

## WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2020 AT 3.10PM HELD AT UPPER HUTT COSMOPOLITAN CLUB, 11 LOGAN STREET, UPPER HUTT.

1. **Present:**

Chairman Strato Cotsilinis, Councillors Chris O’Meara, Aaron Passey, Richard McIntyre, Don Scott, Paul Shortis, Colin Shore, Jim Cook, John Hancock, Malcolm Francis, Andrew McGregor.

**In Attendance:**

Fish and Game Staff: Phil Teal (Regional Manager), Dr Matt Kavermann, Hamish Carnachan, Nathan Field

NZ Council staff: Steve Doughty

Licence Holders: Jeremy Eckley, Bryce Johnson

2. **Apologies:**

Councillors Andy Tannock.

It was moved

*that apologies be accepted*

Malcom Francis/Chris O’Meara

Carried

**Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda**

Chairman Cotsilinis welcomed the Council and public.

3. **Conflict of Interest**

There were no additional conflicts of interest that were identified specific to the agenda.

Mr Teal confirmed that the Conflict of Interest management plan would be updated if new conflicts of interest were identified or Council chose to deal with a managing a conflict in a different way.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 13 October 2020:**

After brief discussion it was moved that

*the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 13 October 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.*

Jim Cook/Don Scott

Carried

5. **Matters Arising:**

Mr Teal confirmed actions completed from the previous meeting but no specific matters arising were discussed.

6. **NZ Fish and Game Council Business**

Councillor Shortis provided an overview of the NZ Council Meeting held on 20 and 21 November 2020. He confirmed that there were several consultation papers that would be sent to regions in due course for their views.

A. **Research on Potential Impacts of Trout Farming:**

Councillor Shortis noted that a research proposal was being developed by NZ Council to look at the potential impact of trout farming. NZ Council would reaffirm total opposition to trout farming until it could better understand the potential impacts. Councillor Scott sought clarification that if not major scientifically proven impact that by inference NZ Council could change their position. Councillor Shortis confirmed that the research will start in the new year. He further clarified that resources would be used for research that would provide a New Zealand context and not rely solely on overseas situations but would include a literature review and research review of overseas experiences. Trout farming is a real possibility given the current economic feasibility studies being developed, therefore there is a need to understand the current situation. He noted that NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA) had provided considerable information to assist NZ Council – although this needed to be verified from science-based findings, rather than being accounts based on anecdotes and opinions.

Councillor Shortis confirmed that he had stepped down from the Chairman's role in NZ Council for personal reasons – and could not put enough time and energy into the chairmanship in the immediate short-term future. He further indicated that it was his intention to leave the NZ Council but he had received enough internal support to remain as Wellington region's appointee to NZ Council. There was universal support from Wellington councillors to reaffirm this position. He confirmed that there was internal support for him to continue and complete some of the review projects that he had already initiated. He also noted that there were two major projects which he had been part of including the Ministerial review, and resource allocation project that were nearing conclusion that would benefit from his continued involvement.

Councillor Francis noted the outstanding contribution that Councillor Shortis had made to-date at the NZ Council, and that his principles of transparency with Wellington Fish and Game Council had made for better decision making.

He concluded that he was very appreciative of what representation for hunters and anglers interests he had provided, and offered best wishes to him and his family during the current circumstances. These sentiments were reiterated by Wellington councillors present.

**B. Resource Allocation Project:**

Chairman Cotsilinis confirmed that the consultant had provided a draft summary to the reference committee (of which he is a member). This included considering main trends in licence income and future budget allocations to enable all regions to operate efficiently, and budgets to be allocated on a utilisation and/or requirements basis.

It was anticipated that a consultation document would be distributed for regional consultation by mid-December, with it anticipated that Council would consider this issue at the first meeting of 2021.

Councillor Shortis confirmed that considerations would be a mix of utilisation and need – with a potential approach using a zero-based budget to strip out the budget to build up requirements. There would be considerations into national funding versus regional funding – and it could be that after stripping out the budgets that Wellington region could potentially be slightly underfunded. Chairman Cotsilinis also noted that consideration needed to be given to going beyond the principle of where the licence is bought from to where the resources are used. It is also likely that any recommendation would include a principle of gradual change to reduce the severe actions of widespread redundancies but re-emphasize needs (an example of the South Island canal fisheries which results in significant income but management needs are not large).

