

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 161st MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER 2016 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Laurance Tamati, Annaka Davis, Sandy Bull, Steve Scragg, Ken Coombes, Peter Storey and Alan Baird.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, Nigel Simpson, Lynne Sands, Matt McDougall (Eastern Fish & Game); Brian Sampson and Trevor Richardson (Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club); and Ray Bushell. Helen Neale (Department of Conservation) arrived 1.48pm.

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Lindsay Lyons opened the meeting at 12.05pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, Brian Sampson and Trevor Richardson (Western BOP Fish & Game Club), and Ray Bushell.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Murray Ferris and David Woolner; Mark Sherburn, Eben Herbert, Anthony van Dorp, Colin Paton, Ian Pirani, and Ken Raureti.

2.2 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 161st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/12/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (20 OCTOBER 2016)

3.1 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/12/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY.

4.1 Item 8.2 relating to the adoption of Conflict of Interest rules to be included in Council Policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting on 20 October 2016.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Alan Baird - Mighty River Power and Waikato River levels
- Barry Roderick - gifting of Kaituna WMR to Tapuika

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 No conflict of interest items were identified.

8.0 2015-2016 PERFORMANCE REPORT

8.1 Kate Thompson provided a brief summary of the final financial results for the year. She advised that the net profit of \$184,827 against a forecast deficit of \$26,514 was primarily a result of the region's contribution of staff time to the Hawke's Bay Fish and

Council, the revaluation of forestry on the property, and a small increase in licence revenue over that budgeted. Falling revenue targets resulting from a gradual decline in the region's licence sales over a number of seasons, and a \$65,000 boost to reserves from a successful contestable fund bid last year had also contributed to this outcome. Kate noted that this was the second year the region had recorded a profit. Cr Barry Roderick asked for Carmel Veitch's view on what she considered to be Council's greatest financial risk. Carmel advised that we have good control over all aspects of the Council's financial position but considered licence revenue to be the Council's greatest risk. She said that our licence sales were something that we had little control over and felt that marketing of licence products nationally is something that should be given more consideration.

8.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year. [16/12/8.2]*

9.0 2016 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT

9.1 Cr Barry Roderick queried whether Council should formally review Upland Game Properties each year and put it to the vote as to whether or not each property should retain its Upland Game status? Andy Garrick noted that Hawke's Bay Fish & Game requires Upland Game operators to apply for reconfirmation of their status annually and that could be replicated here. Nigel Simpson, who undertakes inspections of Eastern Upland Game Properties for compliance with conditions advised that each year all operators are supplied with a copy of the criteria and code of practice.

9.2 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that Council receives the summary of hunter effort and harvest on Upland Game Properties in 2016. [16/12/9.2]*

10.0 2017 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

10.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons thanked Matt McDougall for his comprehensive report. Cr Steve Scragg suggested that Council confirms items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 as recommended before further discussion on Item 4.4 relating to the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River season conditions.

10.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallards due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [16/12/10.2]*

10.3 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [16/12/10.3]*

10.4 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [16/12/10.4]*

10.5 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [16/12/10.5]*

10.6 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the 2017 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [16/12/10.6]*

10.7 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the remaining conditions for 2017 are as per Appendix 1. [16/12/10.7]*

- 10.8 ***Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the Waewaetutuki Wetland be closed to the general ballot and walk in permit system for the 2017 game bird hunting season, and a novice hunt programme comparable to that instigated in 2015 be repeated. [16/12/10.8]***
- 10.9 Matt McDougall reminded Council of the reasons behind the review of season conditions for mallard and greylard ducks in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River areas and commented on results of the aerial review of habitat recently undertaken by staff. Council asked how many hunters might be affected and whether we knew what their views were? Matt suggested the number of hunters would probably be in the range of 100-150. Alan Baird advised that he had been at a recent meeting of the Wildfowlers and confirmed that they were keen to see a restricted season but would like to see bag limits reduced rather than season length. Brian Sampson advised members of his club would also prefer to see a reduction in bag limit rather than a shortened season. Cr Steve Scragg reminded Council of previous work that had identified that reduced bag limits had little effect on improving duck numbers unless the limit was reduced to an extremely low level.
- 10.10 Crs Ken Coombes and Alan Baird felt it appropriate to register that they had conflicts of interest in relation to this discussion as they hunt in the area concerned. Council considered this and advised it was keen to hear their views nevertheless.
- 10.11 Council further discussed the difficulties in managing populations through regulations, voluntary targeting of 'greenheads', leaving pairing birds, and compliance issues arising from a change in the standard regulations for a specific area.
- 10.12 Cr Barry Roderick acknowledged the stake holders concerns and their wish to improve the duck population in the area. Council were inclined to agree that in terms of a regulatory approach the most effective would be a restricted season on both bag limit and season length within the area concerned. Council noted that there were other species available to be hunted within this area that would not need to be constrained.
- 10.13 ***Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that a restricted season, of 4 weeks/5 weekends with a 4 bird daily bag limit for greylards be applied to the area bounded by Waikite Valley Road, State Highway 5, State Highway 1 and State Highway 30, and voluntary methods such as targeting greenheads and avoiding the taking of paired birds be promoted. [16/12/10.13]***

