

MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 27 JUNE 2016

Held at DOC Head Office, Manners Street Wellington

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

Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer)

Also in attendance: Minister Dunne, Lou Sanson Director General, DOC, Mike Slater Deputy Director Operations DOC, Mervyn English DOC, John Brinsley-Pirie Minister Dunne’s Private Secretary, Martin Kessick DOC, Ben Reddiex DOC, Peter Morton DOC, Dr Stu Hutchings OSPRI, Nick Carlaw and Paul Clarke from MartinJenkins

Welcome and Introductions: Don Hammond welcomed Mike Slater & Martin Kessick from DOC, Ben Reddiex and Councillors. Minister Dunne, Lou Sanson, Mervyn English, John Brinsley-Pirie, Dr Stu Hutchings, Nick Carlaw & Paul Clarke joined the meeting later.

Apologies: Michelle Edge (OSPRI)

Motion 11/1: Moved Roger Duxfield/Terry Pierson: That apologies be accepted.	CARRIED
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1. Minutes of previous meeting 27 April 2016: were taken as read.

Motion 11/2: Moved Terry Pierson/Roger Duxfield: that the Minutes of the 27 April 2016 Meeting be approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	CARRIED
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2. Matters arising from Minutes not on agenda

- a. SPCA case has been deferred to November/December 2016.
- b. Illegal Hunting Review, still haven’t got resources to go forward with this.

3. Action Items from previous meetings

- a. Action 3/11 NZ Professional Hunting Guides Association – Roger Duxfield to circulate a copy of the document within Council for possible endorsement. Some Councillors have already seen a draft.
- b. Action 4/5 Research Bait Types - Ben Reddiex to ask Martin Kessick for more details on this.
- c. Action 7/5 DOC Report to GAC re: wider sector conversation prior to next WARO Review – Ben Reddiex to provide an update.
- d. Action 7/10 Communications Strategy – GAC still to develop the strategy using the stakeholders list distributed by Mark Brough
- e. Action 8/2 draft policy on 1080 – see agenda item. Mark Brough has developed a draft paper to be more fully developed. Councillors to provide input.
- f. Action 9/14 Clarity on whether CMS’s are the right place to address HOSI - Garry Ottmann sent an email to Ben Reddiex
- g. Action 10/9 response to Roy Sloan on Wapiti HOSI proposal – Don Hammond wrote to Roy Sloan but the GAC doesn’t have the resources to advance HOSI proposals at this stage.

4. Financial Matters

Account Balances – 25 April 2016

Investment – On Call	\$32,457.34
Current Account	<u>\$13,141.87</u>
	\$45,599.21

Plus Income	
GST Refunds	\$ 1033.58
Interest on Investment Account	<u>\$ 108.58</u>
Total Income	\$ 1,142.16
Less Expenses	\$17,575.81
Balances – 24 June 2016	
Investment – On Call	\$12,565.92
Current Account	<u>\$16,599.64</u>
	\$29,165.56

<p>Motion 11/3: Moved Terry Pierson/Alec McIver: That the financial report be accepted and that payments made be approved.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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- a. Ben Reddix requested an estimate of funds to be rolled over at 30 June. Geoff Kerr wants a breakdown of income & expenses. Once we get a CEO the finances will be more detailed. Terry to put together a summary of expenditure and circulate it to Council – as at end of year **Action item 11/1**.
- b. Website issues – the website needs more space which costs more money (to save space some files have been archived which is not ideal), also there is an alternative platform called SharePoint which allows file sharing that should be considered. Steve McFall and Jenny Wotten to work on recommendations for website, obtaining more space and alternative platforms and costs **Action 11/2**

5. **Correspondence:** Don Hammond presented the correspondence. Three lists circulated: correspondence to and from OSPRI; submitters against OSPRI; and normal correspondence.