**C. Ministerial Fish and Game Governance Review Progress:**

It appears that the consultation phase of the project is essentially complete with the report being written and likely to be completed in the new year – once advice on resource allocation had been received and considered. Councillor Shortis noted that with the new Minister of Conservation that the report will likely be available in March at the earliest (earliest anticipated copy to NZ Council would be for their 5 March 2021 meeting). He reaffirmed that the Minister is not under any obligation to release the report in total or immediately. Chairman Cotsilinis noted that without the review results and conclusions that it would be hard for the organisation to move forward with full confidence.

Councillor Scott sought clarification of a NZC doubtful debt which was provision for North Canterbury region's debt.

It was then moved that

***The report from Councillor Shortis on business relating to the NZ Fish and Game Council meeting from 20– 21 November 2021 be received.***

**Malcolm Francis/Don Scott**

Carried

**7. Public Forum**

There were no items for discussion at the public forum.

**8. Health and Safety Reporting**

A brief discussion was held on various approaches to undertake a formal H&S review and advice by an external provider and brief consideration of a proposal by *Employsure*. Councillor Hancock noted that many external experts may not recognise the risks that Fish and Game operate with, and that internal risk identification will still be necessary. Mr Teal was requested to also look at options which would group several regions or be undertaken on a national contract.

It was moved that

***Council receive the Health and Safety Report for October and November 2020***

**Colin Shore/Jim Cook**

Carried

**9. Recommendations for 2021 Game Season Regulations**

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the trends for each population monitored noting that trend counts for black swan and paradise shelduck won't be undertaken until the end of January. After brief discussion it was discussed that a submission from Mr Marc Flaws had noted that a larger swan limit be considered for at least opening weekend due to nuisance aggregations at Lake Wairarapa margins. It was confirmed that a teleconference (or Zoom meeting) would be conducted in late January 2021 to confirm the details for the paradise shelduck and black swan season conditions flowing trend count flights.

It was then moved that

***The following game season conditions be recommended to the Minister of Conservation:***

- ***Mallard/Grey***

***10 bird daily limit – (1 May to 27 June 2021) - 8 week season***

**Chris O'Meara/Colin Shore**

Carried

- ***NZ Shoveler***

***2 bird daily limit – (1 May to 27 June 2021) - 8 week season***

**Aaron Passey/John Hancock**

Carried

***Pukeko***

***5 bird daily limit – (1 May to 29 August 2021)***

**Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey**

Carried

***California Quail***

***5 bird daily limit – (1 May to 29 August 2021)***

**Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook**

Carried

***Cock Pheasant***

***2 bird daily limit - (1 May to 29 August 2021)***

**Chris O'Meara/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

***Red Legged Partridge***

***1 bird daily limit - (1 May to 29 August 2021)***

**Richard McIntyre/John Hancock**

Carried

It was further noted that the three current upland game properties with special conditions would be considered under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 by the Minister until 2025.

**10. National Environmental Standards (NES) – Regulations for Maimais and Wetland Enhancement**

A brief discussion ensued on the paper *National Environmental Standards for Freshwater – Wetlands Report* by Mischa Davis RM Advocacy Officer, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council dated 17 November 2020.

It was then moved that

***Advocacy be made to the Minister for the Environment for maimai construction and maintenance to be a permitted activity if less than 10m<sup>2</sup>***

**Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey**

Carried

Further discussion ensued on other potential implications on wetland enhancement projects being influenced by regulatory issues and it was concluded that these issues should be strongly advocated to the Minister for the Environment and that this be noted to NZ Council by Fish and Game regions with concerns. There was full support in seeking an urgent meeting of RM staff to consider these issues and raising the recommended outcomes to NZ Council and to the Ministry for the Environment. It was noted that this

had already been discussed at a Managers/CEs meeting and at NZ Council meeting.

**11. Reserves Policy**

Council considered the papers Draft Policy on the *Accumulation, Management and Application of Reserves within Fish and Game* by Ray Grubb (Chair of Standing Finance Committee, NZC) undated and Wellington Fish and Game Council submission on discussion paper. Councillor Shortis reemphasised that this was a discussion document and not a draft national policy yet, so there would be another round of formal consultation once comments had been received back.

