

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024 AT 3.05PM AT CLUB WAIRARAPA, 20 ESSEX STREET, MASTERTON.

1. Present:

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

Via Video Link: Colin Shore,

In Attendance:

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

Licence Holders: Simon Roberston, John Pansters, Paul Shortis

Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Chairman Dewar opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors (including Councillor Shore via video link), staff, and public.

2. Apologies:

It was noted that apologies were received from:

Councillor Richard McIntyre

Staff: Ami Coughlan

It was then moved that

the apologies received be accepted

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

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 13 August 2024:

Following consideration of the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish and Game Council of 13 August 2024 it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 13 August 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Aaron Passey/Don Scott

Carried

5. Matters Arising:

Mr Teal referred to the Action List resulting from the 13 August 2024 meeting, noting progressing actions relating to defining governance and operational amalgamation options with Taranaki region.

Mr Teal noted that Dr Kavermann and Councillor Brown had initiated consultation with angling clubs relating to the simplification of fishing regulations.

Council acknowledged that actions were required to complete the codification and formalisation of KPIs for the Chief Executive.

Council acknowledged that the Warrant of Fitness for the Office premises provided by the landlord was too narrow in scope to be fully adequate in terms of a health and safety check - and that a provider be sought that can give an environmental health assessment for the building.

6. New Zealand Fish and Game Council Business

A. Update from NZ Fish and Game Council Appointee

Councillor Haslett provided a brief update on Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council's recent actions to pass a vote of no-confidence in that region's appointee to NZ Council (who is also currently the Chair of NZ Council) with the Minister of Hunting and Fishing being informed of this vote but it was understood that he was not formally removed and/or replaced.

Discussion focused on the increased risk of external action caused by the regional Fish and Game Council's writing directly to the Minister on internal political matters. Council considered that while there were several underlying regional issues to be resolved, it was presumed that the Minister doesn't desire to be lobbied by each individual region regarding internal matters.

Councillor Haslett noted the attendance of the Minister of Hunting and Fishing at the NZ Council Meeting on 24 August 2024 where he gave some direction on the approach Fish and Game could take to advise him on legislative changes required to strengthen the organisation. The Minister indicated that any legislative changes would have to be presented as a

package rather than ad hoc and fragmented. Councillor Haslett inferred that any considerations for formal amalgamation of Wellington and Taranaki regions would therefore need to be part of wider package of legislative updates.

Councillor Haslett noted that the Minister had indicated that he wanted to be in a position to be able to justify creating a Ministry of Hunting and Fishing. Wellington Council considered this implied that any public controversy in the sector should be avoided.

Councillor Haslett noted that NZ Council's decision to consider budgets using a zero-based budget (ZBB) approach has met some resistance from larger already well-resourced regions. The purpose of ZBB was to provide NZ Council with greater transparency of budgets, ability to assess consistency in approach to implementation of project output and efficiency, and a potential recalibration of bulk-funding quantum.

Councillor Haslett provided a brief overview of the media coverage relating to the recent Appeals Court judgement confirming correct legal interpretation by the Environment Court in the Southland Regional Plan Environment Court case - that discharging contaminants into any degraded water may require a resource consent (potentially affecting all farms). Southland Federated Farmers (Southland FF) responded by condemning Fish and Game for the Court's decision and initiated a campaign to limit or interrupt access to anglers in Southland, and further questioned the legislative mandate of Fish and Game be involved in such legal advocacy. Councillor Haslett noted that it was not the original outcome that Fish and Game was seeking – as initially it was more focused on having mechanisms to deal with issues from the effects of high-risk leaching practices on farms discharging to degraded lowland waters. He considered that legislative and national policy directives will be changed by the current Government anyway so the original Environment Court directive will not be enduring or long-lasting.

Councillor Haslett considered that the important issue for the wider Fish and Game organisation was about maintaining the environmental freshwater resource – and by inference Fish and Game resources. He noted that Fish and Game still had an important role to improve or maintain the freshwater resources for species that Fish and Game is responsible for – and that the RM advocacy function to achieve such should not be removed or weakened.

