

# WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2015 AT 3.10PM AT MASTERTON COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 398 QUEENS STREET, MASTERTON.

1. **Present:**

Chairman Strato Cotsilinis, Councillors Chris O'Meara, Andy Tannock,  
Andrew Morris, Simon Muckley, Brad Johnson, Jim Cook

2. **In Attendance:**

Staff: Phil Teal (Manager), Steve Pilkington, Hamish Carnachan

Licenceholder: Mark Flaws, John Pansters (part)

Conservation Board: Don Adams

3. **Apologies:**

Councillors Richard Moore, Eric Neumann, Steve Pilkington (for lateness)  
Staff: Corina Jordan

**It was then moved that:**

*the apologies be accepted.*

**Jim Cook/Simon Muckley**

Carried

4. **Public Participation**

Chairman Cotsilinis welcomed members of the public arrived and invited  
them to address the meeting with any specific issues for Council to consider.

5. **Conflicts of Interest**

A list was available for viewing of the existing declarations of Conflicts of  
Interest. No further updates were added to the register.

6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 9 June 2015:**

After a brief discussion it was moved that:

*the Minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 9 June 2015 be  
approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

**Jim Cook/Andy Tannock**

Carried

It was then moved that

*the in-committee minutes of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 9  
June 2015 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings  
of that meeting.*

**Jim Cook/Andy Tannock**

Carried

7. **Matters Arising**

Mr Teal gave a review of the completed action points resulting from Council meeting 9 June 2015 including:

- an update of the progress and implications of health and safety legislation that provided more clarity that the landholders duty to manage and control the farm doesn't apply to recreational users coming onto farm land; a joint public statement from Federated Farmers and Fish & Game provided public awareness of this point;
- an update that access for hunters onto Pencarrow lakes progressed well with GWRC ranger reports being positive, as were comments from the management committee Te Roopu Tiaki;
- an update of the Fish in Schools programme with schools participating giving positive comments about the experience, including parents, and positive press obtained. Additional schools have indicated interest in participating as a result of the published article. It is anticipated that most trout from these projects would be released into local waterways in October or early November. There was some variance in the requirements to help teachers responsible for the project ó ranging from totally independent to intensive time commitments and action. The Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club has also expressed interest in seeking sponsorship for at least one further unit based in the Manawatu area;
- Mr Carnachan noted that an additional site for youth fishing had been identified at Kaitoke Gardens & Café ó with the owners indicating a positive response to the concept of children fishing area ó (either as children only fishing or a more focused two special fishing days). This will be formalised in an memorandum of understanding;
- Mr Carnachan also clarified that the Royal Wellington Golf Club were still interested their pond being supplemented with additional trout - Fish & Game staff are awaiting confirmation of the memorandum of understanding.

8. **NZ Council Business**

Councillor Morris provided a brief overview of issues discussed by NZ Council at its meeting held on 24-25 July 2015.

Councillor Morris noted that the discussion occurred on the implications of the Ruataniwha decision, and how the proponents are planning to òlive with the decisionö in the implementation of any plan change implications.

Councillor Morris gave an overview of three representatives from the Walking Access Commission meeting NZ Council and their current role and direction. They informed NZ Council that they were not informed by the Overseas Investment Office (as a matter of course) of potential issues regarding land purchases that may affect public access. There had been general agreement

that the mapping system is very good and useful for recreational users. They conceded that the Walking Access Commission did not have a large budget, and their approach was focused on more gentle negotiations. The Commission is up for review in the near future.

There was brief discussion on paper roads on the West Coast that were potentially being blocked off for access on adjoining property by the local District Council ó that had received some publicity recently in the media. PANZ and Federation of Freshwater Anglers were interested in this issue, as were the regional Fish & Game Council.

Councillor Morris also related that Lou Sanson (Director General of Department of Conservation) also attended the meeting. He noted several issues:

- o Attendance of DoC staff at regional Fish & Game meetings could be better;
- o Permitting of large scale gamebird breeding should be communicated better to Fish & Game.

Councillor Morris indicated that following a visit from Eastern region councillors that Hawkeø Bay F&GC were looking at an option for the Eastern region manager to be acting Manager.

Councillor Morris noted that Northland Fish & Game had sought to purchase a 35ha wetland from the residual dedicated reserve funds.

After further discussion it was moved that  
It was then moved that

*The report from Councillor Morris (as Wellington Region's appointee for NZ Council) on the NZ Council Meeting 24-25 July 2015 be received and accepted*

**Simon Muckley/Andy Tannock**

Carried

**9. Draft Annual Plan**

Mr Teal gave an overview of the draft Annual Plan considered after the internal budgeting process and subsequent confirmation of the recommended licence fee by the Minister of Conservation.