11.0 HUNTING STAND CLAIM

- 11.1 Council discussed the New Zealand Council's memo regarding the Hunting Stand Claim Tag and acknowledged the various methods currently being used to lay claim to multiple hunting spots. Such methods included use of child/junior licences, duplication of tags, and the ability for hunters in one party to tag multiple locations and subsequently use only one. Council's responses to the questionnaire were as follows:
- a. YES, hunters aged 16+ years are legally entitled to hunt alone, however it was noted that the Auckland Waikato requirement for 18+ brings inconsistency to regulations.
 - b. YES
 - c,d,e NO, a digital printout was considered too easy to duplicate.
 - f. YES.

Additional comment was made regarding why not opt in for the plastic tag/licence if it is required rather than opt-out.

12.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 12.1 Council considered the proposal to draw down an additional \$6,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for salvage of the monitoring buoy sensors. Cr Barry Roderick asked for reassurance that the buoy would not be reinstalled at the same location to prevent future issues with snagging. Andy Garrick said that clearly it would need to be located where it would not get snagged and advised that the retrieval would be undertaken using a ROV (remotely operated vehicle) and that this would provide a better picture of the environment in the area.
- 12.2 On another note Cr Barry Roderick queried whether funds could be allocated from the Back Country Fisheries reserve for drift diving of the Ruakituri? Andy thought that this might be possible and noted that a programme needs to be developed for utilising funds from the Back Country Fisheries reserve.
- 12.3 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the application for an additional \$6,000 to be drawn from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the recovery of the Waikaremoana monitoring buoy. [16/12/12.3]*

13.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017

- 13.1 Council considered the proposed 2017 meeting dates and times. After some discussion the consensus was to continue with the 12pm start times but provide catering prior to the meeting for those travelling. Alternate venues for the August or October meeting would be considered at February's meeting.
- 13.2 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Steve Scragg) that meeting dates for 2017 will be as set out below:*

	Date	Venue	Key Issues
1	<i>16 February 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities
2	<i>6 April, 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP – initial draft• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
3	<i>15 June 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fee• OWP – 2nd draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	<i>10 August 2017</i>	Alternate venue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>19 October 2017</i>	Alternate venue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	<i>30 November 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
APM	<i>30 November 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

[16/12/13.2]

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board

Annaka Davis advised that she had shared Jenn Sheppard and Fish & Game's research findings in relation to predators and duck nesting with the Board and this was received this with interest. It was suggested that operational staff of DOC and Fish & Game

could discuss the findings further and how they could work together to address predator control. Annaka also informed Council of - issues with hunters creating huts in areas not permitted i.e. Tongariro Forest Park, a recent wetland restoration hui held at Kaitieke Primary School, and the appointment of a new assistant educator with the Fisheries Team. She said that Taupo fishery conditions were reported as being good with the team currently focussed on access tracks and roads.

14.2 Report from the New Zealand Council

Lindsay Lyons advised that the recent New Zealand Council meeting was held in Whangarei and spoke of the biggest issue presently facing Northland Fish & Game which was the proposal to cease trout liberations to the Kai Iwi lakes. Lindsay advised that the NZ Council's annual report was completed but was awaiting final sign off of the audit report. He also informed Council of the recent acquisition by Fish & Game NZ of the "Fish & Game" magazine. He said that the opportunity came about as a result of Fairfax dropping a number of its smaller subscribed magazines and this had presented a great opportunity for Fish & Game to secure its brand and would continue to be utilised to engage with licence holders. Lindsay briefed the Council on the work of the Financial Review Committee, the extension of the Licensing Agreement with Eyede Ltd, and the website refresh including the establishment of a pollution hotline. There was also to be consideration of a photo pollution hotline i.e. posting photos of pollution of our waterways. Some Councillors felt that this type of exposure can force action while others considered it could be unfair and counterproductive if the situation had not first been investigated and the circumstances established. Lindsay advised that the NZ Council would need to look at the legalities of doing so also. The next NZC meeting was to be held in the Central South Island Region.

14.3 Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Helen Neale spoke on behalf of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board advising that the issue of Canada geese had been raised again and that they may approach Fish & Game for assistance in dealing with the issue collaboratively. Matt McDougall commented that the issues currently being faced were inevitable with the removal of Canada geese from the Game Bird Schedule and that this had been advised at the time it occurred. Helen advised that regional nominations for the Conservation Board were now open and that the Game Animal Council was calling for submissions on a proposed game trophy export levy.

