

## MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 26 SEPTEMBER 2016

### Held at NZDA CLUBROOMS NEIL HUNT PARK ROTORUA

**Present:** Don Hammond (Chair), Bill O'Leary, Garry Ottmann, Geoff Kerr, Mark Brough, Steve McFall, Terry Pierson, Carol Watson, Roger Duxfield

Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer)

**Also in attendance:** Mike Daisley CEO MSC, Ben Reddiex DOC, Alan Munn DOC, Nick Carlaw from MartinJenkins, Joy Tracey,

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Don Hammond welcomed Councillors and Ben Reddiex from DOC. Alan Munn from DOC, Joy Tracey and Nick Carlaw joined the meeting later.

**Apologies:** Minister Dunne, Lou Sanson Director General, DOC, Mike Slater Deputy Director Operations DOC, Mervyn English DOC, John Brinsley-Pirie Minister Dunne's Private Secretary, Michelle Edge (OSPRI), Martin Kessick DOC, Alec McIver GAC, James Guild, Jonathan Wallace, Geoff Kerr for lateness/flight delayed.

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| <b>Motion 12/1:</b> Moved Terry Pierson/Roger Duxfield: That apologies be accepted. | CARRIED |
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**2. Minutes of previous meeting 27 June 2016:** were taken as read with minor alterations.

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| <b>Motion 12/2:</b> Moved Bill O'Leary/Terry Pierson: that the Minutes of the 27 June 2016 Meeting be approved as a true and correct record of the meeting. | CARRIED |
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**Matters arising from Minutes not on agenda:** Councillors to send through any updates to Commonalities of Interest.

**3. Action Items from previous meetings**

- a. No further word from SPCA, Meeting date sometime in December.
- b. Illegal Hunting, Minister still wants to see this progressed.
- c. Action 4/5 Research Bait Types, Ben Reddiex to provide information later. Mark Brough advised that Landcare Research are currently researching bait types. Still need to chase up the attractiveness of deer repellent to pigs. Garry Ottmann advised that OSPRI might also be doing some research on this. **Action item 12/1;** Don Hammond suggested we write to DOC/OSPRI formally asking them where they are up to with their research and technical detail. Ben Reddiex will try to coordinate this so that DOC & OSPRI give a cohesive response.
- d. Garry Ottmann's comment on DOC and BfOB section, want to ask DOC about use of deer repellent above the bush line.
- e. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council wants to meet regarding their Draft Pest Management Strategy. **Action item 12/2;** Don Hammond to organise a date and other Councillors who might be able to attend.
- f. Table of action items:
  - Action 1/14 & 1/15; Game Trophy Levy & Illegal Hunting - Minister will be writing to us soon with a letter of expectation
  - Action 3/1; NZPHGA – to be discussed at the next meeting. Roger Duxfield has circulated a hard copy of the NZPHGA training manual to those councillors who requested to view the document. The Guides are reluctant to send Training material by email as they have put a lot of resources into it. Bill O'Leary acknowledged that the report has been put together by experts over a long period of time and been refined by putting it into practice. He thinks it is a sound document with ingrained review mechanisms and recommended we endorse it. Don Hammond advised we need to follow a formal process and that a new Working Group

comprising Bill O’Leary, Geoff Kerr and Carol Watson will be responsible for familiarising themselves with the report and making a formal recommendation made to GAC after other Councillors have had the opportunity to read it **Action Item 12/3**. Bill O’Leary reminded Council that it can only endorse the report in its current format as it will be subject to review and change by the Guides not the GAC. In light of this the GAC should consider conducting an annual or biannual review. The Working Group to make a recommendation to Council by the end of October. Bill counselled that the information is confidential and should not to be discussed with people outside Council. Roger Duxfield advised that the Guide’s first Academy Training Course would be held in early November and they’d probably like to have received formal notification of its endorsement by the GAC by that date.

