

**MINUTES OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 17 August 2021 AT 6:00PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors Bates (Chairman), Niblett, Williams, Lumsden, MacKay, Bowcock, Duley (via audio-conference)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jesse Friedlander (Regional Manager), Sam Robinson (Governance Advisor)

1 Welcome (6.00 PM)

Cr. Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those in attendance that the meeting would be audio-recorded.

2 Apologies

Apologies received from Cr.s Nimon, Hern and Elstone

3 Minutes of the previous meeting (9th June)

There is a small numbering discrepancy. 9.1 should read 10.1

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 8th June 2021 are a true and accurate record with the above change noted.

Bowcock/Mackay

4 Matters Arising

Nothing tabled

5 Notification of Items of General Business

- Using backcountry fisheries reserve for purchasing of toilets for fishing spots lacking facilities.-Cr. Bates
- Access to our region's rivers for hunting-Cr. Mackay
- Purchasing of a video conference setup for Council meetings and to aid staff in light of likely future amalgamations-Cr. Mackay

6 Conflict of Interest Register

The conflict of interest register was passed around and signed. Sam Robinson declared a conflict as a director of Brownrigg Agriculture as the company is mentioned in relation to access issues in the management report.

7 Health & Safety Report

*That Council accepts the health and safety report
Williams/Mackay*

8 Approval of the 2020/21 Operational Work Plan

Jesse provided an update on the changes to the hours budget. Nick Page (Field Officer) has notified us that he will be taking unpaid leave when his baby is born and afterwards as a primary caregiver. Christine has now taken over the role of bi-monthly finance reports and is cleaning the office regularly. The hours budget has been modified accordingly. All direct costs have remained the same.

4.1 That Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2021-2022 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.

Niblett/Bowcock

9 Annual Review of Managers Performance

In the past we have had two Councillors plus the Chair undertake this review along with Digby Livingstone (HR professional). It was suggested that the review continue in this format.

That Council convene a committee consisting of the Chairman, Cr. Bowcock and Cr. Mackay to conduct a review of the Managers performance.

Williams/Niblett

10 Threshold Management of Waterfowl in the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region

Discussion centred around the ineffectiveness of bag limits as a way of regulating waterfowl populations. Season length can have a greater effect as shooting paired-up waterfowl will undoubtedly have a negative impact on population size.

Bag limits are currently set based on population estimates. Council does not have a high level of confidence in the population estimates generated via banding and aerial trend counts. It is therefore prudent to set season conditions for a longer period of time (subject to change if monitoring shows drastic population change). This will avoid changing season conditions annually based on population estimates Council does not have confidence in.

That Council sets a season length of eight weeks and an eight bird-per day limit for mallards for future seasons. Season conditions are to be revisited if monitoring suggests a large change has occurred within the population. Williams/Bowcock

That the season conditions for paradise duck matches that of mallard. Niblett/Mackay

That season length for hunting of black swan matches that of mallard with a 3 bird per day bag limit. Mackay/Williams

11 Liaison Officers Reports

Cr. Duley had previously distributed the most recent draft NZC minutes to Council. Discussion centred around the vote on pheasant preserves. The vote was 7-4, although another councillor who could not attend had also indicated support for the majority view.

12 Operational Reports

12.1 Management Report

Jesse provided an update on access issues within the region including a large cycleway development in Central Hawke's Bay.

12.2 Finance Report

Discussion around court costs and fines issued to those who broke the rules while hunting this past gamebird season.

That the payments for May and April 2021 totalling \$61,478.12 be approved

That the finance report be accepted for the two months ended 30 June 2021

Mackay/Bowcock

12.3 Licence Report

That Council accepts the licence report

Niblett/Mackay

13. Public Excluded Meeting

It was noted that one of the reasons for entering public excluded (TANK plan change submission) was incorrect.

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on updates on the Ministerial review of Fish and Game.

Mackay/Bowcock

7:30pm

That the public meeting resumes.

Bowcock/Niblett

7:45pm

General Business

Staff are instructed to approach Regional/District Councils regarding providing of toilets at certain fishing areas to prevent degradation of popular areas and loss of access through private land.

It was suggested that governor-governor meetings be set up between our Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council and Regional/district Councillors. Regional councillors are likely unaware of access issues for our region's hunters and anglers. As river corridors are shared spaces, there should be some middle ground to allow for safe hunting in these areas.

Staff are instructed to present options at the next meeting of Council for purchasing of a video-conference system. Initial investigations suggest that this may cost around \$2,000.

14 Meeting closes

8:00pm



Bruce Bates - Chairman

2 Nov 2021

Date