on retaining 12 or 9 as preferred option initially – with the option to co-opt members based on skill, purpose, or particular issue focus. Representation through elections by anglers and hunters was still seen as fundamental to retaining connection with licence holders.
- Options were discussed on establishing representation using geographic representation – or a core of councillors based on geographic ward system (three wards per current regions – i.e. total six from wards) with the remainder being elected 'at large' (up to 12). The geographic distribution should not become an 'us and them' outcome and could still be based on representation of numbers 'at large'.
- There remains a strong preference for non-payment of elected members and non-elected members.
- There was seen to be a need for an agreement akin to 'pre-nuptial' agreement prior to amalgamation to avoid any ambiguity of expectations moving forward.
- The issue of fewer NZ Council appointees was discussed with Councillor Haslett postulating that there would not be any dispensation for retaining two representatives for the lower North Island – it would be one for the new region. Acknowledged that NZ Council councillors are appointees and not intended to be representatives per se.
- From an operational perspective there needs to be the Manager's/CE's decision to make the operational changes for shared

resources to meet requirements within the expectations of Council(s) with the budgets allocated.

John Hancock left the meeting at 4.50pm

Mr Teal confirmed that there has been no support to the change of the voluntary nature of regional Fish and Game councils relating to membership and participation at meetings.

#### **11. Draft Operational Work Plan for the 2024/2025 Financial Year**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the draft Operational Work Plan based on the budgets submitted to NZ Council in March 2024. There were no significant changes expected to outcomes and outputs already agreed to in the budget process. There will be refinement in the allocation of hours and confirmation of project priorities - within the constraint of the base funding allocation – once the new Council is confirmed and adjustments made from any shared resources or structural changes.

The format of the Operational Work Plan reiterates the priorities of Council identified in strategic statements and existing work programmes.

The Operational Work Plan includes reference to strategic statements that link wider organisational strategies – and this will be relevant in outcome reporting for annual reporting purposes. This format will also provide for conventional output reporting – but it is noted that there is a signaled change in audit emphasis from the Office of Auditor General to focus on Outcome Reporting rather than Output Reporting.

Discussion focused on some specific issues:

- considerations of changes if an amalgamation with Taranaki and Wellington regions is confirmed in the short term – including the potential for improved office accommodation in the near future.
- Consideration of reservoir trout fisheries in the region – including how to work in with GWRC to have improved angler opportunities. Specific examples were discussed including beautification of areas of worked gravel pits near Otaki, Kakariki, and sites adjacent to the lower Manawatu river.
- Consideration of options for the engagement of mana whenua to attend liaison meetings and/or how to incorporate representation or views/perspectives on Council decision making. This includes the principle of trying to retain membership and representation on Councils

as non-paid positions. There was identified a need to proactively connect to build up relationships over the long-term.

It was then moved that

***The draft Operational Work Plan for the 2024/2025 Financial Year be adopted***

**Don Scott/Colin Shore**

Carried

## **12. Strategic Matters**

### **A. Risk Management Review**

Mr Teal provided an update risk management issues associated with:

- Avian influenza H5N1 Strain (HPAI – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) – no change is risk level
- Golden Clam – samples found in accommodation lodge at Owhango, but were not found alive in water

### **B. Iwi Engagement**

Mr Teal confirmed that he is actively developing a strategic approach to engaging with Mana Whenua and how to incorporate a co-operative process in decision-making.

He noted that he is undertaking a detailed register of interest in Mana Whenua groupings and contacts – and rohe (areas of interest).

Mr Teal also noted that he is developing an education programme to upskill staff and governors on tikanga and processes for engagement.

## **13. Policy and Legislation Considerations**

Key legislation relating to Fish and Game activities were briefly discussed:

### **A. Wildlife Act Review**

In September 2023 the previous Minister of Conservation announced the formal review of the Wildlife Act – which was to begin in March 2024. There has been no update from DoC as to the priority or timetable in progressing this review – but there has been work undertaken by other organisations to inform change.

### **B. Resource Management Act Review**

Repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act 2022 (NBEA 2022) in December 2023 reverting back to the Resource Management Act 1991.

RM Reform - Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill RM Review. Draft Bill excludes the hierarchy of obligations in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) from resource consenting. NZ Council staff have met with Select Committee to present additional submission.

#### **C. Fast Track Approvals Bill**

Fast Track Approvals Bill – introduced into Parliament in early March 2024. Submissions heard at Select Committee proceedings and currently considering feedback for a report back to Parliament before any amendments are made to the detail of the First Reading of the Bill.

#### **D. Arms Act Review**

The Government announced in February 2024 that firearms legislation will be reviewed. This includes rewriting the Arms Act 1983, transferring responsibility for that act to the Ministry of Justice, and transferring the Firearms Safety Authority to another department such as the Department of Internal Affairs.

The Government has started consultation on firearms reforms and have indicated that draft legislation will also likely be introduced to Parliament this Calendar year.

#### **E. Organisational Policies**

Mr Teal noted that he is continuing to liaise with NZ Council and regions regarding defining best practice policy for operational and governance applications.

