

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 172nd MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2018 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, David Woolner, Neal Hawes, Ken Coombes, Laurance Tamati, Sandy Bull, Annaka Davis, Geoff Thomas, Adam Rayner, Ngahi Bidois, and Alan Baird (arrived 12.20pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Matt Osborne, Carmel Veitch, Nigel Simpson, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, Mark Sherburn, and Lloyd Gledhill (arrived c.1.30pm) (Eastern Fish & Game).

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Regional Manager Andy Garrick opened the meeting at 12.04pm and welcomed all present adding that while this was the inaugural meeting of the incoming Council it was also a combined meeting with the outgoing Council as there was still business needing to be attended to by that Council. This would also be the case at the last meeting of the year on 6 December.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS

2.1 Councillors provided a brief introduction to themselves including their background and particular interests in Fish & Game. Staff present at the meeting also provided a brief overview of their backgrounds and respective roles within Eastern Region Fish & Game.

3.0 APOLOGIES

3.1 Apologies were received from Crs Steve Scragg and Peter Storey, and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation), and Ray Bushell. Cr Alan Baird had advised that he might be delayed.

3.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 172nd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/11/3.2]*

4.0 ELECTION OF MEMBERS

4.1 Andy Garrick noted there was some confusion around the appointment process and term of office of members, and recalled discussions Council had previously had in relation to this. He advised that following the election in 2015, the positions of Chair and New Zealand Council representative had been determined in October with the rider that these be reviewed at Council's first meeting in February of the year following when other officers were appointed. At that meeting Council determined that there was no need to do this and in future appointments would be reviewed at yearly intervals after 12 months had elapsed. Agendas have also stated however, that the term of office for members of the Executive or Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee is three years, and Andy advised that clarification was required around this as the latter was incompatible with a one year term of office. Cr Barry Roderick advised those present that the outgoing Council had favoured an annual review of these positions which provided the opportunity for new members to become involved at an executive level

- and for those in the elected positions to step down should their circumstances change, and this should also apply to the Executive Committee.
- 4.2 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council supports the continuation of an annual review of officer positions on this Council and for its appointed member to the New Zealand Council. [18/11/4.2]***
- 4.3 Andy Garrick called for nominations for the position of Chair.
- 4.4 ***Moved (Alan Baird/Ken Coombes) that Cr Murray Ferris be nominated for Council Chairman. [18/11/4.4]***
- 4.5 There were no further nominations and Cr Murray Ferris was duly appointed to the position of Chairman.
- 4.6 Murray took the Chair and thanked Councillors for their support, advising that it would be good to see some fresh blood for this position in the not too distant future.
- 4.7 Murray then called for nominations for the position of the Eastern Region's appointee to the New Zealand Council.
- 4.8 ***Moved (David Woolner/Laurance Tamati) that Lindsay Lyons be nominated for appointment to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. [18/11/4.8]***
- 4.9 There were no further nominations and Cr Lindsay Lyons was duly appointed to the position of Eastern Region's New Zealand Council appointee.
- 4.10 Lindsay expressed his thanks and said that it was great to have the support of Council and to represent such a strong and cohesive Council at a national level.
- 4.11 Cr Murray Ferris provided a brief background to the role of the Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee which currently consisted of the Chair, Deputy Chair, and one other member of Council. Murray pointed out that there was no restriction on the number of members on this committee but acknowledged that a smaller group was beneficial. Standing orders require that the Chair of the Council must also be a member of this committee meaning Murray would be one of those members.
- 4.12 ***Moved (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that David Woolner be nominated for a position on the Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [18/11/4.12]***
- 4.13 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/David Woolner) that Lindsay Lyons be nominated for a position on the Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [18/11/4.13]***
- 4.14 ***Moved (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that Barry Roderick be nominated for a position on the Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee. [18/11/4.14]***
- 4.15 There were no further nominations and Crs Woolner, Lyons, and Roderick were duly appointed to the Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee along with the elected Chairman Cr Murray Ferris. Cr Barry Roderick wished to inform Council that he would be looking to step down at the next review.
- 4.16 ***Moved (Lindsay Lyons/Laurance Tamati) that David Woolner be nominated for Council Deputy Chairman. [18/11/4.16]***
- 4.17 There were no further nominations and Cr David Woolner was duly appointed to the position of Deputy Chairman.
- 4.18 Cr Murray Ferris recommended that the incumbent staff member, Matthew McDougall, should remain Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust given his history in the role and expertise.
- 4.19 ***Moved (Murray Ferris/Laurance Tamati) that Council confirms Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust. [18/11/4.19]***