Chairman Cotsilinis noted that some of the principles used in the two papers needed to be clarified. He sought clarification on the interpretations that that general and dedicated reserves are defined as unused licence income, and that general reserves are made up from surpluses only given some regions have used these for buildings. Councillor Shortis noted that some reserve treatment (such as Asset Replacement Fund) are not a standard accounting approach -so there is a need to clean up reserves policy overall. There was also clarification on the General Reserve balance vs Cash available reserve and defining and applying levels of reserve for cashflow and risk management (eg. Applying 30-50% budget levels for reserves and NZ Council reserves are defined as greater than that range). Chairman Cotsilinis agreed to draft a reply to the draft Reserves Policy with comments expected back in February 2021 (draft to be discussed at next meeting).

Councillor Shortis should be provisioning for same event as COVID-19 risks and this would work if all regions follow good resource allocation model approach. Chairman Cotsilinis noted that if NZ Council finds region not managing their reserves judiciously then there are levers there (levy adjustment) but would NZC use them?

**12. MOU for Database Use**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the purpose of an internal MOU on how the records in the database would be used by regional Fish and Game Councils and NZ Fish and Game Council. Mr Teal briefly went through the additional commentary noting where changes could be made to clarify use of the database. A brief discussion ensued supporting the appropriate clarifications, and further questioned the meaning of what data would be used in a NZ Council function “co-ordinating Fish and Game’s financial viability from an organisational perspective”.

It was then moved that

***Wellington Fish and Game Council submit the MOU with suggested clarifications and specifically request clarification as to what information was intended to be used for financial viability analysis.***

**Paul Shortis/Chris O'Meara**

Carried

**13. Special Licence to Fish for Sports Fish**

**A. Zealandia Permit Extension Request:**

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the request to extend the period that the permit to remove sports fish due to the delay in undertaking the operation at the onset of COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 – essentially putting the timetable back a year. He recommended that the licence be extended and change dates accordingly due to the interruption caused by COVID-19 restrictions in 2020.

A brief discussion it was moved that

***the special licence for Zealandia to remove sports fish from the lower reservoir at Karori Sanctuary be extended by 12 months.***

**Jim Cook/Colin Shore**

Carried

**B. Horizons Regional Council – Monitoring Programme**

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the work that Horizons Regional Council were proposing for their fish monitoring programme. He indicated that the work would have negligible effect on the sports fish population. As part of the the licence conditions the results will be provided by 30 September in that calendar year.

It was then moved that

***The special licence to take sports fish as part of the monitoring programme by Horizons Regional Council be processed accordingly with appropriate conditions noted.***

**Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**C. Greater Wellington Regional Council – Monitoring Programme**

Dr Kavermann provided an overview of the special licence drafted for GWRC for their fish monitoring programme. He noted that the netting method requested had been deferred for more discussion. GWRC further requested inclusion of manawhenua or volunteers if assisting with their work, and also requested to add contractors to do priority work.

Dr Kavermann noted that the MPI permits for the Ashhurst to Woodville roading project that contractors were required to request individual and

separate permits from Fish and Game for sports fish removal. He further noted that there could be a confused responsibility if any contractors authorised to take freshwater fish under a GWRC held permit could potentially take sports fish without our knowledge under the DOC MOU with GWRC.

Discussion ensued on GWRC and its agents would be adequate as long as the conduct of all satisfied the same conditions as the Freshwater Team. It could result in no visibility of an unnamed agent(s) but would be acceptable if named and they undertook the work to the same standard and oversight of internal GWRC processes as the Freshwater Team. It was agreed that Fish and Game needed assurances that any agents would be named and operate with the same standards as the Freshwater Team and that the consenting referred to the work planned by the Freshwater Team. It was also confirmed that the parties were jointly and/or severally liable to compliance action should there be breaches of the regulations.

**14. Draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan**

A brief discussion ensued on revised version and it was confirmed that consultation on the draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan could commence following identification of interested stakeholders.

It was moved that

***The consultation process for the Wellington region Sports Fish and Game Management Plan 2021-2031 may be initiated by staff***

**Colin Shore/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**15. GWRC Western Region Global Resource Consent Applications**

A brief discussion it was noted that no progress had been indicated by GWRC that any further discussions with Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai or Raukawa had progressed substantively.