- Action 3/12; GAC Promotion and Sponsorship Policy - this issue came to a head a few weeks ago, when Stoney Creek gave us a proposal to supply jackets for Sika Show. GAC couldn’t accept the offer as there is still no policy on this issue. Don Hammond suggested the development of any policy on this issue is put on hold until the Levy is introduced as it could possibly create barriers to potential relationships. In the longer term the GAC will need a policy on working through commercial relationships.
- Action 8/8; Consultation with iwi - the GAC needs to further its relationship with iwi but doesn’t have the resources to progress this at the moment. Don Hammond has had some early discussions with the Minister about Rusa but no formal work has been undertaken at this stage and it is important to tread carefully and not rush this.
- Action 8/9; Write to Conservation Authority - Don Hammond has made contact and is waiting for an invitation to address them. This is very relevant to HOSI and the GAC has a statutory responsibility to liaise with them. Don Hammond to follow this up.
- Action 9/14; clarification about whether the CMS’s are the place to address HOSI - Geoff Kerr and Garry Ottmann to formalise this with a letter to the Director-General. Thus far it has only been addressed by emails to the Department.
- Action 10/7; New Working Group to develop a draft HOSI strategy - Garry Ottmann said the GAC needs to clarify the steps to be taken and who will be responsible for each.
- Action 11/3; Councillors to provide feedback to Mark Brough on wording of draft 1080 (and other toxins) policy - Mark Brough advised he has had limited feedback to date. Garry Ottmann noted that the GAC’s role is of consultation regarding proposed operations, not the detail of operations we have limited control over. Mark Brough will summarise the collective position during October and approval sought by email.

A lot of the feedback the GAC received at the Sika Show was that they were content to have the GAC engaging with DOC and OSPRI and using science and requiring consultation and mitigation. Ben Reddiex suggested that the GAC have a “Frequently Asked Questions” section on its website. Bill O’Leary advised that the NZDA debates the use of 1080 at every conference with their current position being that they “oppose the use of toxins in such a way or in an indiscriminate manner, as they take out Game Animals”.

4. **MSC Update:** Don Hammond welcomed Mike Daisley, CEO of MSC saying the GAC needs to build a strong relationship with MSC. Mike Daisley spoke about the MSC publication *There and Back*, an exploration of outdoor recreation incidents in NZ and gave an overview of what is and what isn’t covered in their publication. Mike Daisley said that although Minister Dunne had announced that the GAC would be driving the proposed Illegal Hunting Review, MSC had in fact already initiated a Hunter Safety Review. MSC didn’t undertake the Review themselves but rather, had relied on contractors to undertake the work whilst they led by identifying key processes. Hunter Safety is covered on a general basis but will be one of the 5 issues covered by a ‘deeper dive’ which will look at data including statistics and geographical information such as maps. Roger Duxfield queried the reliability of the data on international hunting – Mike Daisley advised it had been provided by MBIE and Tourism NZ. Mark Brough questioned what criteria was used to come up with the figure of 160,000 NZ hunters; does it include hunters who hunt once a year, 100 times a year, commercial

hunters, recreational hunters, people of all age groups? Mike Daisley said that MSC will liaise with NZDA to get more accurate data for the 'deeper dive' into Hunter Safety.

Geoff Kerr questioned the context of the use of DOC data. Geoff said there are too many variables and the system is not designed for MSC's intended purposes. Mike Daisley accepted the limitations and will look to provide more detail in further publications. Bill O'Leary was involved in preliminary meetings to identify issues affecting hunter safety. Don Hammond suggested that if the hunting specific data is incorrect and includes fatalities from falls, accidents involving motor vehicles etc then the data can be interpreted incorrectly. Mike Daisley said the MSC information is robust and reliable, however if they find a more accurate way to collect data then they can change tack. Mike Daisley said the focus of the publications is recreational hunting for which MSC have a remit as opposed to people who hunt for a living who are covered by WorkSafe apart from commercial guides who are not included. Mike Daisley said that MSC couldn't restrict themselves to just focussing on accidents and fatalities, but attempted to also tie these into ACC claims, Search & Rescue statistics, Police reports, Coroner's Office statistics etc and that the data analysed went back 7 to 10 years. Mike Daisley advised that it is MSC's intention to review and reprint *There and Back* in another couple of years and at that stage will work more closely with organisations like GAC, NZDA, NZPGHA, NZPHA and others and see what can be done to prevent future accidents. As part of the MSC planning their next steps, they would like to know which Councillors within the GAC to engage with.

Don Hammond thanked Mike Daisley for updating the Council and suggested that one of the first measures MSC should take would be to differentiate between Fish & Game hunters, big game hunters and small game hunters, high country hunting, duck hunting etc. He also suggested MSC look into any commonalities that existed around the people that are having accidents, using for example, information and statistics kept by the NZDA and other organisations. There is also a possibility that we are seeing higher levels of reporting these days as a result of people taking their cellphones and PLB (personal locator beacons) into the bush and a correlating reduction in the time taken to locate missing hunters and trampers.