He noted that there are several Regional Operational and Governance policies that are being actively reviewed. He referred to a list of policies for Wellington and Taranaki that are currently adopted, being actively reviewed, or being considered for development/review.

Mr Teal confirmed that there has been no additional support required by NZ Council – other than those policies prioritised by NZ Council for review/development.

#### **14. Health and Safety Report May 2024 and June 2024.**

After discussion it was moved that

***Council to receive staff report on Health and Safety for May 2024 and June 2024***

**Colin Shore/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

#### **15. Species Management**

##### **a. Research Update**

Mr Teal provided a brief update on the progress of publication of research paper in journals for the topics of:

- Trout/native fish interactions – draft submitted to journal (awaiting peer review comments)

- Potential effects of climate change on trout distribution and other native fish distribution in NZ. Draft submitted to journal, refining analysis with additional modeling in response to peer review comments.

**b. Report on Upper Rangitikei Trout Fishery Management 2024**

Dr Kavermann provided a brief overview of the results of the work undertaken in the Upper Rangitikei catchment and provided clarification where requested.

It was then moved that

***Council receive the report – Upper Rangitikei Trout Fishery Management 2024 by Dr Kavermann***

**Steve Haslett/Colin Shore**

Carried

**c. Report on Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt, Waikanae, and Otaki Rivers Trout Fishery Monitoring 2024**

Dr Kavermann provided a brief overview of the results of the work undertaken in the rivers managed by GWRC of the western regional area. Dr Kavermann provided clarification where required.

It was then moved that

***Council receives the report – Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt, Waikanae, and Otaki Rivers Trout Fishery Monitoring 2024 by Dr Kavermann***

**Jennifer Yanko/Colin Shore**

Carried

It was confirmed that these reports will be included in the Project Report compendium presented to Council in October 2024, but these reports could now be released to Genesis Energy and GWRC Flood Protection respectively.

Further discussion occurred on how this work could be presented to a wider group of interested licence holders – by posting on the website, and/or possibilities of posting links via social media.

**16. Habitat Advocacy and Management**

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of activity in May and June 2024 related to resource management advocacy:

**a. Regional Planning Advocacy**

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the Oranga Wai consultation – the next generation of Regional Plan changes to reflect NPS FM 2020 – focusing on water quantity and water quality parameters. The timetable to complete the Plan Change revision for public notification has been formally put back to September 2027 from the December 2024 deadline.

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with their Plan Change 2 of the Regional Plan (One Plan) to introduce an additional tool – Nitrogen Loss Risk Scorecard - to deal with nitrogen leaching from intensive farm use. Preliminary advice from the Environment Court for the PC1 Waikato case – which deals with similar issues – appears to be favouring the use of NLR scorecard as a non-regulatory tool. This is in addition to using Overseer modelling which provides an estimate of nitrogen leaching loss at root level – but is subject to regular review (and improvement) with empirical trials to verify estimates. Uncertainty in the model estimates are typically in the order of 20-30% so the absolute number must be used with caution in regulatory frameworks.

**b. Resource Consent advocacy**

GWRC were required to suspend work programme on Mangaterere River in early July as it was outside the resource consent conditions and an exemption was not warranted – given the risk of interrupting spawning runs.

Palmerston North CC had paused their resource consent application to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant and disposal options – this was in response to the Long-Term Planning process to review long term expenditure.

TLAs within the Horizons region boundaries have been discussing consistency in management approaches and funding models. This is concurrent to Government initiatives and approaches to municipal water management.

**c. Habitat Enhancement Projects**

It was noted that advice was provided by staff to support applications to Game Bird Habitat Trust – and they would act as referee where appropriate.

**17. Participation**

Mr Teal provided an overview of activities undertaken by staff in May and June 2024 including:

**a. Access Management**

- Access Point descriptions updated and included on new website.
- Updating access sign inventory.
- Active management of hunting access requirements to multiple sites for several different agencies,

**b. Information to Clients**

- Weekly hunting email newsletter – the Game Bird Hunting Bulletin – was posted weekly prior to the season – until the end of June with the focus on upland game hunting opportunities in July and August.
- The website has been substantially refreshed – updated items.

- 2024/25 Fish Season Magazine articles prepared.

It was noted that there was interest in part-covering postage costs for the magazine with additional modest inserts – but that the increase in postage costs made the long-term prognosis difficult to fund. Discussion also focused on possible inserts to the regional newsletter and a digital advertising space on the regional weekly electronic newsletter.

**c. Licence Holder Engagement**

- Deliveries of trout from Taranaki hatchery to water reservoirs in Rangitikei catchment.

**18. Public Awareness/Communications**

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of activities that had involved staff regarding public awareness and communication in May and June 2024:

**a. Iwi Engagement**

- Attended Wairarapa Moana Statutory Reserve Board meeting.
- Attended hui on Treaty Settlement implementation with Ngati Apa and DoC
- Supported Ngati Ranitaane o Manawatu undertaken freshwater fish surveys

**b. Public Awareness**

- Contributed to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness campaign – Re Wilding
- Contributed to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness project to define the public good undertaken by Fish and Game.
- It was noted that the NZEIR Economic Assessment study had been commissioned with the draft report expected by end of September.