It was moved

***To receive the update report of GWRC Western Region Global Resource Consent Applications***

**Jim Cook/Richard McIntyre**

Carried

Councillor Francis noted to Council that the Freshwater Funds Spade Ready projects had granted \$8.5million in restoration funds to create 92 jobs. It was further noted that Fish and Game and other stakeholders had not been communicated about the project application nor notification of the granting of the funds by central Government. It was requested that information be



sought on what the funds were intended to be used for, and to ensure that public (and angler) access to the upper Waikanae River was maintained.

**16. GWRC regional plan – proposed Natural Resources Plan**

A brief discussion ensued on the length of time that the Environment Court mediation had been continuing on – from mid-February until present with a few more weeks anticipated before finalising outstanding issues to the Court. Recent issues included confirming and clarifying linking trout provisions to policy and objectives.

It was then moved that

***Council receive the update report on the GWRC Proposed Regional Plan Environment Court Appeals case***

**Aaron Passey/Richard McIntyre**

Carried

**17. One Plan Implementation – Plan Change 2 Hearing Update**

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the hearing proceedings and noted that a decision from the Commissioners is anticipated before the end of the calendar year.

It was then moved that

***Council receive the update report on the One Plan – Plan Change 2 Hearing***

**Don Scott/Richard McIntyre**

Carried

**18. Wairarapa Water – Irrigation Project Update**

A brief discussion ensued on the newsletter produced by Wairarapa Water Ltd, particularly noting the focus that the proponents were taking on drought resilience and municipal water supply. It was anticipated that WWL would lodge resource consent applications prior to the end of the calendar year 2020.

It was noted that the Water Resilience Group established to give credence to the project were giving key promotion to inland water storage options such as : water storage in wetlands, landscaped water storage and/or leaving in the river. This is potentially contrary to the proposal of WWL to have a dam single use. The command area had been extended considerably and there were potential issues with how the water would be conveyed – e.g. down the mainstem of the Ruamahanga River by loading with x m<sup>3</sup> and removing x m<sup>3</sup> several kilometres downstream. It was also specifically stated in the newsletter that the Provincial Growth Fund might preclude further dairy farm intensification in the command area, or alternatively the \$7million grant

might need to be part of fully refunded. Councillor Hancock questioned the cost of the water and how many farmers had actually signed up beyond a general expression of interest (estimate costs of water \$0.28 per m<sup>3</sup>). Any issues of dealing with additional or changes in nutrient loading are intended to be addressed by the Regional Plan provisions but this might be challenged in the Whaitua Plan Change process additionally.

It was then moved that

***Council receive the update report on the Wairarapa Water project***

**Malcolm Francis/John Hancock**

Carried

**19. Lake Wairarapa Management Update**

A brief discussion ensued on the following points:

- No further progress or notification by DOC on establishing a walkway next to Simmonds Lagoon.
- No further advancement of settling the issues of mandating for iwi – which has the Treaty settlement process on pause.
- There was little clarification on the budgets appropriated by DOC and Regional Council for fish removal around Lake Wairarapa
- Maimai Allocation – an overview of the maimai allocation process was provide by Dr Kavermann and Nathan Field. They confirmed that a comprehensive map had been established for Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon using drone and physical visitations. It planned to progress this through JK Donald Wetland and lake foreshore next. Mr Field confirmed that 69 stands had been identified in Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon and up to 35 could be up for ballot for various reasons – but recommended up to 20 for this year and 5 for PukePuke Lagoon.
- Dr Kavermann and Mr Field sought direction from Council on a number of stands to confirm the approach taken was acceptable to Councillors. They noted that stand number 19 BP was locked and in a generally poor state. As staff they were using the principle of good tenants but occupied, and some stands need work to legitimize their continued tenure. Waterfowl hunters needed to reconfirm their positive reputations and ethics of being respectful of the habitat. Need consideration of risk to licence holders, general public and reputation. It was confirmed that if hunters tidied up their stand and maintained them then a three year plus three year tenure is reasonable. It was acknowledged that there will be a necessary change in culture of some hunters given that they haven't previously been under too much scrutiny or regulation.