## 5. Financial Matters

### Account Balances – 24 June 2016

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Investment – On Call | \$12565.92        |
| Current Account      | <u>\$16599.64</u> |
|                      | <b>\$29165.56</b> |

### Plus Income:

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| GST Refunds                    | \$ 1884.11        |
| DOC 16.8.16                    | \$57500.00        |
| Interest on Investment Account | <u>\$ 19.42</u>   |
| <b>Total Income</b>            | <b>\$59403.53</b> |

### Less Expenses

\$32090.90

### Balances – 23 Sept 2016

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Investment – On Call | \$40585.34        |
| Current Account      | <u>\$15892.85</u> |
|                      | <b>\$56478.19</b> |

**Motion 12/3:** Moved Terry Pierson/Roger Duxfield: That the financial report be accepted and that payments made be approved. CARRIED

- a. DOC contribution of \$50,000 was paid into the GAC's bank account in August 2016. The current balance doesn't reflect \$7500 GST to be paid out shortly. Terry Pierson advised the GAC has a list of annual financial expenses but the list needs some work before it can be circulated. Councillors have been tardy lodging their expense claims which causes complications attributing expenses to other financial years. Claims need to indicate which meetings other than Board Meetings were attended and on what dates, including airfares and local travel expenses. Don Hammond, Ben Reddiex and Terry Pierson discussed the GAC budget and financial needs going forward and in the lead up to the implementation of the Export Levy. Jenny to recirculate a list of commonly used codes.
6. **Correspondence:** Don Hammond presented the correspondence. There was some discussion about the article in the NZ Hunter which had been wrongly attributed to the GAC and which resulted in a follow up article. The nomination of Bill O'Leary at short notice to the Molesworth Committee highlighted the need for a formal process to be followed in situations where organisations sought formal nominations.

**Motion 12/4:** Moved Mark Brough/Garry Ottmann: That Bill O'Leary's nomination for the Molesworth Steering Committee was endorsed by the Council.

CARRIED

Bill O'Leary thanked Councillors for their endorsement.

**Motion 12/5:** Moved Mark Brough/Carol Watson: That inward correspondence be accepted and outward correspondence be approved.

CARRIED

7. **DOC Update** – Ben Reddiex introduced Joy Tracey who is working with the Export Levy Implementation Working Group and acknowledged the work by Council members, Martin Jenkins and others on the Export Levy Working Group. Ben Reddiex provided some background about Alan Munn and his role at DOC. He then circulated a two-page DOC Report covering Predator Free New Zealand 2050, Battle for Our Birds and OSPRI. Don Hammond had been invited to the formal announcement of Predator Free NZ 2050 made by the Prime Minister and Maggie Barry on 25 July 2016. The invitation was a good acknowledgement of the GAC and the role it plays, by the Government. Ben Reddiex advised that there is a new entity being formed around Predator Free initiatives.

Don Hammond spoke about the Predator Free NZ launch and why the GAC supports this initiative and what constitutes pests as opposed to predators. He emphasised why the GAC needs to be working with them to ensure the best possible outcome for both pests and game animals. Don Hammond asked that the GAC places on record, formal acknowledgement of the invitation received from DOC to attend the launch and what this says about the strength of the relationship between DOC and the GAC. Bill O'Leary seconded this, placing on record his appreciation of the relationship between DOC and the NZDA.

Geoff Kerr gave an update on BfOB including areas where predator sightings have risen or fallen, the changing situation and three areas where mitigation had been agreed; Blue Mountains, the Cobb and the Dart.

Garry Ottmann provided an update on Glenorchy Whitetail and funding for 10 collars so deer could be monitored.

Ben Reddiex spoke about the wider WARO Review, noting that progress on this had been slowed due to a related matter requiring reprioritisation of the relevant DOC staff's time. The GAC needs

to follow up its request to Martin Kessick for an update on the WARO Review. Don Hammond has concerns that we are now 18 months into this review and the danger is that the concession will roll around again and the same mistakes might be made again. The WARO Review was to be comprehensive and include a period of wide consultation and the time remaining to do this now is limited. **Action Item 12/4;** Don Hammond will write to Martin Kessick.

