

# AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton**  
**on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 commencing at 11:00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** G. Annan.

**Councillors:** N. Juby (by Zoom), C. Sherrard, B. Barnes, D. Cocks,  
E. Williamson, M. Barker, G. Dickey.

**Staff:** B. Wilson, A. Daniel, J. Dyer.

**Visitors:** P. Hardy (DOC)

**1. APOLOGIES:**

P. Shaw, T. Clark, D. Klee

It was moved;

**that apologies be accepted.**

**Cocks/Sherrard – CARRIED**

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

Nil.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022:**

Councillor Barnes stated that his explanation on the role of NZ Council committees should be amended with the addition that “Individual committees have no authority and must report back to the NZ Council”

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meetings of 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022 as amended be accepted as true and correct records.**

**Cocks/Dickey – CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Councillor Williamson raised his concern that the NZ Council letter to DOC on the review of the Wildlife Act didn't fully articulate or promote that there were differing positions between Fish & Game councils on game preserves. Councillor Williamson considered it crucial that changes to the Act did not restrict Council's ability to refuse consent for

preserves. Councillor Cocks agreed and reminded Councillors that once the new Act had been drafted it would be difficult to impose changes.

Mr Wilson emphasised that the process was not a review of the existing Act but the creation of a new Act from scratch. This would be a long process with plenty of opportunity for public input.

It was agreed that the review of the Wildlife Act would be placed on the agenda for the December meeting.

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated that he had received only two enquires from licence holders who were interested in becoming rangers. Councillor Barnes asked whether the North Shore Fly Fishers Club had been notified. Mr Wilson replied that he was unsure but would check. Councillor Dickey advised that Council's wetland groups should also be asked for potential applicants.

Councillor Williamson said that Mr Klee's report on the 2023 game regulations should be a simple report that provided clear statements on the impacts of potential changes without any regression analysis.

## **5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

The letter from the Franklin Acclimatisation Society was tabled. Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the ballot for the ponds in the McKenzie and Piggott wetlands that had been carried out the previous week by a Justice of Peace.

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

### **6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report**

Councillor Williamson congratulated Mr Klee on his excellent project on the Pungapunga Wetland, which the Councillor considered to be a good use of F&G resources.

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the issues with the ABCD Flax Block.

In reply to a question, Mr Dyer stated that he had assisted in the capture of 3-4 fernbirds in mist nets near Council's Bethell's wetland.

Dr Daniel provided further elucidation on conservation lots for access, noting that it was already Council policy that in proposed district plan proceedings, and where possible elsewhere, Council advocates for the right of landowners to receive an additional title for placing covenants across private land to allow public access to rivers, lakes and wetlands.

Dr Daniel updated Councillors on issues with the Mangatutu Stream. The adjacent landowner had requested a meeting with DOC over their refusal to lease out riparian land for farming. Dr Daniel had asked to attend the meeting.

## 6.2 Financial Statements

Mr Wilson noted that Genesis Energy had not yet paid their mitigation payment for the 2021/22 year.

It was moved;

**that the Chief Executive's Bimonthly Report and Financial Statements be accepted.**

**Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED**

## 7. **NON RESIDENT LEVY:**

After discussion, it was moved;

- **That NZ Council be informed that Council supports the status quo.**
- **That NZ Council be informed that Council recommends that prior notification of expenditure from the regional non-resident reserves is no longer desirable.**

**Cocks/Barker – CARRIED**

## 8. **NZ COUNCIL MEETING TIMETABLE:**

Councillor Williamson observed that the 9<sup>th</sup> of March was a comparatively early date for the game licences to go on sale.

It was moved;

**that Council approves the proposed meeting schedule.**

**Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED**

## 9. **NZ COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 2022:**

Mr Wilson expressed his disappointment that he had not yet received a copy of the NZ Council minutes for the August meeting. Councillor Barnes reported that he also had not received a copy of the minutes, despite being a NZ Councillor. He emphasised that NZ Councillors were also concerned at the delay in distributing the minutes.