<p>Motion 11/4: Moved Steve McFall/Roger Duxfield: That inward correspondence be accepted and outward correspondence be approved.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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6. **DOC and Battle for Our Birds** – Don Hammond welcomed Martin Kessick and Mike Slater from DOC, saying the GAC has appreciated the open, honest and frank dialogue with Martin Kessick, Peter Morton and John Wotherspoon regarding BfOB. Martin Kessick (Director National Operations, DOC), explained what his department has learned from the previous Beech Mast operation in 2014. DOC has received funding for further predator control work (mainly with 1080) over the coming year. The GAC has engaged with DOC and has been providing feedback on the game animal herds that may require specific mitigation measures. This has led to the GAC and NZDA joint press release issued on 30 May announcing the collaboration between the three entities and seeking hunter input to prioritise areas for mitigation (eg use of deer repellent) and identify effects on game herds in areas of likely special interest to the hunting sector. DOC is in the process of confirming their annual work plan including some difficult terrain areas and is tracking well to meet expectations after consultation with stakeholders.

DOC are using OSPRI to do some of their operations, using their expertise. Project Manager Peter Morton, brought in John Wotherspoon as point of contact with GAC. The pest control operations will commence in mid-July. Garry Ottmann thanked DOC for the openness of the process and acknowledged that some areas had been withdrawn from the project due to it being established that pest control was not required. Geoff Kerr talked about the GAC mitigation survey and the inability of the public to distinguish between DOC and OSPRI. The GAC supports scientifically based programs but does not support the view that an area needs to be controlled just because it hasn't

been done for quite some time. There followed a discussion about 1080, targeted and monitored areas, the use of deer repellent, whether deer repellent is attractive to pigs, use of smaller baits, other alternatives, the volume used, the rate per hectare, the use of lures, gas canisters, monitoring, virtual fences etc.

Of particular concern to the GAC is the impact of 1080 on deer and Tahr although there are no longer any Tahr ranges in the planned areas. Garry Ottman said there is a gap in the knowledge about deer repellent which needs to be factored in, what time of year are the deer most vulnerable and gauge risks to deer populations at various times of the year. This will help people know how decisions are made. Mike Slater advised he would be making his decision about the areas to be controlled sometime around 9 July 2016. Martin Kessick commented that he was very happy with the momentum that has been built already around the relationship with the GAC during consultation and he hopes to continue in this vein. Garry Ottmann wants the consultation to commence as early as possible prior to a future Battle for Our Birds programme, and revolve around monitoring as per the current programme. Geoff Kerr acknowledged the huge leap forward on this process as compared to the last and wanted to record his thanks to DOC.

- 7. DOC Export Levy Implementation** – Senior Consultant Nick Carlaw and Consulting Manager Paul Clarke from MartinJenkins and Mervyn English from DOC were welcomed by Chairman Don Hammond. MartinJenkins had been commissioned by DOC to scope out the work required to get the Export Levy in place. They have extensive experience advising on funding arrangements in the public sector and have the technical expertise to guide DOC and the GAC through the many steps that need to be worked through to get to the point where the export levy is in place and levies are being collected.

Mervyn English explained how we got to where we are today. The intention of the government was that the GAC would be self-supporting like a Crown Entity and that the levy was an important part of this. This has to be our biggest priority. The terms of reference for the project were discussed, and Geoff Kerr queried some of the detail in the 'issues to be addressed' section saying it shouldn't be necessary to have to go through the process of justifying the levy again as this had already been undertaken prior to the passing of the GAC Act in 2013. This issue will be considered by the Steering Group that will be formed.

Implementation of the levy requires officials to advise the Minister of Conservation on funding arrangements and lead funding proposals through Cabinet processes. For these reasons the DOC DDG, Strategy and Innovation is the project sponsor and will take overall responsibility and accountability for the successful completion of the project. The project will be overseen by a Steering Group which will provide overall strategic direction for the project and monitor its progress. Close and ongoing collaboration between DOC and GAC is a critical success factor. The Steering Group will comprise DOC personnel (Mervyn English and Ben Reddiex), and GAC Councillors (Don Hammond and Geoff Kerr). Ben Reddiex will be the main DOC contact for this work.

