

HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023 at 6.00 PM

PRESENT:

Messrs: Bates, (Chair), Lumsden, Duley, MacKay, Callum Slavin, Blair Slavin, Melville, Niblett, Williams, and Bowcock.

IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Robinson Governance Advisor Kerry Meehan Staff

APOLOGIES

None

WELCOME

Cr. Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 8th August were a true and correct record of the meeting

Duley/McKay

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict-of-interest register was signed by all Councillors present.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

That the Health and Safety Report be accepted by Council

Bowcock/B. Slavin

MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Management Report was taken as read and there were no queries arising.

FINANCE REPORT

That the payments for April and May 2023 totalling \$29,088.26 be approved.

April \$29,088.26

May \$7,795.70

Total \$36.883.96

Williams/Mackay

It was noted that included in the \$29K April payment was a payment of \$26k to NZC.

NZC CEO REPORT

It was noted in the report that the TOR for the Finance Working Group and the Future Structure Working Group had not yet been finalised.

It was noted in the report that the Organisation Strategy will be circulated to regions however it was also noted that this had not yet happened in Hawkes Bay.

LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION

The Hawkes Bay Council did reluctantly agree to this proposal though they noted that each Council, including the NZC need to strive to rapidly achieve improvements in productivity and a reduction in costs to deliver much improved real value to Licence Holders.

The Hawkes Bay Council also noted that the continuing downward trend in Licence Sales Revenue was not a healthy one.

C.Slavin/ Lumsden

RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION

The Council agreed with the recommendation to amending this definition to line up with the immigration Act and Doc Taupo.

Williams/MacKay

RESERVES POLICY

Following some discussion, the Council decided that the policy should be set at a level of 50% of reserves.

Melville/Lumsden

NATIONAL REMUNERATION POLICY

It was noted that the policy was a good and straight forward policy that had been well prepared.

However, it was noted that without the numbers it was a bit meaningless and more detail on this was required.

The Council did accept the policy though with one abstention.

Melville/Niblett

SPORTS FISHING REGULATIONS

A draft of the above for the 2023/24 season was discussed.

It was noted that this included allowing bait fishing in some waterways which had not been allowed previously.

It was also noted that this was to encourage younger anglers into the sport.

There was also some discussion regarding the proposed bag limits and Council agreed that this should be set as one fish per day.

It was agreed that these draft regulations should be circulated to Anglers Clubs and other interested parties for consultation and be presented back to the next Council meeting for decisions to be made.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

It was agreed that a subcommittee be appointed to assist management with the development and funding of the facility to include toilet, cooking and showering facilities.

This will include Councillors MacKay, Melville, and Bates.

2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET

There was some concern expressed by Council that the budget needs to cater for increased staff costs and that we should not cut the budget too far.

Management was asked to reconsider the budget because of this and then resubmit the budget to Council.

It was noted that the current budget for the new Financial year was sitting at \$270,909 which compares to the current year's budget of \$380,642

NZFG Remuneration

The matter discussed was the proposed remuneration levels for NZ based Fish and Game staff.

Whilst there was no detail provided via hard copy, one Councillor was in receipt of the detail.

As this info was shared with Council there was a general concern expressed about the high levels proposed for several staff.

Several Councillors expressed concern that these levels were more than what some of them were paying their own staff.

Management was asked to obtain a copy of the recommendations and then circulate these to Council.

It was noted that more detail should be forthcoming.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Matters Arising from the minutes.

As confirmed & discussed Chris Newton is welcomed back to Council after his resignation as Interim Regional Manager

McKay/Lumsden

There was discussion over Lake Tutira and efforts that had been made to engage with Mangaharuru, but due to staff changes, and a move towards returning the lake to its native state attempts have been unsuccessful.

It was suggested a movement towards using Lake Hawkston and other local lakes should be pursued.

New Season Regulations. More publicity needed to advise on reasons behind reduced bag limits this year. Newspaper & Facebook advertising. Get a guide out on rivers to report conditions and fish numbers. Promote success stories. Keep people engaged & buying licenses.

