

## **MINUTES OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bates (Chairman), Hickmott, Niblett, Williams, Lumsden, MacKay, Pinker and Elstone.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jesse Friedlander (Regional Manager), Carmel Veitch (Eastern region and NZ Council Accountant), Glenis Phillips (Minute Taker).

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Ian Fleming, Blair Slaven, Brad Pinker, Bill Beamish, Andy Newman, Graeme Joby and David Porter

### **1.0 WELCOME:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed staff, councillors and members of the public.

### **2.0 APOLOGIES:**

Councillors Gary Bowcock, Bruce Nimon, Greg Duley, and Dave Hern sent their apologies.

### **3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 November 2018)**

Cr Niblett advised councillors that he had several queries regarding the previous Minutes and changes that needed to be made and Cr Lumsden wanted a change before signing them off

### **AGREED**

***3.1 That having previously been circulated to members, the Minutes of the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council held on 6 November 2018 with the amended 5 changes set out below having been made, are a true and accurate record.***

- 8.1 (2<sup>nd</sup> point) Cr Niblett advised councillors that he would be happy to take the position. He disclosed his conflicts operating a gamebird breeding operation and preserve operator and thought that he could offer expertise with his gamebird knowledge to NZ Council, he would personally also would like to have more involvement at the governance level.
- 12.0 (2<sup>nd</sup> point) Cr Bates advised that banding results in January were used to set season limits and length. Cr Niblett advised council that the previous years banding was used to set the limits.
- 12.0 (3<sup>rd</sup> point) Council requested they be consulted by staff before the bag limits for mallards and grey duck were set at 3-4 birds due to a perceived collapse in the population prior to recommendations being sent to the minister.
- 15.1 (Extra point) Council also discussed the aerial transect counts reports. It was questioned how you could estimate the size of populations from such low total counts.
- 12.0.( 4<sup>th</sup> point) Cr Lumsden advised Councillors that it should read "Council request staff to inform Council of the summer waterfowl monitoring results if there was a sufficient change in the population prior to sending the regulations to the Minister".

Lumsden/Hickmott

#### **4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- Cr Niblett asked Cr Williams if he had managed to bring up the matter of “governance policies” at the New Zealand Council meeting as discussed at our last meeting.
- In response Cr Williams advised councillors that he did not bring the subject up under general business but there was a session on New Zealand Council policies and advised that he brought it up at this part of the meeting. The CEO and Robert Sowman said this is not a problem and Robert is to send to Christine directly, copies as requested.
- Before the NZ Council meeting, Cr Williams advised that he had already scanned through to Christine, the governance policies that he had in his portfolio. He also advised councillors that there is no specific avenue for requests, and that we the Council, need to request our staff to get in touch with NZ Council and ask for any information that is required. He went on to say that the correct protocol would be for our Manager to get in touch directly with the NZ Council.
- Cr Niblett did however point out that it is public information and Cr Williams agreed, but said that to get public information, a request should be coming from the Hawke’s Bay Fish and Game Manager in the first instance.
- Christine now has the latest governance policies from Cr Williams and a couple more to come from Robert Sowman in due course.

#### **5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Cr Lumsden brought up the subject regarding return on investment and how we ensure that we get a net gain in ducks from all the money that we invest in monitoring and wetland creation/restoration. Perhaps we can tidy up some rules on this.

This subject has been touched on briefly at previous meetings, but we need to frame it and sort out how we manage the process. Looking at our financial investment last year, it is huge on habitat creation and protection but what do our licence holders get back out of it. We need to ensure that we have a positive gain and we actually breed ducks. Cr Bates asked Jesse and Tom to have a think about this and Jesse to put in meeting papers to have a discussion at our next meeting.

#### **6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

The Conflict of Interest Register was passed around for councillors to sign.

Councillors are to disclose any Conflict or potential Conflict of Interest, record it in the Interest Register, and Council agrees on how to deal with any Conflict of Interest raised. The register is to be signed at each meeting by all Councillors regardless of whether Councillors have a conflict of interest or not.

#### **7.0 2017-2018 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Carmel Veitch gave an over-view of the 2017-2018 performance report and joined in Council discussion on questions and answers.

- Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council posted a profit of \$24,828 for the year against a budgeted loss of \$17,400. Carmel advised Council that the main reason for this is really having reduced costs and the reason for that is that we did not have staff members for part of the season – some salaries were not paid and then some work wasn't done
- The Chairman queried Carmel's statement and said that we did have staff but not a paid Manager – extra people were taken on, on a part-time basis. A salary was saved because Cr Bates had stepped in as Manager (unpaid) until such time as a new Regional Manager was appointed. He said there are items in the outputs that were underspent – quite a few were overspent as well, so it evens out.
- Cr Williams asked if this is going to make it troublesome in the contestable funding round and Carmel advised Council that you basically need to spend your budget in order to have a good chance of getting additional funding
- Generally everything else was to budget – interest was nicely over budget by \$3,000 – Christine is doing positive work and is ensuring that money is being moved around so that interest is maximised
- Grants and Donations – that \$31,000 basically relates to money spent on RMA that New Zealand Council funded. Hawke's Bay Fish and Game pay for the legal costs and New Zealand Council reimburse. It looks like a big spend in habitat protection but there is also an income received that offsets it.
- Looking at the Statement of Financial Position – it is a healthy balance sheet – investments \$313,000, liabilities are down – net increase in our assets over the year
- Cr Niblett acknowledged to council that it was the efforts of Cr Bruce and the staff that we got a budget like this at the end of the day- it has saved us a lot of money and has ticked most of the boxes
- With the profit made this year, (around \$20,000), (we were projected to make a loss) - this is now in the Bank.
- Carmel talked to councillors about the Statement of Service Performance – this is an area which is possibly changing going forward. She said we have had the Office of the Auditor General tell all Fish and Game regions that the information being provided is “rubbish” and they want all regions to “up their game” on it. Consultants have been talking with us and what they want in the Statement of Service Performance is for us to show the impact of what we do. It will probably change how we do our Operational Workplan. Hopefully we will have some more guidelines for our February meeting on how we are going to change things.
- Cr Bates explained to councillors that what this means is that our staff are going to be spending more time reporting on what they have done in a day. Cr Bates talked about the Chairmans report this year – the idea this year was to write about what we have done for the licence holder rather than just what we had done, so it is a major change and will impact on our staff and how they do their work. Carmel said it will probably be easier but in hindsight you still need all the information behind it to prove what we have done and then we have to prove the impact so more surveys will be needed. Basically it is all about accountability - we have to be accountable to our licence holders. It will be more work for our staff of 3 people as compared to bigger regions who have staff of 15 plus. Things will have to be written up fairly quickly as you won't be able to leave it until the end of the week. Cr Bates advised councillors that

having been through an audit, it is a major thing and each year it takes up a lot of time – i.e. just the financial audit.

## **8.0 2019 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**

Cr Bates advised councillors that everyone has had an opportunity as it was the last chance to do anything regarding changes. Cr Bates asked councillors if there was any discussion required before signing off on this.

Recommendations have been made but everyone has got until the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 to put things in before the conditions will be gazetted.

### **AGREED**

***8.1 That Council adopts the 2019 Hawke's Bay Game Bird Conditions attached. Subject to monitoring of mallard & grey duck paradise shelduck, and black swam (if the January monitoring reveals there is a significant collapse in the populations council authorise staff to reduce the bag limit to restricted threshold criteria).***

Pinker/Lumsden

## **9.0 HUNTING RESERVES**

Cr Bates and Niblett said they both have a conflict of interest on this matter but a motion was moved for this discussion to go ahead with input from these two councillors.

### **AGREED**

***9.1 That Cr Bates and Cr Niblett although having a conflict of interest, be allowed to have input into this discussion.***

Williams/Pinker

Cr Bates asked councillors if they received an e-mail yesterday evening from Robert Sowman and noted that this council have another meeting before the deadline for this (29<sup>th</sup> March 2019). He went on to say we are a region with 4 preserves and New Zealand Council are asking all those on councils to make a decision about preserves with no information. No paper has been put forward, so he is wondering if we can get our staff to write a small report and then at least we will have something to discuss. Making a decision with no information is not a wise move, so rather than voting on anything at this stage, it would be better for us to get some information on

- How many people use them in our region
- The make-up of each of the preserves and how they are run – whether they are commercial, private, syndicate, how they are made up – just some background information on each of the preserves, and whether we approach the reserve owners or managers to come and talk to us about their preserves so that we have more insight

Some of the councillors acknowledged that they did not know a lot about preserves so Jesse to write a paper and answer some of the above questions. Some councillors were not prepared to support something that they know little about. The feeling around the table was that a lot of the questions were open-ended from Robert and a lot was left open to interpretation.

Cr Williams gave some insight around NZ Council and what they are wanting from regions. New Zealand Council are wanting direction from regions and especially information from preserves. The CEO has written to all preserve owners just asking for comments at this stage. It was discussed that NZ Council were not going to consult with preserve owners until they were instructed that it was necessary by the Minister of Conservation.

Cr. Williams stated that he had been told the NZ Council may have purposefully not asked for a legal opinion on the legality of pheasant preserves originally as it was known that in fact they are illegal. There was general discussion around the fact that councillors had assumed that pheasant preserves were legal because there were specific regulations applying solely to preserves.

- Jesse to write up a paper on how preserves are run here
- Organise a trip to look at a preserve – Jeff to organise

More clarity is required before a decision can be made by the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.

Cr Bates said Jesse will put a report on local preserves together and perhaps we will send that to NZ Council and some of the other councils around the regions.

## **10. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **NZ Council:**

NZ Council meeting was held Friday afternoon 23-25 November 2018 at Eastern Offices in Rotorua.