The next layer is the Project Manager, bringing all the parties and issues together and actively resolving issues on a regular basis. The Terms of Reference specify June 2017 as the implementation date. The funding that was provided in the Budget will be used primarily to fund this work plan but the GAC will also get an amount of money to fund practicalities like Meetings, flights etc. As the primary focus is at present on achieving financial viability, the GAC will not have funds in the short term to progress other activities. Mervyn English noted that the GAC should delay employing a CEO until we have a revenue stream and become a financial entity capable of offering appropriate remuneration for a CEO (i.e. to ensure the existing funding enables this to happen).

Roger Duxfield said there is some commercial sensitivity around this and around the number of animals exported. Terry Pierson asked if GAC can access numbers currently in DOC and Customs Offices regarding validation of the numbers involved. Ben Reddiex to follow this up.

The commercial sector's clients will be the main people paying the Export Levy but foreign recreational hunters should also contribute

The project will look at funding required to enable the GAC to implement the functions stated under the Act. The Council noted that the levy will not fund 100% of Council activity so other options also need to be investigated.

Mark Brough would like the NZGAC to put some thought into how the NZPHGA will get a return on the investment (levy) they are making towards the Game Animal Council as they will be contributing funds to enable the GAC to operate.

Roger Duxfield, Garry Ottmann and Carol Watson will make up the rest of the Export Levy Working Group. DOC will also employ someone temporarily to do the bulk of the levy work, with some extra capacity to do other work such as HOSI or whatever is on our work plan if possible – reporting straight to GAC. The GAC would shape how this additional work is managed.

Ben Reddiex noted the GAC is still to advise how it is responding to HOSI issues raised by the Minister in late 2015. The GAC has developed and supplied the Code of Practice for AATH and needs to do some work on Illegal Hunting. The Minister will be writing a letter of expectation to the GAC about what he expects GAC to do this year, with the levy being our number one priority plus other agreed projects within our available budget.

- 8. Minister's Address** – Don Hammond welcomed Minister Dunne who noted the Budget and funding, and the urgent need to get some traction on introducing the levy. He also mentioned HOSI, BfOB, AATH and Illegal Hunting. Issues relating to review of legislation will proceed in the background. He felt the way GAC has worked with DOC over BfOB has been a good process. Moving forward an advantage of getting levy in place will be to give the GAC some autonomy. There is a lot of communication between Don and the Minister on a weekly basis. He is keen to see progress made. Don recognised the work that Minister and John Brinsley-Pirie put into getting the budget funding, which puts the GAC in a good position. The Minister said that getting the Budget funding was a real battle and acknowledged Ben Reddiex for doing the work behind the scenes. Once the levy is in place the GAC will present a Work Program for the year to be approved by the Minister.

9. General Business

- a. **Parliamentary Hunt** – subject to confirmation will be at Ngamatea Station from Monday 3 October to Friday 7 October 2016, the first week of holidays after Sika Show – have had some feedback about Councillor's availability to help out.
- b. **Safari Club International Hunting Conference:** Roger Duxfield will attend the SCI International hunting workshop in Atlanta Georgia at their invitation.
- c. **Sika Show:** The Sika Show is to be held in Taupo on 24 & 25 September, (there will be no Tahr Show in 2016). GAC Councillors are asked to make themselves available to attend the show and run the GAC information stand. Councillors to advise Garry Ottmann of their availability as per previous Action item 10/6. This is a good opportunity to engage with hunters and the Minister usually attends also. Alec McIver, Garry Ottmann, Bill O'Leary, Steve McFall and Mark Brough to set up. Also need to know what collateral we want to hand out. Mark Brough wants a theme or a survey.
- d. **MSC discussion:** MSC have run a number of workshops around the country about their proposed new firearms and licencing processes. They have consistently run the message that their collateral was endorsed by the GAC and they used the GAC logo. The changes that MSC have made to the firearms licencing and training process made the national news. Don Hammond wrote to Mike Daisley asking that the GAC logo be removed from the MSC website and hunting training modules. It is fair to say that the GAC has had some input to the drafting of the documentation but is not at the point yet of saying it is endorsed by GAC because we've only

commented on a small segment of their documentation so far and need to see the big picture before endorsing anything issued by another agency we have no control over.