Geoff Kerr provided an update on the Ruahine Working Group and the Working Group's planning processes. Don Hammond acknowledged the work going on but said he doesn't want the situation to arise that the WARO Permits time rolls around again and panic sets in because the required ground work has not been undertaken.

Ben Reddiex spoke about the Councillor appointments process with current tenures ending on 30 April 2017. Ben Reddiex advised that DOC will lead the process, seeking invitations and nominations in consultation with the Minister.

Don Hammond asked that Councillors give some thought as to the required skill sets the GAC needs around the table, which new or different skillsets the GAC could pick up and how this might change in an environment where the Levy is up and running.

The GAC Act Review will be carried out at a high level with DOC providing Terms of Reference. The current feeling is that the GAC Act has not been tested enough yet to warrant legislative change.

Don Hammond provided an OSPRI update in Michelle Edges absence. Council had a discussion about the proposed operations in the Kawekas and Ahiminawas. The bulk of our information was received by third parties again which lead to the GAC going back to OSPRI with concerns about ongoing lack of consultation and scientific rigour. The postponement of the Kaweka operation will give OSPRI an opportunity to engage better with affected parties and to see how Sika respond to use of deer repellent.

Mark Brough relayed some information from Beef & Lamb people he spoke with at the Sika Show who wanted to know what the GAC thought they had achieved by its intervention. Don Hammond responded that the GAC had prompted the delaying of the OSPRI operations therefore allowing OSPRI to meet their own protocols for consultation. Don Hammond further advised that if the Beef & Lamb people have concerns, then they need to write to the GAC. As Chair of the GAC he is fundamentally happy with the GAC's relationships with associated organisations such as OSPRI, DOC, MSC and that we have worked hard on those relationships, representing the interests of game animal hunters. That does not mean there is not still work to do.

Geoff identified the need to find evidence of TB in possums which OSPRI couldn't substantiate. Hurdle one on the ladder is to look at the science OSPRI has and go forward from there. The GAC supported OSPRI's proposal to get rid of TB in possums but the operational details are a different matter which OSPRI need to work through in consultation with the GAC, hunting organisations, hunters, landowners and other recreational users of the forests.

8. **Alan Munn from DOC Address to Council:** Don Hammond welcomed Alan Munn from DOC. Alan Munn spoke about the perception of hunting in New Zealand under the new GAC Act and balanced across other pieces of legislation. He said hunters can hunt wherever and whenever they want in NZ as opposed to other countries but that society has changed its attitude to hunting over the years. Hunting is not actually a birth right, it's a privilege. New Zealand used to be essentially a rural society but it has now been urbanised and hunting is no longer mainstream. Bill O'Leary said hunters are essentially conservationists who have strong hunting ethics and this ties into the GAC Strategic Plan and the hunting ethics espoused in that document. Don Hammond spoke about the good work being undertaken by the Wapiti Foundation. Don Hammond asked how the GAC can further its engagement with DOC. There was subsequent discussion about the hunting sector telling their stories (what they contribute), public access to DOC land, the positive aspects of deer

hunting and focussing on things that matter. Don said the success of the GAC depends very much on the relationship we build with our stakeholders.

9. **Debrief of Sika Show** – Having a GAC booth, with its own displays and collateral and talking publicly about what the GAC has achieved along with the video presentation run by the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, made for a very successful Show with a lot of public engagement. Steve McFall thanked Jenny Wotten for all the work behind the scenes and this was endorsed by Councillors.
10. **Export Levy Working Group Project:** Don Hammond welcomed Nick Carlaw who is leading the Export Levy Project which is essential to the future of the GAC. Don also acknowledged the work being undertaken by Joy Tracey, Ben Reddiex and DOC in the background. The funding provided in the last Budget relates primarily to the costs associated with setting up the levy and its very important we don't lose sight of the finish line or let the dates slip. The aim is to have the levy in place by June 2017. Regular meetings are being held and Don Hammond acknowledged and appreciates the work also being carried out by Carol Watson, Roger Duxfield and Garry Ottmann.

