

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 198th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2022 AT 11.00AM

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Kevin Coutts, Debbie Oakley, Jay Tapsell, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, and Mark Sceats.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arash Alaeinia, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Mark Sherburn, and Eden Mutton (Eastern Fish & Game), and Barry Roderick.

1 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 11.00am with a karakia from Jay Tapsell and welcomed all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Geoff Thomas, Scott Nicol, Alan Simmons, and Ken Coombes.

2.2 *Apologies: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 198th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/10/2.2]*

3.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 **Nominations for Chair:** Ngahi Bidois nominated (Murray Ferris/ Jay Tapsell). No further nominations Ngahi Bidois elected Chair.

3.2 **Nominations for Deputy Chair:** Murray Ferris (Debbie Oakley/ Mike Jarvie). No further nominations Murray Ferris elected Deputy Chair.

3.3 **Nominations for NZC Appointee:** Debbie Oakley nominated (Kevin Coutts/ Murray Ferris). No further nominations. Debbie Oakley elected NZC Appointee.

3.4 **Nominations for WCEET representative:** Matthew McDougall nominated (Murry Ferris / Debbie Oakley). No further nominations Matthew McDougall appointed WCEET representative.

3.5 The Chair thanked the Council for their support and congratulated appointees.

4.0 HATS AT THE COUNCIL TABLE

4.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked if it was appropriate for the Chair to be wearing a hat at the Council meeting.

4.2 A 34-minute discussion ensued regarding wearing hats at the Council meeting.

4.3 *The Chair asked for a vote on hats worn by the Chair only at Council meetings: Council agreed (Lindsay Lyons/ Mark Sceats) that it is inappropriate for the Chair to wear a hat at the Council table [22/10/4.3]*

5.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 *Minutes: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Kevin Coutts) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the correction to 13.2 “NZ Beef” should read “NZ Federated Farmers”. [22/10/5.1]*

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

6.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy

7.0 MATTERS ARISING

7.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

8.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Cr Mark Sceats Due diligence around regional amalgamations.

8.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons Plastic in the environment.

8.3 Cr. Kevin Coutts Access to the reserves.

8.4 Barry Roderick Eastern’s F&G social licence to operate in the environmental field.

9.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

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

10.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

10.1 **Health and Safety Report:** Correction required (page 16 “staff rood” should read “staff room”). No other issues were identified.

10.2 *Health and Safety: Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/10/10.2]*

10.3 **Finance Report:** Cr Oakley inquired about the item in Westpac Current Account (Table 4, page 25) transaction of 20 July – “Staff Expenses reimbursed” (Kilwell Sports) and asked that more detail be provided to enable

what the payment relates to. Cr Lyons questioned the time limit that applies to the term of Garrick Contracting. Cr Bidois questioned why project 1140 Hatchery Operations (Table 3 page 24) was \$25,004 above budget. Arash will follow up and find out.

- 10.4 Finance Report: Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for July, August, and July/August 2022 credit card totalling \$296,173.50. [22/10/10.4]**
- 10.5 Management Report:** A correction to the management report is required 1173 page 32 “quail” should be replace by “mallard.”
- 10.6** Arash apologised for the lateness of his contribution to the report and thanked the Council for their understanding with regards to his leave to visit his sick sister in the UK. He also thanked the team at Eastern for their focus on our clients. He highlighted some of the outstanding achievements from his management report.
- 10.7** Cr Bidois relayed plans to bring international fish, game, and hunting, conferences to Rotorua. Tourism NZ are behind this proposal. NZC will also be requested for involvement.
- 10.8 Licence Sales Report:** Crs Ferris and Coutts pointed out that retailers were continuing to have problems with the new licence database system. Problems include difficulty changing licence type and not all rural addresses can be entered into the system. Councillors to email Arash with specifics. Arash will follow up with Kate Thompson.
- 10.9** Cr Lyons suggested Council promote non-motorised boat fishing to reduce the impact of the reintroduction of excise tax on fuel. General discussion around licence sales NZ wide. Council would like information around why licence holders have stopped buying a licence. Arash to provide details gleaned from previous surveys.