Discussion took place regarding potential response options at a regional level for the Wellington Council to address the negative publicity surrounding Southland FF's media campaign targeting Southland Fish and Game:

- Pause any actions on an access campaign
- Get a better understanding of reasons behind Southland FF initial reaction as it was not a nationwide FF campaign. This was briefly discussed as being potentially emanating from being one of three major issues that the two organisations had been dealing with:
 - A wet spring – and dealing with wet farm conditions surrounding Waituna Lagoon.
 - Gravel extractions on the Mataura River.
 - Appeal Court ruling – which Southland FF were disappointed with.
- Confirming that this is a local issue unique to Southland and is not escalating.
- Consider any potential effects on the social licence campaign and its intended outcomes.

Further discussion was held on what a ‘package’ of agreed legislative changes could be taken to the Minister. It was acknowledged that this was challenging for Fish and Game – especially if full consensus was required (rather than a 75% consensus). It was also noted that the issues around NZ Council members being twelve regional appointees rather than regional representatives, and whether it was consistently possible for NZ Council to make decisions from a wider organisational perspective. It was acknowledged that this arrangement was fraught and would probable not be resolved until the Minister made legislative changes – but it was uncertain about what options and potential solutions the Minister will proffer.

Discussion ensued on the NZ Council’s timetable and process for budget considerations – with is specifically noted that there will be no longer a Contestable Fund budget round (including no advice being required from the Regional Managers’ collective) but would follow a zero-based budget approach – where an entire budget of a region will be considered. It was intended that the Councils (and specifically the Chairs) would be more involved in the presentation of the budgets once they have been prepared by the Regional Manager.

It was noted that the NZ Council total FTE staff numbers was the same rating as it was in 2018 – contrary to some perceptions within the organisation of an increasing staff component to NZC.

Councillor Haslett confirmed that a tighter process in communication of progress and project management in RM regional legal fund funded projects was being sought moving forward - noting changes in regional RM activity and Regional Council implementation approaches being more dynamic in response to changes in legislation. It was noted that these RM processes

stretch over multiple years – with the recent Southland Regional Council case (still in progress) commenced over six years ago. It was noted that formal updates would be required at each junction of legal process as a matter of course, regardless of whether there were additional funding requirements being sought – such as for the High Court and Appeal Court legal actions.

Councillor Haslett emphasised that NZ Council had made changes to its Standing Orders to enable electronic video conferencing as an option for conducting a meeting, but concern was made that this was not to be relied on as it did not encourage development of a working rapport between governors.

Brief discussion occurred on Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council's request for a national approach to game bird monitoring to provide consistency in monitoring approach, consistency in analysis and interpretation, and consistency in applying that information to setting sustainable game regulations.

The efforts of Hamish Carnachan (and the NZ Hunter team) was recognised by NZ Council for their outstanding contribution in producing a high-quality fish season special issue of the Fish and Game NZ magazine.

After further brief 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

Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis

Carried

NZ Fish and Game Council Consultation with Regional Fish and Game Councils

B. Budgeting System NZ Council

The Zero-Based Budgeting ZBB approach confirmed by NZ Council was discussed – acknowledging that this will allow for critiquing of projects that are core functions, and also focus on strategic outcomes. It was acknowledged that the organisation has been calling for changes to the budgeting process, especially to be fiscally sustainable in the longer term. The ZBB provides a process focused on reviewing and considering each budget item against strategic priorities and revenue:

- What are the key operational activities that deliver on the strategic priorities;
- What can be ditched, what can be delayed, what is essential;
- Where efficiency gains can be made;
- Revenue generating opportunities.

It was agreed that Wellington Fish and Game Council was comfortable with the ZBB approach, and this should be consistently applied in all regions and NZ Council. It was acknowledged that there needs to be further work on confirming a budgeting template, and also further definition of policy for considering budgets and the process for doing so - in order to provide for guidance to regional and NZ Council governors in decision making processes.

C. Guidance and Draft Policy on Developing Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans

Council considered the documents relating to development of Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans (SFGMP):

- 1. Draft Policy Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan - Consultation***
- 2. Draft Policy Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan - Drafting***
- 3. Guidance to engaging with Mana Whenua on the Preparation of Sports Fish and Game Management Plan***

Wellington Fish and Game Council acknowledged that professional advice had been provided in the development of requirements for future SFGMP to ensure there is a modern approach and that they are fit for purpose moving forward. Council sought to support the approach and will make all reasonable efforts to develop the plans as recommended.

In addition the following points were noted:

- It was recognised that there would be opportunities for collaboration to avoid duplication and increase efficiency in plan development given that there are 8-9 regional Fish and Game Councils embarking on this exercise.
- There could be better explanation provided on how all the planning tools link together i.e. SFGMP, Strategic Outcome Statements, Five Year Strategic Plan, Annual Work Plan.

