

**MINUTES OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY THE 11 AUGUST 2020 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Bates (Chairman), Niblett, Williams, Lumsden, MacKay,
Pinker, Elstone, Hern

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jesse Friedlander (Regional Manager), Steve Doughty (NZC)

WELCOME:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed staff, councillors and Steve Doughty to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors Duley, Nimon, Hickmott and Bowcock sent their apologies.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9 June 2020)

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 the 9th June 2020 are a true and accurate record.

Niblett/Mackay

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cr. Williams enquired whether Cr. Bates, Cr. Duley and Jesse had met with Maungahururu Tangitu regarding further releases of trout into Lake Tūtira. Jesse has met with the General Manager of MTT however as yet no agreement has been reached on further releases of trout into the lake.

Cr. Williams requested an update on permits for releases of small numbers of gamebirds. Jesse has approached DOC and requested that they look in to whether Hawke's Bay Fish and Game could be delegated the authority to issue permits for small releases of gamebirds. This would aid those who would like to supplement wild populations on their own properties as the process is currently costly and time consuming. Jesse will follow up again, however at this point he has not heard back after the initial conversations.

Some Fish and Game Councils are issuing permits, however it is thought that this is unlawful. NZC therefore needs to formulate policy on this.

5.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr. Bates put forward the following topics to be discussed in general Business:

- The Review of the Fish and Game organisation (date the reviewers will meet Hawke's Bay staff and Council is confirmed as the 2nd October).
- The next NZC meeting. Cr. Bates has been invited to speak at the meeting on the audit of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.
- The wage subsidy received by Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.
- The arrangement around the staff house currently leased to the manager.
- Councillor conduct.
- Policies including the update of Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council policies.
- Upland game preserves.
- Fish farming.

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict of interest register was passed around and signed by all councillors present.

7.0 GUEST SPEAKER STEVE DOUGHTY

Steve Doughty (Business Development Manager NZC) gave a presentation on R3 principles (recruit, retain, reactivate) and how the strategy is being implemented at a national level. The talk was well received, and Council thanked Steve for his time.

8.0 2020/2021 Operational Work Plan

- 4.1 *That Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2020-2021 year subject to the inclusion of any amendments agreed to at this meeting, and;*
- 4.2 *That Council delegates authority to the Regional Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget.*

9.0 EVALUATION OF COUNCIL

That Council resolves to discuss at the next meeting the results of evaluation forms sent out to Councillors collated by Cr. Bates.

Niblett/Hern

10.0 REVIEW OF MANAGERS PERFORMANCE

That Crs. Bates, Mackay and Elstone make up the committee to conduct the annual review of managers performance for the 2019/2020 year.

Williams/Lumsden

11.0 LIASION OFFICERS REPORTS

Cr. Duley could not be at this meeting of Council as he is in the South Island. Cr. Williams objects to Cr. Duley's absence from our Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council meetings as he is The Hawke's Bay NZC appointee.

12.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

Jesse provided Council with an update on the TANK plan change process. The draft submission prepared by staff has been circulated to Council for comment.

Tukituki leaders forum meetings have continued with a focus on water storage options in Central Hawke's Bay. The most recent meeting was based around evaluation of water storage options, one of which was the failed Ruitaniwha scheme. After this, two members of the forum (local representatives of Forest and Bird) stood down from the group. Council would like staff to remain in the group and be part of the decision-making process.

12.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Debbie Mair visited Hawke's Bay to conduct a review of our health and safety practices and policy. All recommendations made by Debbie have been actioned by staff, however there may be further recommendations once she has reviewed other regions.

That Council Accepts this health and safety report

Niblett/Mackay

12.3 FINANCE REPORT

Discussion centred around whether the 12-week wage subsidy should be paid back. The subsidy was applied for as income was down and it was uncertain whether there would be a gamebird hunting season. Income over the specified period was low enough to merit keeping the wage subsidy, however it is for Council to decide.