- There was a hatchery visit on Saturday and a field trip to BOP wetlands and Lake Tarawera Fishery. On Sunday there was a public excluded meeting and in the afternoon the meeting was addressed by Acting Deputy Director of Conservation Mervyn English.
- 11 people make up the new council following election
- RMA requests for funding – Otago request for 180K for environmental court hearings on irrigation consents from historical mining privileges on Linus river were approved from reserves
- Southland request for 84K for legal advice and expert witness for hearings on Southland regional Council proposed water and land plan
- New Bequests and Donations policy following problem stemming from bequest handling North Canterbury audit

- Proposed code of practice for game bird hunting – written by Helen Trotter Otago and submitted to New Zealand Council for consideration and circulated to regions for comment
- Guides Licence – the continuing saga since 2011 to licence fishing and hunting guides. DOC has produced a draft consultation paper for interested parties including Regional Fish and Game Managers
- Fish and Game Elections 2018
- A few interesting statistics – nine regions had enough candidates for an election – 56 new councillors nationwide
- Trout farming – New Zealand Council have received a letter from the Primary Production Committee saying they have received a petition from an aquaculturalist in Nelson to allow trout farming. Robert Sowman has prepared a submission against this.

### **Te Kaha Hawaikirangi Conservation Board:**

- The Board has completed its 2019 annual report and will be publicised through the DOC website once processed
- Two board members time was up, and of the 14 persons who applied for the conservation board role, one of the original board members was welcomed back on the board for a second rotation. The board members on the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board sits at 7.
- Both the CMS and Nga Whakahaere Takirua (Ngati Porou plan) must be finalised at the same time and it is anticipated that both documents will be submitted to the Minister next year.
- 26-27 October the Conservation Board held its quarterly meeting at Maungataniwha station to see first-hand the results of their successful relationship with DOC. Over 3,500 hectares of the Maungataniwha Pine Forest have been logged since 2006 and are now being re-converted back to native forest by landowner Simon Hall who is Chairman of the Forest Lifeforce Restoration Trust.

## **11.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

### **11.1 Management Report**

Cr Williams asked about the plan for the Fish and Game Farm site and said it was a very comprehensive proposal with just under ½ hectare of lake. He wanted to know what the programme is for looking into the future.

Jesse requires feedback on this from councillors and there is a plan (page 29 of the Papers for Information) which was set out in the OWP budget to look at development options for the Game Farm. *Zorn Surveying* have come in and looked at a couple of options for a wetland and fish-out area in the maize paddock area.

Cr Bates gave councillors a bit of history on this site – originally, we had joint management, we made reasonable savings and we had some money, so the decision was made as a council whether to sell the site and have an office in town or if we want to keep the site that was left

through the Acclimatisation Society, to do something with it. Council needs to have a budget to work with and once we have that we can then make a decision as to what we are going to do.

Jesse has sent the plans in to Irrigation Services to get a quote for earthworks so he can get back to council when he has these costings. Jesse needs to get more costings and once he has them then he can present to council and we can then make a decision. A maintenance budget as well is required

Jesse advised council that they have been working with regional council science teams on trying to identify sites around CHB - they are looking at identifying sites that they can put in some pretty significant amounts of money into creating wetlands. HBRC is wanting to use the sites as study areas to determine the quantity of nutrients that can be extracted from catchments by creating wetlands in strategic locations.

### **11.1 Management Report**

**AGREED**

*11.1.1 That Council accepts the Management Report*

Lumsden/Williams

### **11.2 Health and Safety Report**

**AGREED**

*11.2.1 That Council accepts the Health and Safety Report*

Williams/Niblett

### **11.3 Finance Report**

**AGREED**

*11.3.1 That the payments for September 2018 and October 2018 be approved totalling \$79,610.99 as per Tables 4 and 5.*

September 2018 – Table 4	\$52,011.53
October 2018 – Table 5	\$27,599.37
TOTAL to approve	\$79,610.90

**AGREED**

*11.3.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance & cash flow for the 2018-2019 financial year with Deficit of \$6,479, and approves the purchase of fixed assets valued at \$35,000.*

Williams/Lumsden

## 11.4 Licence report

2018-2019 Fish Licence Sales; -

- 11.4.1 Licence sales for the 2018-2019 season YTD are summarised in Table One.
- 11.4.2 Sales are reported to be 1.4% above fish licences issued for the same period last year
- 11.4.3 Nationally the YTD fish licence sales for the new 2018-2019 season is -53% behind the 2017-2018 results for the same period.

### AGREED

#### *11.4.1 That the Council accepts the Licence Sales Report*

Williams/Mackay

*At this point a motion was put forward to temporarily close this meeting so that we can get on with the AGM and then we will come back to the Public Excluded Session with all councillors and the Regional Manager only in attendance.*

*Unanimously Agreed*

## 12.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

It was agreed that the public and Fish and Game staff (apart from the Regional Manager) be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the audit of Hawkes Bay Fish and Game.

## 13.0 MEETING CLOSES

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.58pm.

## CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN



DATE

19 / 2 / 19



## **SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS**

### **3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 November 2018)**

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