Health & Safety Report

Number of workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	0

Report to be reinstated into management report.

H&S briefing should be done with volunteers/parents/teachers before school visits. Purchase life preservers in case student falls into ponds. Purchase more safety glasses for fishing.

Niblett/Lumsden

Other Business

NZ Council Meeting, still waiting on the minutes, Greg Duley will send out when posted.

OWP will be finalised with the new manager. Adopt draft plan proposed by Chris Newton and update with what hasn't been included.

Bates/McKay

It was proposed that as a sign of appreciation of the work done by councillor Kevin Williams a \$200 meal voucher be purchased and presented to Mr Williams

Melville/Slavin

Management Report for Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council

Meeting 22 August 2023

Population Monitoring

With the assistance of Graeme Jobey and Colin Rose we managed to complete the Shoveler Duck Survey and all the forms have been sent through to Eastern region for collation.

With the condition of the rivers still making it difficult to do any counting of trout we have been relying on the Regional Councils EDNA testing results showing the presence of trout or not.

At the meeting I will give a demo as to how to interpret the results of this testing. Understandably a number of rivers are showing a very low presence of trout and invertebrates, but it is variable.

Curriculum Launch

This happened on 21 June and was attended by around 12 schools. It also involved a think tank about other areas that it could involve as well as a tour of the facility.

We are waiting for the final draft to come back to us from Nicky Andersen who is now employed by the Ministry of Education.

Education Report

Since the last Council meeting, we have had 6 schools visit and use the facility here, some of them have used it twice as they send different classes.

These visits have included Primary, Intermediate and High school students.

With each visit we have split the students into three groups, one group doing water studies, one doing biodiversity and of course, one fishing. The groups then rotate around each activity.

We have learnt a lot about organising groups of students, but I suspect we are still novices. It has however shown the potential of the facility as an Education Centre.

Over the next month or so we have several schools visiting, including Hastings Boys High.

One issue that has arisen is that when it comes to fishing activity, we need experienced anglers to assist as a number of these students have never held a rod before and there maybe up to 20 Students in group.

In addition, as we are relying on volunteers to man this activity, sometimes we do get let down if someone is a no show.

I have asked the team here to explore ways it could be managed better.

Kids Fishing Day

We had another very good Fishing Day on Sunday 13 August. The slowest part of the day was getting the fish to take.

Kids caught fish, so there were a lot of happy faces, both parents and children.

There are several other fishing events that have been in the planning.

On 31 August there will be a Senior anglers fishing day here at the facility, and one for Junior and Adult anglers will be announced soon.

Health and Safety

There have not been any accidents/incidents to report for the period.

There remains only one incident for the entire year.

It is important to note that for every school visit a Health and Safety briefing is given to the students, teachers, and parents as they enter the grounds.

Recommendation – That the H&S report is accepted.

Niblett/Lumsden

Licence Report

The latest licence report is up to 25 July 2023.

As shown in the following summary Hawkes Bay licence sales YTD are down on the previous year for both fish and game sales.

NZ sales for fish are up slightly on the previous year though game are down on the previous year.

	Hawkes Bay	NZ
Total Fish	(6.4%)	2.2%
Total Game	(8.8%)	(1.4%)

Recommendation – That the licence sales report is accepted.

B. Slavin/McKay

Finance Report

Refer to the attached financial reports.

These reports cover the June and July months.

For June the result was a loss of \$13,182 and for July a loss of \$35,527.

The YTD result to end July 2023 is a profit of \$106,331.

June Payments - \$21,281.01

July Payments - \$68,142.81

Note – The July payments include \$22,231.89 to IRD, \$5,290 for compostable toilets, \$3,030.40 for HBRC rates, and \$3,978.48 for computer hardware.

Recommendation – That the June and July payments are accepted.

Recommendation – That the Finance Report for YTD 31 July 2023 be accepted.

Lumsden/Bates

It was agreed to accept the draft Operational Work Plan until new management is appointed and can make any changes.

Bates/Ross

At 6.55pm the Council decided to move to a Public Excluded Session.

Meeting Closed 8.30pm