5.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (16 AUGUST 2018)

5.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendments:*

13.4 New Zealand Fish and Game Council - Liaison Report, 4th sentence amend wording from “break feed lots” to “feed lots”, and;

14.1 Andy Garrick – Highlights of Management Report, 4th bullet point on Ruahihi Canal amend wording from “and encourage greater interest in trout fishing and new licence holders” to “and provide greater opportunity for licence holders”. [18/11/5.1]

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

6.1 There were no items identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

7.0 MATTERS ARISING

7.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2018.

8.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Geoff Thomas – Change of opening of fishing season to first Saturday in October
- Andy Garrick – Lakes Water Quality Society’s submission to the Regional Pest Management Plan
- Andy Garrick – Agenda for final meeting of the year

9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

9.1 Council briefly discussed the “Conflict of Interest” process. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested that a list of potential conflicts be maintained at the front of the register. Andy Garrick commented that this was an option and noted that Council’s next meeting on 6 December would include an induction for Councillors and an opportunity to review Council’s conflict of interest procedures.

9.2 No conflicts of interest were identified.

10.0 2019 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

10.1 Andy Garrick advised the purpose of the agenda item was to provide an opportunity to discuss or seek clarification on any of the information provided ahead of Council’s next meeting on this topic, and to invite Council to signal any other issues or items they may want to consider.

10.2 Cr Geoff Thomas wished to highlight that many hunters typically shoot opening weekend only and if they are not successful they may be put off returning the following season. Geoff questioned whether there was an opportunity to increase the bag limits for opening weekend only, to provide greater opportunity and enhance the experience particularly for those new to the sport. Andy advised this could be put on the agenda for discussion at Council’s next meeting.

10.3 Andy Garrick advised that Council has for some time determined its game bird regulations based on “threshold levels” and asked Council to consider whether it wished to continue this approach for the upcoming season.

10.4 Matt McDougall provided a brief overview of the threshold management approach and its reliance on estimates of population size going in to the next game season. Cr David Woolner had noted the large confidence intervals in the population estimates and, considering the significant cost of the banding programme, asked how confident we were with the prediction of the population based on this. Matt advised that over the