## **11. Working Group Updates**

- a. **Statutory Processes:** Geoff Kerr provided an update on the upcoming NZ Conservation Authority Meeting in October and an issue they would be looking at regarding the treatment of drones as aircraft used to herd, harass and identify game animals. Geoff Kerr said that the CMSs around National Parks, Mt Aspiring and also Te Urewera Board consultation, needs to be reignited. Alec McIver was tasked with finding out what is going on with Te Urewera and how we can stay in touch **Action item 12/5** Geoff/Alec.
- b. **HOSI Update:** Garry Ottmann advised he is aware of at least 3 definite HOSI propositions including Wapiti and the GAC is waiting to see what the next steps in the process would be. A template would be developed outlining the steps in process, to be used in consultation with a management plan. Ben Reddiex is identifying what if any DOC resources might be utilised to progress this.
- c. **Online Hunter Education:** Carol Watson provided an update on the Kalkomey product/site saying it's up to the GAC if they want to provide feedback on the product. Kalkomey have recently created a revised version for Australia so we may be able to use a New Zealand version of this. Garry Ottmann questioned where other training programs would fit in eg the NZDA Hunts Program and the MSC product. Carol Watson will put some ideas on paper, establish a small working group and make recommendations to Council **Action item 12/6** Carol Watson.

## **12. General Business**

- a. **Draft Proposal for Holding Tahr on Registered Game Animal Estates** – Garry Ottmann spoke to his paper on holding Tahr on Registered Game Animal Estates. He recommends the proposal be approved by Council irrespective of AATH Code of Practice. Garry Ottmann said the GAC needs to ratify this because it has been on the table for a long time and is ready to be put into process for accredited Game Estates. Initially Game Estates will need a permit from DOC to hold game animals. There is an existing permit for holding Tahr for zoological purposes for up to three animals but this doesn't cover holding wild animals outside the feral range. This may also require a change to the Wild Animal Act and animals would need to be sterilized.

**Motion 12/6:** Moved Roger Duxfield/Terry Pierson: That the GAC recommends to DOC an amendment to the necessary permissions (amend zoological permit or any other way) in the Wild Animal Act to enable the holding of Tahr on Registered Game Animal Estates. CARRIED

- b. **Website** – Steve McFall and Jenny Wotten made some recommendations in their Meeting Report. Councillors agreed that the changes should take place as soon as possible.
- c. **Firearms Licencing** – Bill O’Leary spoke to his paper covering Firearms Licencing following the MSC restructure which caused concerns, potentially making firearms licencing more expensive etc. The Police have commenced a tender process for the delivery of firearms licence tests. Geoff Kerr felt the GAC should work with police and provide a set of criteria (good teachers, quality skills, delivery in small country areas as people won’t travel too far). This will highlight any gaps that might exist, quality of instruction is most important. The GAC would identify what it believed were the minimum criteria when Police are considering awarding a contract and requesting feedback.

### 13. General Business

- a. **Parliamentary Hunt** – Garry Ottmann gave details on the numbers of MPs taking up the offer of the Parliamentary Hunt. Carol Watson may also attend and give the Parliamentarians the opportunity to shoot with a bow. Garry Ottmann will be organising the food, accommodation and some aspects of the transport.
- b. **AATH** Roger Duxfield and Ben Reddiex are engaging on this matter.
- c. **International Workshop** entitled ‘Critical to Conservation’ hosted by several sponsors including Safari Club International: Roger Duxfield attended this workshop in Atlanta, GA representing the New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Ass(NZPHGA). More than 45 hunting organisations were represented. The European delegate represented in excess of 7 million hunters. Roger has provided feedback to the GAC on the outcomes of workshops held, some of which the GAC can use to communicate with NZs hunters. Roger Duxfield will send out further information to councillors and copy Alan Munn and other DOC staff into the final report. Action item 12/7 Roger. The NZPHGA feels that all the GAC’s constituent members would be interested in the outcomes of the Conference particularly regarding how to talk about hunting and the acceptance of hunting as a legitimate social activity. Roger will attend a further workshop in January 2017.
- d. Geoff talked about scholars and the ‘repurposing pests’ emails received.

### 14. GAC Meeting Planning for 2016 & 2017

– Don Hammond proposed we meet in early Dec 2016, then late March (possibly the 20<sup>th</sup>) 2017, then 22nd May which would be near the end of the GAC financial year. A new Council would then be convened in April. Mark Brough suggested that potential new Councillors be invited to sit in on the next meeting.

Don Hammond thanked the NZDA Rotorua Branch for hosting us again. The meeting closed at 4.15pm.