Councillor Barnes updated Councillors on issues discussed at the NZ Council meeting including the Governance Review, where the consultative report was now with DOC, and the REM strategy that was underway. Councillor Juby congratulated Councillor Barnes for his election to the NZ Council Executive Committee.

Councillor Juby informed Councillors on the recent Chair's meeting to discuss the Governance Review. He had subsequently talked to the Northland Chair about the potential for amalgamating the two regions. Councillor Cocks stressed the importance of Northland licence holders having Council representation. Councillor Juby agreed to prepare a draft MOU on principles for amalgamation.

The meeting rose for lunch at 1:10pm and resumed at 1:40pm.

**10. POLICY REVIEW:**

It was agreed that reference to Canada Geese in policy dated 5/8/06 could be deleted as the policy had been superseded by the policy dated 5/5/2020.

It was moved;

**that Council reaffirms existing policies with amendment to policy dated 5/8/06.**

**Cocks/Barnes – CARRIED**

**11. STERILE TROUT STOCKING REPORT:**

In reply to a question, Dr Danial stated that it should be known by March 2023 whether the sterile trout stocking programme was successful. At that time, he expected that sterile fish would be larger and more numerous than their non-sterile counterparts.

**12. 2022 DRIFT DIVE SURVEYS:**

The report on the 2022 Drift Dive Surveys was tabled. Councillor Williamson recommended that a plan should be developed to manage and enhance individual priority fisheries. Such a plan would consider threats and opportunities. Councillor Barnes recommended that staff should identify priority fisheries. Mr Wilson reminded Councillors that significant fisheries had been identified in the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.

It was moved;

**that staff develop a management plan for one river fishery.**

**Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED**

The Chairman thanked Dr Daniel for his report.

**13. OSH REPORT:**

It was moved;

**that the OSH report for October 2022 is accepted.**

**Barnes/Sherrard – CARRIED**

#### **14. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Dickey tabled a list of three questions.

1. *What was the procedure for ponds being balloted?*

Mr Wilson replied that licence holders could request to be added to a list held at the office of those interested in future ballots. This request could be made, either by contacting the office, or using the on-line form on the Fish and Game website. However, Mr Wilson agreed that more publicity about ballots would be desirable and thus an article would be prepared for the next pre-season game magazine on the ballot process.

2. *Could correspondence sent out to licence holders also be sent to councillors.*

Mr Wilson agreed that this should be standard procedure.

3. *Sense of belonging – could research be carried out on the number of years licence holders have purchased a licence and maybe a 10, 20, 30-year fish and game band sent out.*

Mr Wilson regretfully reported that the licence database only went back seven years. He was however happy to produce a statistical report for a future Council meeting on licence holder churn.

Councillor Barker expressed his concern over the imposition of new national regulations and requirements for clay bird ranges. These shoots were the very important “glue” that held game hunter associations together. He noted that while the NZCTA was assisting its clubs, nothing was being done to assist Fish & Game clubs.

It was suggested that the number of clubs that still held formal shoots on non-NZCTA ranges were small. Mr Wilson also noted that the NZ Council staff had no expertise in this area. Mr Wilson agreed to discuss with staff whether this was an issue with our clubs and how we could provide assistance.

Councillor Williamson reported on the success that Shaun Everett was having using 2-door cage traps catching 3 ferrets, 1 cat, 1 possum and a hedgehog in just one week. It was agreed that this would be a good article for next year’s pre-season game magazine.

Councillor Juby provided an update on the recent Chair’s Meeting. He emphasised that most Chairs were pushing for Fish & Game to move more quickly on the Governance Review, especially in regard to amalgamations. He asked Councillors whether they were happy for him to continue attending these meetings and emphasised that his position was not to make decisions on behalf of Council.

Councillors agreed that they had no objection to Councillor Juby attending the chair meetings.

P. Hardy, A. Daniel and J. Dyer left the meeting at 2.40pm.

**15. COUNCIL GOVERNANCE REPORTS:**

It was moved;

**That further to section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely discussions on the annual Governance Report.**

**Cocks/Dickey – CARRIED**

**2.40 pm**

It was moved;

**That Council move out of committee**

**Dickey/Williamson – CARRIED**

**3.10 pm**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3:10pm.