It was then moved that

***Staff undertake inspections and management of maimais with a hard line to ensure good standards are maintained.***

**Malcolm Francis/Paul Shortis**

Carried

- Dr Kavermann and Mr Field then discussed the example of stand number 4 BP which needed a considerable amount of effort and possibly could be offered to a club as the current hunter probably doesn't have the resources or energy to completely rebuild. Options discussed were potentially leaving to the older hunter to sort out (offer an alternate site to the older hunter) or offer the stand to an alternative hunter. Following a directive if approached by a club to manage the site. It was agreed to seek confirmation from the existing hunter of his intentions to use the maimai, and if he was going to then couldn't leave the stand as it was.
- It was agreed that reinforcement of the culture change required and reputation that now must be maintained. It was agreed that it would be prudent to meet with hunters of similar interest in a particular wetland.

It was then moved that

***Council receive the update report on the Lake Wairarapa Management Issues***

**Malcolm Francis/Chris O'Meara**

Carried

## **20. Research Update**

Mr Teal and Dr Kavermann provided a brief update on the eDNA project and the Native Fish – Trout Interaction Project. The eDNA project had focused on sites on the Kahuterawa Stream near Palmerston North and work had continued with Massey researchers. It was confirmed that next winter spawning period that Wellington Fish and Game would be utilising staff resources to reconfirm Wellington region spawning streams using the technique and revalidate the technique for wider use.

Dr Kavermann explained the difference in eDNA sampling techniques using Metabar coding (alternative) or LAMP analysis (currently preferred). He referred to the draft handbook "Freshwater Environmental DNA Sampling : Trout Spawning" recently completed.

Mr Teal confirmed that Ami Coughlan had been processing samples and establishing an inventory for oxygen isotope analysis for the native fish – trout interaction project.

As part of a larger MBIE grant application the Cawthron Institute had embarked on a project that would assess the financial and social values of trout fisheries in NZ.

Dr Adam Canning continues to provide advice and interest in the projects.

After brief discussion it was moved that

***The update report on research projects be received***

**Jim Cook/Aaron Passey**

Carried

**21. Junior/Novice Participation Update**

Dr Kavermann and Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to the fish out pond at the Otaki Lake site which could potentially make this a fit for purpose fishing area. While there was interest in other parties to have a children’s fishing day early next year there were only 40 two-year-old fish available and issues in getting this small number to the site was cost prohibitive.

Councillor Scott provided an overview of the family fishing day held at Hokowhitu Lagoon – and finalised audit of accounts to the funders.

Chairman Cotsilinis noted that the Taranaki Fish and Game Council had a fishing event in a lake with few caught on the day but still catching them. HE compared this with the way the Hokowhitu Lagoon event was run this year.

Councillor Francis confirmed that Kapiti Fly Fishing Club will request catchable fish for Otaki for late 2021.

It was then moved

***To receive the update report on junior/novice participation***

**Don Scott/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**22. Management Report – 1 October to 30 November 2020**

Discussion ensued on reports of a land care group forming in the Rangitikei Catchment with the landowners keen for Horizons Regional Council opting to leave the active management of the river in places to be less intensive and potentially accept losses of land buffers.

Mr Teal gave a brief overview of the Environment Court prosecution case on the sediment discharge from Birchville Dam – Greater Wellington Regional Council v Greater Wellington Regional Council. The judgment was clear that the two guilty findings of breaches of the RMA were careless from both a practical and legal point of view. A fine of \$90K was imposed on the Regional Council - with the Regional Council also determining how the restitution fund is administered.

It was agreed that

***Wellington Fish and Game Council write a letter to GWRC requesting that Fish and Game be a key stakeholder (along with others – iwi and community) that determines how that fund should be spent.***

**Richard McIntyre/Aaron Passey**

Carried

Mr Teal and Mr Carnachan provided an overview of NZDF position on allowing access to land under a Waitangi Tribunal claim and active hearing. Fish and Game is limited (none) in its ability to be represented at the Tribunal Hearings and NZDF are the Crown party who and talk directly as existing owner and the claimants. It is intended to send a submission to know the consequences of the proceedings to the NZDF.