After brief discussion it was moved that

*The draft Annual Plan for Wellington Fish & Game Council for the 2015/16 Financial Year be adopted*

**Andrew Morris/Andy Tannock**

Carried

10. **Draft Sports Fish & Game Bird Management Plan**

Mr Teal gave an update on the progress of additional work that had been undertaken on the draft Management Plan to ensure resource description was appropriate, before seeking confirmation of final document prior to going to full public consultation.

11. **Treatment of Non-Resident Licence Fee Income**

Council considered a letter from NZ Council (Mr Sowman, Policy and Planning Manager) dated 7 August 2015 *Non-Resident Fishing Licence Revenue*.

Don Adams sought clarification as to the non-resident status and eligibility,

The merits of the two suggested treatments on how to deal with the extra funds generated from the Non-Resident fishing revenue were discussed - namely: ring fencing expenditure via a regional dedicated fund versus a centrally collected dedicated fund available by application.

In his absence, Mr Teal read out the comments contained in an email from Councillor Neumann regarding this issue. Council considered that regional F&G councils should have the flexibility to spend this money as they see fit, as they already do a good and efficient job with this in their respective regions.

It was moved that

*Wellington Fish & Game Council's preference is for the "additional" revenue from non-resident licence sales be ring fenced and put into a dedicated fund by each region.*

**Andrew Morris/Chris O'Meara**

Carried

It was noted that the Minister of Conservation had stated in a letter (dated 9 September 2012) that *any increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries.* Council considered that regions should respect this direction given by the Minister. They also considered that wider definition of *backcountry fisheries* as defined by the NZ Council in July 2014 is more appropriate than the definition and designations provided by the Forms and Fees Notice.

It was considered that any specific criteria for utilising dedicated reserves could be determined by each regional Fish & Game council at a later date.

Mr Pansters arrived at 3.45p.m.

12. **Consideration of Request for Tenkara Style Fishing**

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the request from an international guide to Southland Fish & Game Council to allow clients to use tenkara style fishing techniques. Discussion ensued on the technique including its similarity to short line Czech nymphing which was very effective and currently allowed. Discussion ensued on the responses from other regions on the topic with their concerns inferring that it may open more waterways for coarse fish introductions. It was agreed that Wellington F&G Council had no objection to tenkara style fishing being considered for changes to the First Schedule of the fishing regulations in subsequent years.

13. **Upland Game Property**

Mr Cook confirmed a potential conflict of interest, and was allowed to participate in discussions but could not vote on any resolutions.

Mr Teal gave an overview of three sites of all of which are existing but need to confirm their intentions for the upcoming season.

**Te Para Hut** of this would continue to operate as per previous years;

**Rathmoy Game Preserve** of minimum numbers (1000) were released this year and confirmation was required on continuance and, if so, future release numbers;

**Waituna Game Preserve** of intention to continue for at least three years and release red-legged partridge in addition to pheasants.

Don Adams and Councillor Tannock expressed views that each site had created an opportunity for hunters that may not have previously existed, and potentially fills a niche for some hunters.

Mr Teal confirmed that both Rathmoy and Waituna game preserves should provide detail on their intended releases by the October F&G Council meeting

14. **Mallard Research Project Update**

Mr Teal gave an overview of his recent work undertaken by researchers and staff in Waikato and Southland study sites. The draft paper on the effectiveness of harvest regulations had been progressed by Matt McDougall with assistance from US researchers of and is awaiting peer review prior to publishing. Northland Fish & Game staff were investigating the experimental pond treatment project of designed to identify basic characteristics of successful breeding ponds.

After discussion, Council confirmed their desire for future research work to be part funded from a dollar dedicated to mallard research.

Mr Pilkington arrived at the meeting at 4.00p.m.

**15. Lake Wairarapa Update**

Mr Teal gave an overview of a recent meeting with the Office of Treaty Settlement staff and Crown Negotiator for treaty settlement for Lake Wairarapa ó which covered the topics of enabling legislation and potential for a statutory board to manage current reserve areas under the Reserves Act.

Council discussed the potential implications of treaty negotiations with Tuwharetoa in the Taupo settlement ó and desire to potentially construct additional structures at the Turangi hatchery.

Mr Teal noted that GWRC's desire to designate the Lake Wairarapa environs as a Ramsar Site had been delayed as DoC were seeking to have all landowner sign-off to progress the proposal.

**16. Wairarapa Water Storage Report**

Deferred until later in meeting

**17. Recognition of Service**

Mr Teal gave an overview of recent discussions at the Managers Meeting regarding recognising volunteers and contributors to wider Fish & Game and how regions were proactively recognising contributors. It was agreed in principle that Wellington Fish & Game could improve the way in which the efforts of volunteers (including Councillors) could be acknowledged. It was agreed that options for an upgraded certification should be considered that would be valued by recipients ó and staff were requested to investigate options. Criteria for awarding these acknowledgments would be discussed further at a later meeting.

**18. Management Report 1 April – 31 May 2015**

Mr Teal highlighted several items:

- Shoveler counts ó high numbers in our region
- A successful outcome was achieved to remove a fish barrier at a culver on a tributary of the Mangaroa stream in the Hutt River catchment.
- The proposed GWRC regional plan has been released for submission
- The Ruamahanga Whaitua (Zone) Committee had completed their consultation on defining 'community values'
- Provided comments on the Waikanae River Recharge Project which has an adaptive management approach to monitoring.

It was moved that the

*Management Report for 1 June to 31 July 2015 be received and accepted*

**Chris O'Meara/Andrew Morris**

Carried

19. **Fish Licence Sales Report**  
Fish Licence Sales were noted at being 103% of budget as at 6 August 2015.  
After brief discussion it was moved to  
*Receive the fishing licence sales report to 6 August 2015*  
**Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook**  
Carried
20. **Game Licence Sales Report**  
Game Licence Sales were noted at being 96% of budget as at 6 August 2015.  
After brief discussion it was moved to  
*Receive the game licence sales report to 6 August 2015*  
**Andrew Morris /Jim Cook**  
Carried
21. **Expenditure Report**  
Chairman Cotsilinis gave a positive overview of expenditure report - with no concerns noted.  
  
After brief discussion it was moved that  
*The expenditure reports 1 May to 30 June 2015, and the financial transactions for May and June 2015 be accepted*  
**Brad Johnson/Simon Muckley**  
Carried
22. **Correspondence & Media**  
Mr Teal noted that a joint press release had been sent out by Fish & Game and Federated Farmers to address the concerns and misinformation of the OSH legislation.  
  
Comment was made regarding the approach taken by proponents of the Ruataniwha irrigation project following the EPA Board of Inquiry decision ó and how they could influence implementation of the regional plan ó which on face value would provide a constraint to unconstrained land intensification.  
  
Mr Teal thanked Mr Carnachan for his efforts in providing Fish & Game with timely and relevant press releases in terms of the Wairarapa Irrigation project announcements of sites for full feasibility.  
  
After brief discussion it was moved that  
*Correspondence and media overview be received*  
**Andrew Morris/Jim Cook**  
Carried
23. **General Business**  
Mr Teal gave an overview of work undertaken at Makerua wetland overseen by Tim Robinson ó which could be enhanced by a further \$500 to allow

project completion. It was agreed to cover \$500 for the Makerua Project from the habitat management opportunities budget.

Chairman Cotsilinis gave further opportunity for public/licenceholder comment. John Pansters noted that the local Fish & Game club had continued to be involved in operating fly fishing courses ó which had generated positives in terms of local engagement and additional licence sales. He further noted that the F&G Club had invited thee Chair and representatives of the Whaitua Committee and they thought they had left with clear undertaking of involvement but were concerned that not much feedback had been subsequently received.

Mr Pansters noted that the F&G Club had been invited to a meeting at end of August in Carterton to look at the methodology and modeling used as a principle component for the Whaitua Committee's recommendations. He related that there was uncertainty as to how the Whaitua Committee would come to their decisions on weighting economic and environmental issues given that the rural viewpoint will be well canvassed.

Mr Pansters noted that the Kourarau Dam reservoir was now a reasonable trout fishery ó which coincided with the water being raised to traditional levels. He additionally pointed out that the adjacent landowner was concerned that his property may require significant fencing costs with an interpretation that as a significant waterway it would be required to be fenced within five years once the regional plan became operative. Mr Pansters considered that fencing by the water margin would also be deleterious to fishing opportunities and the Club intended to make a submission to GWRC regional plan process to suggest possible exceptions to the rule if the interpretation deemed it necessary.

Mr Pansters noted that the fish trap that they had been operating on the Mangaterere River had been destroyed by flood waters ó and there would need to be significant benefit in replacing such given the resource consent would expire soon.

The Council agreed *to move into Public Excluded session (at 5.10pm)*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Andrew Morris**

Carried

*That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely the agenda item:*

*Wairarapa Water Use Project Update*

*The withholding of information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by councillors or officers and to maintain legal professional privilege and potentially commercially sensitive information.*



*This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a)(II) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public*

*Wellington F&GC move out of committee (at 5.25pm) and that the public be invited to return to the meeting.*

**Strato Cotsilinis/Andrew Morris**

Carried

There were no resolutions resulting from in-committee discussions.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.25pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 11 Logan Street, Masterton. Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 3.00pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_