**c. Communication**

- Press Releases on opening of the Game Season 2024.

**d. Promotions**

- No specific promotion events attended in May or June

**19. Licence Sales and Licence Management System**

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of licence sales up until 4 July 2024:

**Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Fishing Season YTD** – were up in terms of LEQs by 1.7% compared to previous year (3,003 c.f. 2,953) but considerably more (30% up) in numbers of individual licence sales.

National licence sales value LEQ is down 1.9% (72,179 c.f 73,580).

**Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Game Season YTD** – were down in terms of LEQs by 1.6% compared to previous year (3,233 c.f. 3,287)

National licence sales value LEQ is down 2.2% (30,914 c.f 31,612).

It was moved that

***Council receive Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Fishing Season YTD (up to 4 July 2024) and for 2024 Game Season YTD (up to 4 July 2024)***

Aaron Passey/Jim Cook

Carried

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the performance of the Licencing Management System noting that it was performing well with no issues of continuity of service.

It was then moved

***Council receive the update report for May and June 2024 for contract management of provider of services to manage the licensing platform and database management.***

Colin Shore/Don Scott

Carried

**20. Operational Summary 1 May 2024 to 30 June 2024**

After discussion and clarification it was moved

***Council to receive the staff report on Operational Summary for May and June 2024***

Colin Shore/Jim Cook

Carried

**21. Financial Statements to 30 June 2024 and Financial Transactions for May and June 2024**

After discussion it was moved that

***Council receive Financial Statements for Year-to-Date for the 2023/2024 Financial Year –Income Statement up to end June 2024 and Financial Transactions for May and June 2024.***

Don Scott/Malcolm Francis

Carried

## **22. Correspondence and Media**

There were no specific items of correspondence that had not already been addressed in the meeting.

Brief discussion was held on the following media reports:

- 30 June 2024 - Formal legal transfer of land to Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitaane o Wairarapa as a result of the joint redress Act - Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022.
- 18 June 2024 – COLFO expectations of firearms law reform – including ending the firearm registry and removing the consideration of compulsory membership of gun clubs to obtain a firearms licence.

## **23. Recognition Awards**

Mr Teal briefly outlined the contribution that Sarah Ongley had made as legal counsel to Environment Court cases involving Fish and Game – noting that there have been instances of contributing time pro bono. He considered that this has been vital in linking all the information on regulatory and non-regulatory options for land management and could be recognised more formally for her contributions.

Mr Teal also acknowledged the contributions of Dr Murray Williams in providing mentorship and guidance to Wellington Fish and Game region in research of gamebirds and the development of science-based approaches for the monitoring and management of game waterfowl for Fish and Game Councils. Recognition from Wellington Fish and Game Council could specifically acknowledge his contribution to the regional programmes, leadership provided, and unwavering positive encouragement of Fish and Game staff. This would be in addition to his recent recognition (MONZ) announced recently for wider contributions to science in the Kings Birthday Honours.

It was then moved that

***Sarah Ongley and Dr Murray Williams be recognised for their contribution to the management of fish and game resources in the Wellington region.***

**Jennifer Yanko/Aaron Passey**

Carried

## **24. Conservation Board Liaison**

Discussion ensued on the potential attendance at the next Conservation Board meeting scheduled

- 4 & 5 October 2024 – via Teams
- 15 & 16 November 2024 – Kāpiti Wellington DOC Office – 13b Wall Place, Kenepuru

It was noted that members of the public were only able to attend the Public Forum section between 1.00pm and 2.00pm on 4 October Via Teams.

A brief discussion was had on the private members bill to ballot sponsored by MP Cameron Luxton (ACT) that could potentially give representation for up to two seats for hunter representation at the table with the NZ Conservation Authority. The Authority currently has 13 members, with seats set aside for nominees from iwi, the Royal Society, Forest and Bird, and Federated Mountain Clubs. The proposal in the private members bill would allow the Minister of Conservation to appoint two further members to the board – one appointed on recommendation of the New Zealand Deerstalker's Association, and one appointed after consultation with both Fish and Game and the Game Animal Council.

**25. General Business**

It was confirmed that a joint meeting of both Taranaki and Wellington Councils would occur following the Fish and Game elections.

**26. Confirmation of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting date and location was confirmed as 15 October 2024 in Masterton.

It was noted that the provisional results of the Fish and Game elections would not be known until the afternoon of that date.

In early November following confirmation and declaration of the election results there would be another special meeting to confirm a Chairman of Council and a NZ Council appointee.

Acting Chairman Passey thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution.

There were no further specific items of general business, the meeting closed at 6.05pm.

***Next Meeting to be held: Meeting on Tuesday, 15 October 2024 at Club Wairarapa, 20 Essex Street, Masterton at 3.00pm.***

Chairman



Date

20.10.24