That Council agrees to keep the wage subsidy but review this decision at each bi-monthly meeting until a final decision is reached on whether to pay back or keep the money.

Williams/Hern

That the payments for 1 May to 30 June 2020 totalling \$57,995.06 be approved as per Table 5.

That the Finance report be accepted for the 10 months ended 30 June 2020.

Lumsden/Pinker

12.4 LICENCE REPORT

That Council accepts the licence sales report

Mackay/Hern

13.0 ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Upland game preserves.**

Cr. Bates provided Council an update on pheasant preserves. It was discussed that the NZC paper on preserves lacks balance and does not discuss the positives of preserves in terms of getting people into the sport. Cr. Williams disagreed with this, stating that pheasant preserves are illegal under the current law and the NZC paper presents options to address this. There was disagreement around whether preserves are illegal under the wildlife act as the legal opinion from Geoffery Palmer (which takes this view) has not been tested in court.

The NZC paper assumes that on a commercial preserve, upland gamebirds are the property of the landowner. Crs. Niblett and Bates disagree with this as preserve permits state that once released, pheasants are gamebirds under schedule 1 or wildlife under schedule 3 and therefore owned by the public.

It was questioned where the evidence was to back up the statement in the NZC paper regarding the probable starvation of many thousands of preserve pheasants. There is no evidence to support this.

Cock birds have been collected at the end of past seasons on Hawke's Bay preserves and banded/released on public rivers. 25% of these birds were shot and bands returned. As many hunters are known not to return bands, this shows that there is a high survival rate of preserve reared pheasants.

The paper puts forward the idea that commercialisation of pheasant preserves puts the entire Fish and Game resource in jeopardy, however the paper on trout farming also included in the NZC agenda appears to contradict this.

It was requested that Council conduct an informal vote on the options set out in the NZC paper. Cr. Williams preferred option 1. Cr. Mackay option 2. Cr. Elstone would like further information than this to answer. Cr. Hern is very unhappy with the NZC paper but did not give a preferred option. Crs. Pinker, Bates and Niblett did not give a preferred option. Cr. Lumsden prefers 4,3 and 2 in that order.

As Council has no clear preferred option as a whole, Cr. Bates suggested that Council simply write to NZC expressing its dissatisfaction with the NZC paper on preserves. There was general agreement with this.

- **The Review of the Fish and Game organisation (date the reviewers will meet Hawke's Bay staff and Council is confirmed as the 2nd October).**
Discussion centred around the date and that Cr. Hern will be unable to be there in person.
- **The next NZC meeting. Cr. Bates has been invited to speak at the meeting on the audit of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.**
It was discussed that Council would have preferred a full Council-Council meeting and this is what had been requested by the Hawke's Bay F&G Council. Cr. Bates will mention this at the meeting.

- **The wage subsidy received by Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.**
Discussed during the Finance Report.
- **The arrangement around the staff house currently leased to the manager.**
To be discussed in public excluded.
- **Councillor conduct.**
Cr. Bates reminded Councillors to keep email communication polite. The recent comments made by an Eastern F&G Councillor recently are unacceptable and unhelpful when trying to get women into our sports.
- **Policies including the update of Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council policies.**
Cr. Bates questioned whether there are any policies in particular that Council would like to look at updating. Cr. Williams stated that he was disappointed that his comments were not included to NZC on the communications strategy and reserves policy. Jesse had provided NZC feedback based on the majority view of Council as per feedback received. In future if comments are requested then they will be included in feedback to NZC.
- **Fish farming**
It was discussed that if trout are to be farmed, Fish and Game should be involved in this as per the NZC paper. There was disagreement on this and whether Fish and Game should support trout farming.

At this point it was resolved *that Council enters the public excluded section of the meeting while allowing Jesse Friedlander and Steve Doughty to remain in the room.*

Elstone/Pinker

(8.35pm).

That the public section of the meeting resumes.

Mackay/Pinker

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00pm.



.....

Bruce Bates

20-10-20

Date