Break for Lunch 12.04 pm. Meeting resumed at 12.30 pm

11.0 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 11.1** Cr Coutts asked if shoveler should be taken off the licence given the apparent decline or reduce the bag limit. Matt McDougall pointed out that very few hunters shoot more than one shoveler therefore it would be better if the two regions that shoot most of the shoveler reduce their season lengths.
- 11.2** Cr Lyons proposed that a one hen pheasant limit be introduced for opening weekend only. Matt McDougall pointed out that pheasants are the only game

species in New Zealand where males only are hunted. He will prepare a paper for the December meeting discussing harvesting hen pheasants.

- 11.3** Council acknowledged the other game season conditions agenda items which will require a motion and ratification at the December 2022 meeting.

12.0 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 12.1** The draft Performance report was received.

13.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 13.1** Taken as read.

14.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2022

- 14.1** *Meeting Dates: The proposed meeting dates detailed in the October 2022 agenda for 2023 were agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell)*

15.0 FEASIBILITY OF YEAR-ROUND FISHING SEASON

- 15.1** General discussion ensued around the proposal to open the lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) all year and to formalise the opening day as the first Saturday in the month. Counsellors were asked to voice their opinion on both matters. Cr Oakley read out Cr Coombs email and Arash read out email from Cr Thomas addressing this matter. An around table discussion resulted in an overwhelming agreement in principle, to keep the status quo for the three lakes and to open the fishing season on the 1st of October. Cr Lyons was the only dissension. It was agreed that this was not binding on Councillors but rather a reflection of their thoughts on this matter. A more thorough discussion was proposed following a staff report at the next Council meeting.

16.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

- 16.1** *Monitoring Reports: Agreed (Mark Sceats/ Mike Jarvie) to receive the summaries for the 2021-22 summer creel survey (in PFI) and the 2022 national shoveler count [22/10/15.1]*

17.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

- 17.1** **Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board:** No attendance

- 17.2** Cr Debbie Oakley provided an update from the New Zealand Council (NZC). Key points were:

- 17.2.1** A professional facilitator has been engaged to establish a values and vision strategy for the Fish and Game organisation. A strategy workshop was conducted with NZC, managers, and NZC councillors.

17.2.2 Regional staff have also been asked to contribute to the organisational vision and values strategy.

17.2.3 Chairs and managers have asked for additional members of the ISG (Implementation Strategy Group) now Brian Anderton has left. ISG have nearly completed recommendations. The next step is to meet with the Minister to obtain approval of these recommendations prior to disseminating them before the end of October.

17.2.4 Council update from the CEO Corina Jordan, has been included in the October 2022 PFI.

18.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

18.1 Regional Amalgamation: Cr Sceats commented on the proposed regional amalgamation and suggested that Eastern Council undergo due diligence on all the options. Including what financial benefit, or not, these options provide, what staffing levels would be required, and what the assets are, and where they would fall. Cr Oakley suggested the Council wait until the report on the matter is released.

18.2 Plastics in the environment: Cr Lyons proposed that Fish and Game be more active in promoting biodegradable shotgun shells and wads. General discussion was in agreement, but availability may be an issue at this stage.

18.3 Reserve Access during the hunting season: Cr Coutts raised the issue of the gates being locked in the reserves after the second week of the game bird season. He considered that this was a major impediment for many hunters wanting to use the reserve after this date as it was a long way to walk carrying gear to some maimais. The issue was meant to be addressed prior to Andy Garrick leaving but it didn't happen. Staff agreed to prepare a discussion paper on this.

18.4 Social licence to operate in the environmental space: Barry Roderick commented that iwi wanted to know where Fish and Game were in relation to a couple of water related environmental planning issues around Te Puke. He had received advice from John Meikle on the matters however iwi had expressed their disappointment that Fish and Game were absent. Arash would follow up with John however he suspected that the issues were not part of F&G's kaupapa.

19.0 MEETING CLOSED

19.1 Chair Bidois thanked the Council and closed the meeting at 1.42 pm with a karakia by Cr Jay Tapsell.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ngahi Bidois', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

Apologies: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 198th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/10/2.2]	1
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Minutes: Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Kevin Coutts) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the correction to 13.2 "NZ Beef" should read "NZ Federated Farmers". [22/10/5.1].2	
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