Mr Carnachan confirmed that he had visited the eastern Wairarapa forest sites and was viewed as suitable upland game habitat – with some quail and a few pheasants already present. He also confirmed that NZ Forest Enterprise were still keen on the concept of allowing hunter access and amenable to some releases at the sites.

After further brief discussion it was moved that

***Council investigate the release of up to \$1000 worth of pheasant to forest sites***

**Chris O'Meara/John Hancock**

Carried

After further brief discussion it was moved that

***Council receive the Management Report for period 1 October to 30 November 2020 be received.***

**Colin Shore/Aaron Passey**

Carried

### **23. Licence Sales report**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the fishing and game licence sales:

- 2020/21 fish licence sales LEQs were up significantly compare to last year (+350LEQs using income from Non-Resident Licence Holders as 1.3LEQ).

It was moved that

***The licence sales reports for Fish Licence Sales 2020/2021 as at end of November 2020 be received***

**Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**24. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions**

The summary of income and expenditure to 31 October 2020 was considered.

It was then moved

***Receive and Accept the Expenditure Reports to 31 October 2020 and Financial Transactions for September and October 2020.***

**Don Scott/Aaron Passey**

Carried

Mr Teal noted that he would be actively assessing vehicle replacement as it had been deferred for over six months in the planned conservative replacement cycle.

**25. Communications**

Council considered a letter from Al Cross (General Manager Environmental) GWRC regarding rescinding the warning letters sent to GWRC staff for breaches of permit. Considerable discussion ensued noting the personal responsibility of GWRC staff to be aware of the permit requirements and adhere to them correctly. They were considered to be jointly and/or severally liable – and it was perhaps an indication of a culture which led to careless outcomes. It was a chance to open a dialogue with GWRC on rectifying their culture and internal processes. The National Compliance advice at the time was to proceed with a prosecution of the GWRC and those found to have breached the permit requirements – but in the interests of public good, the least punitive action was taken with only warning letters being issued to staff. Consideration of a more formal warning letter to the GWRC might add additional context to that decision. Council considered that due process was followed and that the warning letters should remain.

It was moved

***That a letter of reply to Mr Cross explaining that the warning letters would not be rescinded due to breaches of the permit, and that the regional council should now be in a position to show Fish and Game of any changes to their processes and culture to ensure this didn't occur again.***

**Malcom Francis/Don Scott**

Carried

Discussion ensued on the highlighted media articles:

- Pulse in junior fishing interest – AM Show
- Birchville Dam decision – GWRC v GWRC – Environment Court

It was then moved

***To receive report on items of interest in communications and media***

**Jim Cook/Malcolm Francis**

Carried

**26. Recognition Medals**

A brief discussion was held on recommending further nominations for recipients – it was agreed that the efforts of Andrew Harding to actively promote Wellington region trout fishing opportunities was worthy of recognition.

It was then moved

***To recognise Andrew Harding for his communication efforts and assistance to Wellington Fish and Game Council in promoting sports fishing in the Wellington region***

**Jim Cook/Colin Shore**

Carried

**27. Wellington Conservation Board Liaison**

Mr Teal confirmed that Councillor Scott had previously indicated that he was keen to attend meetings in Palmerston North area, with topics of interest including Reservoir fisheries, and concerns relating to the Manawatu River trout fisheries. An open invitation was still available to Fish and Game Council. Councillor Scott and Councillor Francis indicated that they would be keen to attend the next meeting in Palmerston North on 29 January 2021.

**28. General Business**

Councillor McIntyre noted that the recent animal ethics case involving skilled professionals had successfully taken a legal case. The Animal Law Association - a coalition of lawyers – undertaking legal cases aligned with issues aligned with SAFE should make Fish and Game aware that all aspects of animal ethics should be considered - and need to show that they have been considered adequately.

Following a request for clarification from a licence holder it was confirmed that NZ Council investigations had confirmed availability of bismuth shot at reasonable price in New Zealand for use by black powder firearm users and as such no exemptions would be made. It was agreed that this was a small number of licence holders but not everyone was represented by the Black

Powder Association – so there was still a need to publicise the position of NZ Council and the outlets which stocked these items.

There being no items of general business the meeting was closed at 6.02pm.

Next Meeting to be held: ***Hotel Coachman, Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North on 9 February 2021 at 3pm.***

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_