

# **HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 8th December 2020 AT 6.00 PM**

### **PRESENT:**

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Bowcock, Duley, Elstone, Lumsden, MacKay, Niblett and Williams.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

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

### **PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Steve Perfect

### **APOLOGIES**

Cr. Hern, Wayne Taylor (East Coast Conservation Board)

### **WELECOME**

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

Cr. Bates has received a letter of resignation from Tony Hickmott. Tony is now not a Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Councillor.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was noted that the invite to Paul Shortis to attend a future meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council should be extended to the new NZC Chair, Ray Grubb.

*That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 are a true and accurate record.*

*Bowcock/Niblett (20/12/3)*

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

The conflict of interest register was signed by all Councillors present. No conflicts were tabled.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

At this point Cr. Bates informed everyone that the order of the agenda would be changed as we are short on time.

Cr. Mackay tabled Councillor Attendance as an item to be discussed in General Business.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The health and safety report was brought forward in line with advice from Sam Robinson (Governance Advisor). This shows the importance of health and safety in our workplace.

*That the Health and Safety Report be accepted*

*Lumsden/Mackay (20/12/18.2)*

## **APPOINTMENT OF A GOVERNANCE ADVISOR**

- Cr. Bates met with Sam Robinson and Paul Shortis after the last meeting of Council. Paul was happy with Sam as a governance advisor to the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. As Paul Shortis is no longer NZC Chair, Cr. Bates has also asked Ray Grubb (NZC Chair) whether he approves Sam as a choice for this role. Ray has given his approval also.
- Council will employ Sam to attend meetings, read meeting papers and provide input and advice on governance matters for the next year.
- Sam has listed his interests as listed below:  
Te Maire Farm. Shareholder and director  
Brownrigg Agriculture. Director  
NZ Young Farmers. Director  
Silver Fern Farms. Director  
MPI. Member Independent Compensation Claims Panel (for M.Bovis compensation)
- Sam has also had previous involvement with the Ruitaniwha storage scheme.
  1. *That Council approve the appointment of Sam Robinson as Governance Advisor to the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.*
  2. *That Council approve additional expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year in order to pay for Sam Robinson's attendance of meetings and reading of meeting papers.*  
*Lumsden/Mackay (20/12/7)*

## **EVALUATION OF COUNCIL**

- Sam Robinson has provided a different evaluation form which may be better than our old form.
- Disagreement on this as Councillors have spent time already filling in our regular form. The evaluation has also been put off and Council has a statutory obligation to evaluate itself annually.
- Sam will send out the new evaluation form for Councillors to fill in and will compile results for the next meeting

*That Council agrees to complete the new Council evaluation form and discuss results at the next meeting.*

*Bowcock/Niblett. (20/12/10)*

## **ADOPTION OF THE 2019/2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

*That Council adopts the performance report for the 2019-2020 year.*

*Elstone/Niblett (20/12/8)*

## **2021 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**

- Cr. Bates voiced concern around hunting in built up areas (e.g pheasant hunting around popular cycleways).
- We don't want to close off access but need to be proactive in identifying areas where hunting poses a risk to the public.
- If hunting access in certain areas needs to be limited, there may be an option to work with HBRC on improving hunting access in lower-use areas.
- At this point, Cr. Duley entered the meeting.

*That Council instructs staff to identify areas where public access hunting may be unsafe and is to report back to Council with findings.*

*Bowcock/Niblett (20/12/9)*

- Cr. Williams would like an 8-week mallard season.
- Cr. Niblett has sent research papers to Councillors as requested in the last meeting. Research suggests adult female mallards are primarily shot towards the end of the season, thereby impacting future breeding seasons.

*That the Manager is to look into available research on the optimal timing of hunting seasons and report back to Council.*

*Mackay/Elstone*

*That Hawke's Bay Game Season Conditions for the 2021 season will remain the same as those of the 2020 season.*

*Lumsden/Duley (20/12/9)*

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON USE OF DATA COLLECTED THROUGH SALES OF LICENCES BETWEEN NZ COUNCIL AND REGIONAL FISH AND GAME COUNCILS**

- Discussion centred around the differences between the two versions of the document. The original version was drafted by NZC staff. An amended version has been provided by Phil Teal (Wellington Fish and Game) after consultation with Managers. *That Council agree that the amended version of the MOU is to be recommended to the NZ Fish and Game Council*

*Niblett/Lumsden (20/12/14)*

## **NATIONAL POLICY ON THE ACCUMULATION, MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF RESERVES WITHIN FISH AND GAME**

- It was clarified that at this stage, this is a discussion document rather than a draft policy.
- It may be more appropriate to designate a minimum dollar value for each region to keep in reserves rather than a percentage figure.
- Smaller regions require a larger percentage of their operational budgets held in reserves than larger regions.
- Cashflow would become an issue in a smaller region such as ours with 30% reserves.

- We currently have 144% of our operational budget held in reserves. This is due to our work to increase licence sales and frugality over a number of years. It is important that the reserves policy does not disincentivise good financial behaviour.

*That the above points are provided as feedback to NZC on the Policy on the Accumulation, Management and Application of Reserves Within Fish and Game (20/12/15)*

#### **IWI AND HAPŪ ENGAGEMENT**

- Cr. Bates and Jesse will meet with a member of the community in the coming weeks who may be able to advise on our relationships with Iwi and Hapū.
- Sam Robinson suggested that this is very proactive and is a positive step for Council to take.
- Cr. Bates and Jesse will provide an update at the next meeting.

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

*That the payments for September and October 2020 totalling \$71,411.78 be approved.  
Duley/Lumsden*

*That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2020-2021 financial year.*

*Lumsden/Niblett*

*That the Finance Report be accepted for the 2 months ended 31 October 2020.  
Lumsden/Niblett*

#### **LICENSING REPORT**

*Council accepts the licence report*

*Mackay/Williams (20/12/18.3)*

#### **WAGE SUBSIDY**

- Cr. Bates talked about the importance of making a decision on this now as it has an impact on our budget in this financial year.
- Cr. Williams moved *That the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council pays back the wage subsidy* Seconded C.r Bates. Lost
- Discussion on the need to wait and see the full effects of Covid.
- *Cr. Duley moved That Council keeps the wage subsidy but makes a final decision on whether to keep or pay back the money at the end of this (2020/21) financial year.*

*Duley/Bowcock Passed (20/12/13)*

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Discussion centred around the inventory of plants now kept which are grown on-site at the Game Farm.

*That the management report is accepted*

*Williams/Mackay (20/12/18.1)*

## LIASON REPORTS

- Cr. Duley provided Council with an update from the last NZ Council meeting. The issues around 'exclusive capture' were discussed and the potential impact of not opening waters on Iwi organisations who derive income from leasing hunting/fishing blocks.
- There has been a lot of misinformation around trout farming. NZC resolved to get research done on the impacts of trout farming, not support it. The most recent NZC decision clarifies this position.
- NZC has changed its position on upland game preserves and has now opted to support option 1 (as outlined in the DOC briefing paper) with a 5-year phase out period ending at the close of the 2025 game season.
- This give 5 years to look at different options. Non-commercial preserves are not affected by this decision.
- Paul Shortis has resigned as Chair of NZC due to personal reasons. Ray Grubb is now NZC Chair.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr. Mackay brought up the fact that some Councillors have missed a lot of our meetings. This is unacceptable Councillors should make every effort to attend all meetings as they have a responsibility to our licenceholders.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm**



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**HBFG Chairman – Bruce Bates**

9 Feb 2021

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**Date**