It is acknowledged that the mana whenua engagement component will be challenging given that Wellington Fish and Game region has 17 Iwi groupings and numerous associated hapu. This will be significantly demanding on the current resources – in terms both staff capacity and capability.

At this stage it is envisaged that Wellington Fish and Game Council and Taranaki Fish and Game Council will need to progress a separate SFGMPs.

D. Draft Meeting and Budgeting Schedule

The draft Meeting and Budgeting Schedule was considered by Council and Wellington Council meeting dates would be modified accordingly to conform to the timetable.

After brief discussion it was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council receive the Meeting and Budgeting Schedule provided by NZ Council.

Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis

Carried

7. Public Forum

An opportunity was afforded to members of the public to discuss specific issues with Council.

John Pansters outlined the current programmes being run by the Wairarapa Fish and Game Club:

- Flyfishing course – noting more women interested in upskilling and learning the pursuit
- Fly-tying Course – basic upskilling in fly-tying skills
- Strategy to encourage and involve young men in participating in the pursuit.

He noted the Council's response to the letter sent by Wairarapa Fish and Game Club regarding the changes to the fishing regulations this year – regarding the rationale for changing restrictions on treble hook use, and lifting some of the restrictions relating to local fly-fishing only waters (Mangaterere and Kopuaranga Rivers). He further outlined the reasons why the Wairarapa Fish and Game Club put forward the initial proposal three years ago: focusing on pressure sensitive fisheries. He noted that submissions over the years had been largely accepted by Council for consideration in regulation development given the Club's rationale and local knowledge. He sought a better form of consultation and communication with angling clubs relating to changes to fishing regulations prior to decisions being made – particularly if they might be relevant to local anglers and to enable and encourage public participation in the process.

Council noted that it was the intention to consult with angling clubs, and also survey individual anglers, regarding the principle of simplifying the regulations to reduce the barrier to participation. It was acknowledged that while governors were elected to make decisions in the interests of licence holders, there is a responsibility to communicate and connect with licence holders – beyond the requirements for the general public.

John Pansters the meeting at 4.40pm

8. Regional Governance – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Dewar provided a brief overview on regional governance matters. After brief discussion it was moved

that the Chairman’s verbal report on regional governance issues be received.

Jim Cook/Aaron Passey

Carried

9. Inter-regional Business - Governance

A. Regional Chairs’ Forum Update

Chairman Dewar provided an overview of the counter responses by some regions of the NZ Council approach to use Zero-Based Budgeting for budget considerations.

Chairman Dewar noted that some Chairs are not seeking re-election in the current Fish and Game elections – so there will be some replacement and renewal of personnel regardless of the outcomes of the elections.

Chairman Dewar noted that all regions, except Auckland/Waikato, signed a letter to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing requesting that he simply acknowledge the receipt of a joint letter sent to by the Southland and Otago Fish and Game Councils – but not actively respond to some points that were viewed as an internal matter being actively considered. The letter primarily addressed the inclusion of additional waters in the Designated Water Licensing process but also promoted a resource allocation approach based on licence sales and usage.

It was then moved that

Council receive the update report presented the Chairman on Inter-regional Business – Governance for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Paul Dewar/ Jennifer Yanko

Carried

B. Shared Resources Update

Chairman Dewar provided a brief update on the progress of shared operational resources between Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Councils – which was progressing without issue. It was noted that Taranaki Fish and Game had recently employed a replacement Fish and Game Officer.

Councillor Francis expressed his concern for the extra burden on the Chief Executive in managing two regions – with the prospect of formal amalgamation essentially ‘on pause’ until the legislative changes package is progressed by the Minister.

Brief discussion ensued on the preferred options and approach identified by both Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils for progressing an amalgamation proposal.

Council briefly considered the following topics:

1. Governance Structure.
2. Coverage of Staff Operations.
3. Identification of Significant Assets and Management Obligations.
4. Identification of Significant Legacy Projects of Current Councils.
5. Key Project or Management Issues.
6. How are we going to be placed to meet future challenges and opportunities?

It was then moved that

Council receives the brief update report presented the Chairman on Shared Resources Arrangement for Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Councils for the previous period.

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

10. 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 – Horizons Regional Council response is an extension of the Check Clean Dry messaging.

Council acknowledged the NZ Council Risk Management Register and briefly discussed a number of items listed.

B. Iwi Engagement

Mr Teal noted 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 outlined the development of a detailed register of interest in Mana Whenua groupings and contacts – and rohe (areas of interest).

11. Policy and Legislation Considerations

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

A. Wildlife Act Review

Mr Teal confirmed that although there had been not formal update to the timetable for formal review of the Wildlife Act (since it was announced as a priority of the previous Government in 2023), it was still being actively pursued by the Department

of Conservation. He noted that EDS had recently released another volume of policy work to advocate for updating the Wildlife Act and Conservation Act to prioritise native biodiversity - NZ Council staff had responded by advocating for acknowledgement of valued introduced species.

B. Resource Management Act Review

Mr Teal confirmed the progression of the Government's reform plan to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with two new acts: one focused on environmental management and the other on urban development and infrastructure.

The government's objectives for the new system include promotion of development to support growth in the primary sector while protecting the environment. Key features of the reform include:

1. **Clear and Efficient Regulations:** The new framework will focus on controlling only "material" adverse environmental effects, providing greater certainty for developers through enhanced national standards and reduced regional plans.
2. **Prioritising Property Rights:** The reforms aim to enhance property rights by minimizing objections to development and implementing a low-cost dispute resolution process.
3. **Elevating National Standards:** Activities complying with national standards will no longer require resource consents, shifting the focus to compliance monitoring instead.

C. Fast Track Approvals Bill

- Fast Track Approvals Bill – Submissions have been heard at Select Committee proceedings and currently considering feedback for a report back to Parliament in late 2024.
- On October 6, 2024, the Government announced 149 projects in the Fast Track Approvals Bill list and once the Bill passes, these projects will undergo evaluation by expert panels.

D. Arms Act Review

The Government's firearms legislation review continues but note that Nicol McKee, the Minister responsible for firearms reform, has come under pointed criticism from advocacy groups including the Police Association. The consultation process for the Government's firearms registry review has included 17 firearms interest groups in a targeted consultation process for the review, and eight other groups who may take a differing view. 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.

Council considered an operational policy for confirmation:

- **Vehicle Use Policy – Adoption of Draft Policy**

The purpose of the Vehicle Use Policy is to provide the Fish and Game Council, employees, elected representatives, and volunteers with a clear framework of the use of Council vehicles for business use and personal use, and personal vehicles for business use, including the required processes, procedures and general expectations. The policy is trying to reflect the high-level principles of:

- Council will provide a safe vehicle and ensure that it is well maintained.
- The employees (and volunteers) will conduct themselves with a safe approach that complies with health and safety, and traffic regulations.

During discussions that this policy document can be used as a basis for good practice policy for each region should they be updating or implementing a contemporary vehicle use policy.

It was then moved

That Wellington Council adopt the Vehicle Use Policy

Aaron Passey/Malcolm Francis

Carried

12. Health and Safety Report July 2024 and August 2024.

After discussion it was moved that

Council to receive staff report on Health and Safety for July 2024 and August 2024

Jim Cook/Steve Brown

Carried

13. Project Reports for the 2023/2024 Financial Year

Staff presented the Project Reports and answered points of clarification. Mr Teal noted that these reports are now collated in a compendium will also provide the basis for linking to SSP Outcome Reporting. He also confirmed that the project reports will be posted on the Fish and Game website to provide licence holders a summary of what the project outputs are achieved during the financial year.

It was then moved that

Council receive the Project Reports for the 2023/2024 Financial Year

Jennifer Yanko/Aaron Passey

Carried

Council discussed their appreciation of the efforts of staff throughout the year and acknowledged the high standard of work and reporting.

It was then moved that

Council express its thanks to all staff for their efforts and acknowledge the standard of reporting of project outputs for the Financial Year 2023/2024

Paul Dewar/Jim Cook

Carried

14. Species Management

A. Research Update

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the research undertaken and the progress on publishing papers in scientific journals:

- **Trout – Native Fish interactions** – a paper had been submitted for peer review in a scientific publication and currently responding to referees' comments before re-submitting final version.
- **Potential effects of Climate Change on Trout Distribution and other Native Fish Distribution** – initial feedback was received by the scientific publication peer reviewers and additional modeling has been completed in response – and will be re-submitted as final version.

B. Game Notice Considerations

Staff presented the data and analysis of the mallard transect counts which indicated a trend downwards – but noted that it still falls between a 'normal' season range. It was agreed that the base level consideration at the December 2024 Council Meeting would be given to recommending reducing the limit to ten birds per hunter per day rather than the current twelve birds per day limit. No other additional information was suggested to be required for those considerations other than an updated climate forecast for the summer months (which is available in December from NIWA).

C. Black Swan Numbers at Lake Wairarapa

Staff provided an overview of the numbers of black swan on adjacent farmland that were causing some concerns for landowners next to the lake. There had been a request to the Statutory Reserve Board to allow for a controlled Canada goose cull in January organised by local landowners, and staff were currently seeking clarification as to whether permission had been requested to cull black swan at the same time.

15. Habitat Advocacy and Management

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of activity in July and August 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 public notification has been revised to September 2027.

- 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. Awaiting decision from Environment Court.
- GWRC Regional Policy Statement Plan Change – the decision was released on 26 September 2024 and currently considering any legal appeal points – High Court for freshwater issues and Environment Court for other issues.
- GWRC Regional Plan – Plan Change 1 – preparation underway for submissions for Hearing Stream 1 which starts on 4 November 2024.
- The GWRC Whaitua Committee for Kapiti area have released their recommendations – including noting potential removal of sports fish in recommendation 23 (2): *Active control of pest populations that contribute to poor water quality, including geese, carp, perch, rudd, gambusia, brown trout, and tench*; and (3): *Active control of any other species identified in partnership*. Council expressed concern that this was not a legislative process, had no consultation with Fish and Game as the statutory body responsible for their management, and has a potential for precedent for poor process and decision making.

B. Resource Consent advocacy

- Mr Teal noted that 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.
- Mr Teal outlined the issues that Territorial Local Authorities (TLAs) were facing within the Horizons region boundaries since the cessation of the Three Waters Operational and Governance Framework. This has resulted in the TLAs looking at aggregating their infrastructure and municipal water services management model and have been discussing consistency in management approaches and funding.

C. Habitat Enhancement Projects

- Dr Kavermann noted that two applications to Game Bird Habitat Trust from the Wellington region had been successful in attaining a grant to allow them to proceed.

16. Participation

Mr Teal provided an overview of activities undertaken by staff in July and August 2024 including:

A. Access Management

- Access Point descriptions and information updated for new season on website.
- Updating access sign inventory.
- Active management of access requirements to multiple sites undertaken.
- Supporting NZ Council initiated campaign with an access focus.

After brief discussion Council agreed to support the NZ Council co-ordinated Access Campaign including allocating some staff resources to (yet to be) identified projects.

B. Information to Clients

- The website has been substantially refreshed – updated items.
- 2024/2025 Fish Season Magazine articles had been prepared and magazine distributed in August.

C. 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.

17. Public Awareness/Communications

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

A. Iwi Engagement

- Supported Rangitaane o Manawatu in freshwater fish surveys.

B. Public Awareness

- Contributed to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness campaign – *Re Wilding*

C. Communication

- Press Releases on opening of the Fishing Season 2024 focused on the Ruamahanga River Catchment.

18. Licence Sales and Licence Management System

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of licence sales up until 31 August 2024:

- A. **Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Fishing Season YTD** – were up in terms of LEQs by 1.9% compared to previous year (3,032 c.f. 2,977) but considerably more (30% up) in numbers of individual licence sales. National licence sales value LEQ is down 1.8% (73,044 c.f. 74,367).
- B. **Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Game Season YTD** – were down in terms of LEQs by 1.6% compared to previous year (3,237 c.f. 3,289). National licence sales value LEQ is down 2.2% (30,978 c.f. 31,673).

It was moved that

Council receive Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Fishing Season YTD (up to 31 August 2024) and for 2024 Game Season YTD (up to 31 August 2024)

Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis

Carried

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the Licencing Management System Monthly Performance Reports for July 2024 and August 2024 noting that the provider was performing well with no issues of continuity of service.

It was then moved

Council receive the update report for July and August 2024 for performance of provider of services to manage the licensing platform and database management.

Aaron Passey/Colin Shore

Carried

19. Operational Summary 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2024

Discussion ensued on the effects of gravel filling-in pools in lowland rivers leaving long stretches of shallow water with no pool/riffle run structure – including examples in the Manawatu region – such as Upper Manawatu River and Makuri River, as well as other sites in the Greater Wellington region - such as Waikanae River.

After discussion and clarification it was moved

Council to receive the staff report on Operational Summary for July and August 2024

Malcolm Francis/Steve Brown

Carried

20. Financial Statements to 31 August 2024 and Financial Transactions for July and August 2024

Councillor Scott sought clarification of the GST component amount with it confirmed that this was a holding account GST payment.

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 August 2024 and Financial Transactions for July and August 2024.

Don Scott/Jim Cook

Carried

The Chairman indicated that he wished to discuss with Council the review of employment remuneration conditions of the Chief Executive.

It was then moved (5.40pm)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to consider the remuneration conditions of the Chief Executive, in order to protect the privacy of individuals

Paul Dewar/Malcolm Francis

Carried

It was then moved (5.52pm)

That the public be readmitted to the open meeting.

Jim Cook/John Hancock

Carried

21. Correspondence and Media

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

22. Recognition Awards

Councillor Cook brought to attention of Council of the retirement of Philip Pearpoint (Turners Sports – Feilding) as a long-time licence agent for Fish and Game and that he had provided a valuable interface between licence holders and Fish and Game for many years. Council considered that his contribution to the hunting and angling community should be recognised accordingly.

It was then moved that

Philip Pearpoint be recognised for his contribution to the wider hunting and fishing community in the Manawatu and wider Wellington region.

Jim Cook/Jennifer Yanko

Carried

23. Conservation Board Liaison

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

- 15 & 16 November 2024 – Kāpiti Wellington DOC Office – 13b Wall Place, Kenepuru

24. General Business

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

25. Confirmation of Next Meeting

Following confirmation and declaration of the election results there would be a Special Meeting to confirm a Chairman of Council and a NZ Council appointee scheduled for 5 November 2024 in Palmerston North. The meeting schedule for the next calendar year would also be an agenda item including indicative dates (day of week), and potential locations.

The next scheduled General Meeting date and location was confirmed as 10 December 2024 in Palmerston North, with the Annual General Meeting also scheduled for that date at 7:00pm.

Chairman Dewar thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution, and reflected that this would be the last meeting for at least three councillors (John Hancock, Don Scott, and Colin Shore) who were not seeking re-election and acknowledged their contributions over the years.

Councillor Scott took the opportunity to thank the other Councillors for their considered opinions over his nine years on Council and had confidence in current councillors (with the infusion of new members) to continue the stewardship to progress the necessary Fish and Game structural review. He gave a valedictory statement and urged Council to consider these points moving forward:

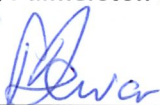
1. Apart from efforts in Wellington and Taranaki regions there has been little action from other regions in operational or governance changes to address the weaknesses outlined in the Ministerial Governance Review (2021) – which has resulted in the status quo – business-as-usual approach.
2. Reducing the number of Fish and Game regions is necessary to some degree.
3. Based on his considerable Governmental administration experience, he considered that the current Minister needed to provide direction on what action should be taken to modernise Fish and Game or acknowledge no change is necessary – in order to progress change or remove the distraction and uncertainty of change management.

4. He postulated that angling opportunities in New Zealand will continue to be put under pressure, and could diminish due to environmental degradation, changes to social license, and economic factors.
5. He considered that the future angling opportunities in Wellington Region need to also focus on put-and-take fisheries – and resource allocation needs to be assigned to give this priority.
6. He considered that a modern lens was needed to look at commercial trout fishing, to provide fishing opportunities similar to what is available in Australia and Great Britain. He noted that this is already permitted for salmon in NZ but does not understand why there is such strong opposition to these options for trout. He considered the canal fisheries in the Central South Island was an extension of the concept - in that losses of food from salmon farm operations supplemented and sustained trout populations beyond natural carrying capacity.
7. He thought that Fish and Game should actively encourage and promote more interest in fishing for perch, a species with less demanding habitat needs than trout.
8. He proposed creating a federation of fishing clubs in the Wellington Region to improve communication and collaboration with Fish and Game.
9. He considered that greater focus should be given to developing still water fishing opportunities, particularly for new, elderly, and infirm anglers, and
10. that Gold Card holders should benefit from lower licence fees (rather than the current Loyal Senior option).

He reiterated his appreciation to other councillors for their consideration and respect over his terms – and indicated that he still planned to attend council meetings in the future in order to continue promotion of still water fishing and children's/family fishing initiatives.

There were no further specific items of general business, the meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Next General Meeting to be held: Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at Hotel Coachman, 140 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North at 3.00pm.

Chairman  Date 12/12/24