

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 188<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND  
GAME COUNCIL, HELD ONLINE (VIA ZOOM) ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021  
AT 12.00PM**

**Present**

Crs David Woolner, Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Laurance Tamati, Alan Baird, Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Adam Rayner, Geoff Thomas and Ngahi Bidois.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Garrick and Kate Thompson (Eastern Fish & Game).

**1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA**

1.1 Cr David Woolner (Chairman) opened the meeting at 1.00pm, welcomed all present, and invited Cr Ngahi Bidois to start the meeting with a karakia. David noted that the last minute delay in the release of the Ministerial Review of Fish and Game, discussion of which was to have formed a significant part of this meeting, lead to this being a Zoom meeting rather than a round table meeting. Given our Zoom facility has a 40 minute time constraint applying to it, he proposed that the order of the agenda be amended so that those items requiring resolution be attended to first.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Ken Coombes.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that the apologies for the 188th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [21/04/2.2]*

**3.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

3.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

**4.0 2021-2022 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

4.1 In response to enquiries he'd received, Cr Barry Roderick asked what Fish & Game was planning for predator control in the Kaituna wetland. Andy Garrick advised that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council had sponsored the design of a predator control programme for the wetland and we had committed to implement it subject to securing external funding to do so. Both BOPRC and the Department of Conservation were comfortable with that. Barry asked that this Council formally acknowledge the proposed programme planned and requested staff to publicise Fish & Game's intentions. Andy commented that the programme would have been implemented already had funding been secured and we're still working on this. He suggested that the minutes of this meeting record Council's support for the programme to proceed once funding had been secured.

4.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that Council approves the draft OWP for the 2021-2022 year along with the accompanying contestable funding bids and proposals to draw down some of Eastern Region's non-resident reserve funds. [21/04/4.2]*

**5.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND**

5.1 Andy Garrick advised that Council had approved \$8,000 be drawn down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund and incorporated into the current year's budget to support ongoing monitoring, access, and buoy related

programmes during the 2020-21 year. Andy advised that staff wished to again apply for \$8,000 from the Fund to offset costs associated with these programmes during the 2021-22 budget.

- 5.2 ***Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the application for funding of \$8,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as described for the 2021-22 Operational Work Plan and Budget. [21/04/5.2]***

## **6.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

- 6.1 ***Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Ngahi Bidois) that Council receives the Management Report and Health and Safety reports. [21/04/6.1]***
- 6.2 ***Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Ngahi Bidois) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for January and February 2021 totalling \$359,703.55. [21/04/6.2]***

## **7.0 MATTERS ARISING**

- 7.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons reiterated the need to have more staff visits to agents prior to the commencement of the Game Bird Hunting season.
- 7.2 Cr Barry Roderick noted that a comment made by a staff member in 11 February 2021's meeting (see minuted Item 8.10) that research done in the past had shown very little mortality of ducks between January and the opening of the game season conflicted with comments and advice that Matthew McDougall had previously provided. Matt was not present at the February meeting but had previously informed Council that duck populations were influenced not only by breeding, but by food supply in summer, and his most recent modelling had indicated that summer rainfall in addition to temperatures the preceding winter impacted on duck survival (in this region). *Post meeting note from Andy: The confusion comes about from the results of a radio telemetry study of mallards undertaken by David Klee and Matt McDougall in 2011/12 that concluded that non-harvest mortality between time of banding in January/February 2011 and the onset of the 2011 hunting season was low, with survival calculated at 95% in this study. However, the study was a one off, and was undertaken in one year only. Sample size was small also, only forty six birds having been fitted with transmitters, 10 of which were not encountered again post capture. Had it been feasible to track a greater number of birds and repeat the study over a number of years its very likely a quite different conclusion would have been generated.*

## **8.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 FEBRUARY 2021)**

- 8.1 ***Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [21/04/8.1]***

## **9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 9.1 Andy Garrick informed Council of serious concerns staff had with the second tranche of Arms Legislation reforms proposed, and the potential it had to detrimentally impact not only Fish & Game licence holders but all hunters. He advised that Anthony van Dorp had produced a draft submission on behalf of all of Fish & Game, and was currently looking for feedback from other regions in addition to liaising with other agencies including COLFO and NZDA representatives.
- 9.2 With the upcoming release of the Ministerial Review of Fish & Game, Cr Barry Roderick highlighted the need to ensure that staff were adequately supported through what could be a difficult and uncertain time. Cr David Woolner agreed, adding that implementation of any recommendations would need to be very carefully thought

through and well done to be successful. Cr Debbie Oakley said she had confidence in the very capable people leading the New Zealand Fish & Game Council, and felt that whatever the results of the review might be, Fish & Game was in a good position to deal with it.

- 9.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois thanked Andy Garrick and staff for installing the new signage at the Awahou Stream, and their engagement recently with the Awahou community's fishing competitions and children's events.

#### **10.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**

- 10.1 Council received the 2020 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey report and the 2021 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Count reports.

#### **11.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

##### **11.1 Conservation Boards**

No Report.

##### **11.2 Department of Conservation**

No report.

##### **11.3 The New Zealand Fish and Game Council**

Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that their last meeting was in February via Zoom and that the Council was awaiting the release of the Ministerial Review of Fish & Game. Debbie also advised that in her role on the Standing Finance Committee she had been involved with preparation of the National budget papers which had been distributed to regions.

#### **12.0 MEETING CLOSED**

- 12.1 The meeting closed at 1.30pm with a closing karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.



.....  
**David Woolner**  
Chairman

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### 2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that the apologies for the 188th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [21/04/2.2]*

### 4.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2021-2022 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 4.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Adam Rayner) that Council approves the draft OWP for the 2021-2022 year along with the accompanying contestable funding bids and proposals to draw down some of Eastern Region's non-resident reserve funds. [21/04/4.2]*

### 5.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 5.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the application for funding of \$8,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as described for the 2021-22 Operational Work Plan and Budget. [21/04/5.2]*

### 6.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 6.1 *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Ngahi Bidois) that Council receives the Management Report and Health and Safety reports. [21/04/6.1]*
- 6.2 *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Ngahi Bidois) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for January and February 2021 totalling \$359,703.55. [21/04/6.2]*

### 8.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 FEBRUARY 2021)

- 8.1 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Murray Ferris) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [21/04/8.1]*