15.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

15.1 Cr Barry Roderick commented on Tapuika's efforts to contest various consent renewals around the Kaituna River and advised that they were asking for support with their submissions from Fish & Game. Andy Garrick acknowledged Tapuika's request and noted that we were happy to, and would provide support where we could, but commented that we could only engage in processes in which there were Fish & Game related issues at stake and we were in a position to substantiate those issues. Barry felt that Council should show as much support as it could to Tapuika as they were keen to establish wetlands and shared interests in common.

15.2 Cr Barry Roderick informed Council that the proposed gifting of the Kaituna wetland to Tapuika scheduled for 16 of December had been delayed.

15.3 Following recent earth quakes experienced in Wellington and the South Island Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on the need to develop a policy on what to do following such an event e.g. re-entry of a building after an earthquake. Andy Garrick agreed and

advised that he would discuss this with our Health & Safety co-ordinator (Carmel Veitch).

- 15.4 Cr Sandy Bull informed Council that the Gisborne Freshwater Advisory Committee appeared to be ready to deal with the next two rivers on its list, these being the Motu and Waiapu. He said that the Motu was in serious trouble and queried whether this will be dived this coming summer. Matt Osborne confirmed that the dive would take place 13-17 February with back up dates of 20-24 February and that three sites would be looked at. Sandy also advised of the replacement of the Motu River bridge and the impact that siltation may have on the native forest downstream. John Meikle noted that Fish & Game had been fully consulted in relation to the project, and had commented on the resource consent application from NZ Transport, but added that potential impacts to the native forest were beyond Fish & Game's mandate.
- 15.5 Cr Lindsay Lyons thanked Kate Thompson for her recent efforts in providing the New Zealand Council with detailed licence sales information.
- 15.6 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the payments for September and October 2016 totalling \$271,405.25 be approved. [16/12/15.6]*
- 15.7 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance & Cash flow for the 2016-2017 financial year. [16/12/15.7]*

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16.1 Cr Alan Baird queried Mighty River Power's management of Waikato River levels as he was aware of concerns that they might be keeping the levels too high? Matt McDougall commented that he understands they are not breaching their conditions and would be very surprised if they were as he believed that they were very particular in regard to these. Andy Garrick advised staff would look into this. Matt McDougall informed Council that the Hamilton City Council was looking to dewater below the Karapiro dam next year in order to test emergency water supplies.
- 16.2 Cr Sandy Bull queried Genesis Energy's approach to the farming community about fencing of parts of the Waikaretaheke River. Matt Osborne advised that fencing is being proposed as Genesis Energy is wanting to reduce river flows during the night and run a higher base flow during the day. Reduced flows could enable stock to cross the river in places and the consent condition relating to minimum flows was based only on ensuring that flows/levels are sufficient to prevent stock movement. The reason for reducing night flows and increasing daytime flows is largely about cost saving and more efficient use of the generation equipment which is designed to utilise higher base flows than is currently the case. Matt noted that farmers were concerned that the areas needing to be fenced were too steep and it was unlikely that any fencing would last. Matt advised that he had liaised with the environmental officers for Genesis Energy about Fish & Game's concerns over minimum flow including effects on food supply and displacement of fish. He said that Genesis was looking to undertake more monitoring to ensure that there are no ecological impacts on the system.

17.0 CONSIDERATION OF STAFF RELATED MATTERS

- 17.1 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.23pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review. [16/12/17.1]*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Discussion on the Regional Manager's performance review	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) 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 whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
16 3.1	Protect the privacy of natural persons	Sec. 7(2)(a)	Discussion between the Regional Manager and the Council on the Manager's performance review and any negotiations on employment conditions should occur in private between these parties.

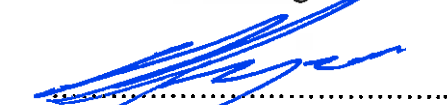
17.2 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Steve Scragg) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.30pm. [16/12/17.2]*

18.0 **MANAGEMENT REPORT cont...**

18.1 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Peter Storey) that Council receives the Health and Safety report, Management report and Licence Sales report. [16/12/18.1]*

19.0 **MEETING CLOSED**

19.1 The meeting was closed at 3.35pm.



Lindsay Lyons,
Acting Chairman

16/2/2017

Date

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
- 2.2** *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 161st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/12/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (20 OCTOBER 2016)**
- 3.1** *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/12/3.1]*
- 8.0 2015-2016 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
- 8.2** *Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year. [16/12/8.2]*
- 9.0 2016 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT**
- 9.2** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that Council receives the summary of hunter effort and harvest on Upland Game Properties in 2016. [16/12/9.2]*
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17.1 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.23pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review. [16/12/17.1]*

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