- years he had gained confidence in this approach as other work undertaken such as aerial trend counts, brood counts, and other observations including feedback from hunters was generally in line with the trends indicated from banding. Matt advised that ultimately we would like to know what the key environmental factors e.g. spring/summer rainfall, are that influence population size and be in a better position to more accurately predict population size prior to regulation setting, and that he had been working on this.
- 10.5 Cr Barry Roderick queried Nigel Simpson as to whether he had recorded lower brood counts this year compared to last as he had seen a decline in numbers in the areas he monitored. Nigel confirmed his counts were low also and Matthew McDougall agreed but noted that numbers appeared to have been higher the month before prior to the arrival of warmer weather.
- 10.6 Cr Geoff Thomas asked whether the region had an active predator control programme. Matt McDougall advised that due to the sheer size of the region it was impractical and cost prohibitive to maintain effective and widespread predator control programmes, but Fish & Game did provide advice to hunters on control options, and encouraged them to undertake their own predator control.
- 10.7 Cr Adam Rayner queried the use of drones for monitoring broods. Matt McDougall advised that they had not been used to date due to the significant area we cover but did not discount this as being an option in the future. CAA requirements were also discussed. Adam informed Council of recent work he had assisted with in the lower Kaituna wetland area which saw 78 possums taken in the first night and a further 52 the following night, and said rat numbers were in their hundreds and there was also a high number of pukeko observed.
- 10.8 Council discussed the special black swan and pukeko seasons that had been gazetted for February 2019. Cr Barry Roderick suggested an extension to these seasons as swan counts were trending up and concerns had already been highlighted by Bay of Plenty Regional Council in relation to swan and pukeko numbers. Cr Sandy Bull requested that Council considers a higher limit on pukeko in Area B1 as numbers there were considerable. Removing limits altogether and having open seasons was discussed, but Matt McDougall advised against this as a method of control noting that the impact of removing all protection from Canada geese had simply led to populations sky rocketing, there being a number of reasons for this. Matt said that he would provide some options for consideration at the December meeting.
- 10.9 Cr Geoff Thomas queried the use of lead shot in 28 gauge shotguns and the rules around this. Andy Garrick provided a brief summary of earlier decisions taken nationally relating to the use of lead shot. He advised that restrictions on the use of lead shot in sub gauges had been signalled ahead of the 2018 season, and during the main part of the 2019 season (i.e. up until 31 August 2019), compliance with these would be encouraged but not enforced. From 1 September 2019 through to 31 August 2020 however, the restrictions would apply on all open water managed by DOC or Fish & Game, and would be mandatory for all waterfowl hunting over open water from 1 September 2020 onwards.
- 10.10 Cr Murray Ferris queried whether Council should consider again, regulations relating to green heads, robo ducks, and pond feeding. Matt McDougall suggested we could look at issues and options relating to these ideas in more depth at Council's next meeting.
- 10.11 Cr Alan Baird queried the current situation with mallard numbers in the Broadlands area. Matt McDougall said that aerial transect counts suggest numbers may be higher than they were prior to the introduction of more restrictive regulations, but they were

still very low compared with other areas. He commented that given the population is still very low he would recommend at least one more season with restricted conditions.

- 10.12** *Agreed (Alan Baird/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the continuation of the restricted (one month season (including Queens Birthday), 4 bird daily limit) for greylard (mallard and grey duck) in the "Reporoa Area" (as defined in the 2018 Gazette notice. [18/11/10.12]*
- 10.13** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council supports the continuation of a two day no limit special black swan season in Management Area A1 in February 2020. [18/11/10.13]*
- 10.14** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council supports having an Eastern Region special pukeko season that coincides with the special black swan season in February 2020. [18/11/10.14]*
- 10.15** *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the "Intermediate" regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*
- 10.16** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ngahi Bidois) that Council re-affirms the current threshold levels, criteria, and conditions for regulation setting for grey duck/mallard, paradise shelduck and black swan. [18/11/10.16]*

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 11.1** Andy Garrick provided an overview of funding which had previously been approved but not drawn down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund.
- 11.2** Survey work that had been planned for the 2017-18 year was compromised by poor weather conditions and as a result fewer surveys were carried out which meant that funding required for that project was less than that which had been allocated.
- 11.3** The Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Association had run into difficulties in getting approval for the installation of navigation markers and staff's recommendation was that the funds (\$12,000) allocated for this project be held over pending further advice from the Association.
- 11.4** The Lake Waikaremonana water quality monitoring buoy has been out of the water for some time while repairs and upgrading are being undertaken by the University of Waikato. As the repairs have taken longer than anticipated Andy requested Council approval to carry over the funding previously approved for the buoy repairs (\$10,000) to the current 2018-19 year. The buoy is expected to be back in operation before the end of this calendar year.
- 11.5** Council's 2012 approval in principle of up to \$40,000 to support the Department of Conservation with its Lagarosiphon containment/eradication programme at Lake Waikaremoana has not been drawn on to date. Matt Osborne confirmed the original purpose was to assist with physical works such as additional weed cordons. Andy suggested Council might wish to consider whether it withdraw the offer or view it as lapsed in light of the Department of Conservation now having little if any involvement in operational activities in Te Urewera. This would not preclude the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority or Te Uru Taumatua from lodging its own application for funding from the Fund at some stage in the future. Council supported this action.
- 11.6** *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the request to carry over \$10,000 allocated for the repairs to the Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy into the 2018-2019 operational year and, confirms the withdrawal of the Council's 2012 offer to the Department of Conservation of up to \$40,000 for the*

Lagarosiphon programme at Lake Waikaremoana and, asks that the manager write to the Department to formally advise them of the Council's decision. [18/11/11.6]

12.0 DRAFT 2017-2018 PERFORMANCE REPORT

12.1 Council had received a copy of the draft performance report prior to the meeting. Andy Garrick advised that the report was currently being audited and asked Council if there were any issues or matters it might like to raise in relation to the draft. He noted that the final audited report would be presented to the next meeting of Council and Annual Public meeting on 6 December 2018.

12.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/David Woolner) that Council receives the draft report comprising the draft Statement of Service Performance and the draft Financial Statements for the 2017-2018 year. [18/11/12.2]*

13.0 UPLAND GAME

13.1 Andy Garrick provided an overview of the upland game properties operating within the region and the requirement that they furnish a return each year detailing number of hunters and days hunted, and numbers of birds harvested. Cr Adam Rayner noted there were no partridge recorded in the returns and asked whether the preserves needed to apply to have them? Andy Garrick confirmed that a permit is required from DOC to release them, and commented that while some operators had released partridge in the past his understanding was that doing so had not been very successful. Nigel Simpson advised that most of the upland game properties are not particularly suitable for partridge and that the availability of birds was very limited. Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on the high number of birds taken per hunter per day, and in light of the recent dumping of pheasant carcasses in Hawke's Bay noted that preserves needed to have a good look at how they conduct their operations.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

Due to changes to dates of meetings Annaka was unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Board.

14.2 *New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Lindsay Lyons spoke of the concerns raised by the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council which suggested that the New Zealand Council spent too much time in public excluded sessions and lacked transparency. In response to those concerns he had advised that while they usually endeavour to keep the public excluded sessions to a minimum the Council was currently involved in the audit of three Fish & Game regions and discussions relating to these had to remain confidential for the time being. Lindsay provided brief details of the audits and how they came about and noted particular concern over the situation with funds that had been bequeathed to the North Canterbury region for a particular purpose. Lindsay also informed Council that he and Martin Taylor had recently met with the Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage, about the Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill and advice provided to Fish & Game by Sir Geoffrey Palmer. Sir Geoffrey had suggested ways in which indigenous fish could be better protected without this being to the detriment of trout fishing. Andy Garrick felt that the North Canterbury situation had put the whole organisation into disrepute, and suggested this Council submit this concern to the New Zealand Council and request that it urgently develop a policy around how bequests and other donations are to be handled. This then needed to be followed up with a campaign of some sort to reassure

the public that North Canterbury's behaviour did not reflect the way Fish & Game operates elsewhere, and nor would it be able to happen again anywhere within the country.

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 15.1 Cr Barry Roderick queried staff on the catfish situation in Lake Rotoiti noting that it seemed to be out of control. Matt Osborne advised that with lower water temperatures catch rates had not been as high as they had been as the fish were unlikely to be moving about as much. He said that a lot of small fish were being caught and even though their growth rate was not dissimilar to elsewhere in New Zealand they seemed to be maturing at 15cm rather than the 20cm seen elsewhere. He said that the Regional Council was now looking to move to control and containment rather than eradication as a goal due to the size of the issue, and the costs and practicalities associated with it. Cr Annaka Davis suggested that central Government should perhaps be contributing to funding of the programme and Matt O advised that its possible there may already be some funding coming from that source. Cr Barry Roderick asked about likely effects on the fisheries. Matt O advised that this is largely unknown but noted that catfish may compete with trout for food such as koura within parts of the lake. Cr Laurance Tamati asked that Council support the efforts by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust to contain the spread to the two lakes. Andy Garrick commented on the excellent advocacy work that members of the Trust had carried out on Opening Day.
- 15.2 Eben Herbert provided an update on the Gisborne Fresh Water Plan and in particular the results of mediation relating to "Crop Survival Water" which this Council had submitted on. He provided background to the Fish & Game argument which would see water allocations for root stock survival sit on top of minimum flow levels rather than being provided for below minimal flows as has been proposed. Eben was pleased to advise that following the second round of mediation it is now included within GDC's objectives framework and must be provided for and included in minimum flow limits. Andy Garrick advised that this was precedent setting and was a result that could be taken into policy and rule setting processes associated with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's plan which was also underway.
- 15.3 Cr Sandy Bull questioned staff on the number of tagged trout that have been liberated to Lake Waikaremoana as the datawatch table showed only four returns. Matt Osborne advised that 1,000 were liberated over two seasons and approximately 10 tags had been returned all up, which suggested low angler pressure/harvest and/or a relatively large wild population - which is why the lake is not stocked.
- 15.4 *Agreed (David Woolner/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Health and Safety, and Licence Sales reports. [18/11/15.4]*
- 15.5 *Agreed (David Woolner/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Finance report and approves payments for July and August 2018 totalling \$287,738.10. [18/11/15.5]*

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16.1 Andy Garrick provided a brief summary of the agenda for the next meeting of Council on 6 December 2018 which would include a farewell to departing councillors, induction for new councillors, finalisation of the 2019 game season conditions, adoption of the 2017-2018 Annual Performance Report, and setting of dates for Council's 2019 meetings. The 6 December meeting would be followed by the Annual General Meeting and a BBQ for all present.

- 16.2 Andy Garrick wish to discuss a submission that the Lakes Water Quality Committee had put forward for the Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan. He said that the group had requested Fish & Game's support for their submission which proposed requiring skippers of vessels entering any of the Rotorua lakes to certify that they had checked and cleaned their boats/trailers prior to launching. Council discussed the submission which would see measures moving from voluntary compliance to enforcement, and the potential issues arising in terms of practicality and effectiveness. Staff highlighted the high costs of enforcement likely, and that boats and trailers are not the only means by which pest organisms can be spread.
- 16.3 Cr Geoff Thomas wished to discuss the possibility of changing the opening of fishing season from October 1 to the first Saturday in October, the aim being to increase participation during that period. Matt Osborne advised that this item had been raised previously, and provided a brief summary of issues that had been identified and in particular, concerns relating to further complication of regulations, and compliance. Kate Thompson understood that the last discussion in relation to this had taken place a couple of years ago immediately prior to opening being on a Saturday, and that a review had been intended following that. Andy Garrick advised that he was happy to put the item on an upcoming agenda for further discussion which would provide staff with the opportunity to collate the appropriate information.
- 16.4 The inability to pass a motion under General Business was discussed, and Cr Lindsay Lyons advised that any items that potentially required a formal vote should be put forward to the Chairman and/or Manager who between them would determine if it was appropriate to be included within an upcoming agenda.

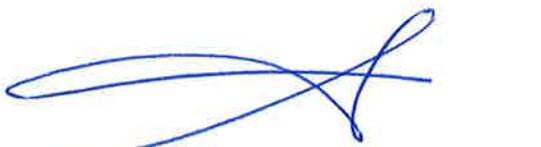
17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

17.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Barry Roderick) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.50pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review. [18/11/17.1]*

17.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Ken Coombes) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.18pm. [18/11/17.2]*

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

18.1 The meeting was closed at 3.18pm.



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Murray Ferris
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

3.0 APOLOGIES

- 3.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 172nd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/11/3.2]*

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- 12.0 DRAFT 2017-2018 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
- 12.2** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/David Woolner) that Council receives the draft report comprising the draft Statement of Service Performance and the draft Financial Statements for the 2017-2018 year. [18/11/12.2]*
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- 17.2** *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Ken Coombes) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.18pm. [18/11/17.2]*