- e. **Online Hunter Education Training Meeting Paper:** Carol Watson presented her paper on Online Hunter Education Training. Her recommendation is to enter into negotiations with Komalkey, modifying the content to suit NZ conditions. The GAC needs to do some work around a registered hunter programme and this module could satisfy that requirement. Carol Watson will go back to Komalkey with more questions and seek further refinement.
- f. **Meeting Report on 1080:** Mark Brough briefly spoke about his paper on 1080 as a starting point with some major stakeholders identified. The GAC needs to come up with a policy suitable for adoption and promulgation. Much more work to be done on wording **Action 11/3** Councillors to provide feedback to Mark Brough for consideration at the next meeting.
- g. **Succession Planning** – Don Hammond has spoken to Minister Dunne on this issue and the Minister has advised he will be calling for nominations towards the end of this year as the current tenure ends in April 2017. The Minister will make some decisions about who he wants to appoint to Council for the next term. The idea is to turn over a couple of Councillors each year rather than lose all the expertise in one big change.

10. Dr Stu Hutchings from OSPRI – Don Hammond welcomed Dr Stu Hutchings and reiterated that we need to understand how our two organisations can have a better relationship. Don Hammond acknowledged he'd heard from Michelle Edge who is unwell and Dr Stu Hutchings, Group Manager Project Design and Partnerships, would be filling in for her. Dr Hutchings provided an overview of his role, objectives and goals.

He asked how we can potentially work together to achieve OSPRI's targets for NZ as nobody wants the disease in the wild and in their livestock. What are common goals, what is the projection, having feedback and discussions, supporting each other. Don Hammond said the GAC invited OSPRI to a meeting back in Sept 2014 in Rotorua to establish good lines of communication early on. The GAC is not questioning OSPRI's strategy but rather, how we work together to mitigate effects and impacts of 1080 drops on hunters and people's businesses. We need to work out a process where we communicate on a level similar and have a similar relationship as we have with DOC about BfOB.

Don Hammond noted the information that has been provided by OSPRI has not been by way of consultation and to date there has been no consultation with GAC on the proposed Central North Island Operations scheduled for this winter. While OSPRI may feel they have consulted, the GAC can show that it has not. Regardless of what the operation is, there are ways and means of working through the issues and arriving at the point where there is as much agreement as possible and stakeholders have had sufficient notice and engagement. It was also noted that in general, hunters and farmers find the period from now until early in the New Year to be the best time for a consultation processes. The rest of the year they are very busy with other things. Businesses also need to be able to tell their clients in advance, the probable outcomes of 1080 drops.

Geoff Kerr said moving forward, what timeframes can we be look at for notifications for the 2017 & 2018 operations and advance notice to affected parties. Dr Hutchings said OSPRI have got security of timing with maps so they could begin providing this information straight away.

The GAC reiterated it is extremely concerned about decisions OSPRI has made regarding its proposed 1080 aerial drops in the Kaweka/Kaimanawa areas, in particular the lack of consultation and engagement with affected parties. The GAC has mostly learnt about proposed OSPRI operations through third parties despite repeated direct requests to OSPRI for information. OSPRI's inability to provide evidence of consultation, scientific data to support the necessity of the 1080 drops and to

comply with their own protocol of providing at least 2 months' notice of operations to affected parties, resulted in the GAC asking for this information through an Official Information Act request. In addition to the OIA request, the GAC has asked OSPRI to postpone their operation until adequate consultation has occurred, scientific data has been evaluated and a good strategy is put in place to ensure there is confidence in the process. Don Hammond has been engaging with both Minister Dunne and the Minister of Primary Industries, Hon Nathan Guy in relation to the less than satisfactory response from OSPRI to-date and will continue to pursue postponement and better engagement.

11.DOC Management document reviews: Geoff Kerr presented a paper outlining the current status of DOC management reviews (including CMSs and National Park Reviews) and asked that it be adopted by Council.

Motion 11/5: Moved Geoff Kerr/Terry Pierson: that GAC receive the Statutory Processes Update Report.	CARRIED
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12.Next meeting planning - The next meeting of the Game Animal Council will be held on either 19 August or 26 September pending advice of export levy implementation, preferably before the Guides AGM, location to be advised. Don Hammond thanked the Department and Ben Reddiex for hosting us again.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm.