

## MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 26 & 27 FEBRUARY 2020

### WAIPUNA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE, 58 WAIPUNA RD, MT WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND

**Present:** Don Hammond (Chair), Stephen Hall (Deputy Chair), Tim Gale (General Manager), Carol Watson, Richard Burdon, Roger Duxfield, Rachael Dean, Steve McFall, Sharon Salmons, Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer)

**In attendance:** Rod Treder (DOC), Garry Ottmann, Hayden Cox (contractors), Geoff Kerr (ex-Councillor)

**Apologies:** Minister Eugenie Sage, Mervyn English

- 1. Welcome, Agenda, Health & Safety:** Don Hammond welcomed Councillors and visitors and set the focus for the two-day meeting. Nominations for Council have now closed.
- 2. Priorities, budget setting, Strategic Plan, workplan discussion**

The GAC Strategy came to the end of its original term in 2019. Following a review by the Council at the Strategic Planning Workshop, the Strategy content was deemed fit for purpose for the most part, however it was identified it needed some reprioritisation based on the current funding arrangement.

The GAC does not have resources to achieve all the strategic themes alone but can work with stakeholders & other organisations in the sector to provide a conduit, encourage, manage, facilitate or undertake projects in-house to achieve our objectives.

New projects, not already on the workplan, need to be prioritised and checked against the Strategic Plan and balanced against available resources.

Several additional items under the existing themes are to be added including; biosecurity, international hunters, the role of female hunters, a bigger focus on commercial hunters, supporting pathways to hunter education, fostering the development of young hunters & steering them towards developing strong and multi-themed objectives for hunting sustainability, and building relationships with iwi.

The highest priorities for the next year include funding, building on existing iwi relationships, continue to advocate for the game animal sector on firearms issues, hunter education, ensure we are at the table when decisions are made on deer management, tahr management, being involved in the DOC Permit Review and undertaking or outsourcing research upon which to make decisions.

Action item 26/1: Tim Gale, Don Hammond and Stephen Hall to seek to work with the Iwi Leaders Forum. Tim Gale to circulate a list of options for engaging with iwi for Councillor input. Don Hammond and Tim Gale to continue developing relationships with Tuhoë through the Chief Executive.

Meeting closed at 4.05pm

**Day Two**

**3. Minutes of previous meeting 4 November 2019** were taken as read with minor alterations.

<b>Motion 26/1:</b> Moved Stephen Hall/Richard Burdon: that the Minutes of the 4 November 2019 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.	CARRIED
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**4. Matters arising: Minutes 4 November 2019:**

- a. Action 20/3 Roger Duxfield advised that the AATH COP is still on hold with the DOC lead in Hamilton, as they await the impact of new firearms legislation. The GAC is very concerned that the end date for this piece of work keeps slipping and it is now 6 years with no progress. Rod Treder noted the Council's concerns and agreed to follow-up.
- b. Action 21/3 Rod Treder has followed up the Hunter Permit System issue with the DOC's lead Mark Beardsley. The project is at the information gathering stage and is a long-term project. The GAC must be involved in the development of this policy and help prevent DOC implementing a system with unworkable conditions and anomalies. The NZPHGA have also raised this issue repeatedly with DOC also and are waiting for answers.

Action item 26/2 Tim Gale to write to DOC to ensure the GAC is involved in the development of the Hunting Permit System. Tim Gale, Roger Duxfield and Carol Watson will coordinate an approach to Mark Beardsley. Mark Beardsley to be invited to address the GAC at the next Council Meeting.

- c. Action 21/4 Rachael Dean gave an update on Kiwibank. Sharon Salmons will help to sort out the remaining hurdles.

<b>Motion 26/2:</b> Moved Don Hammond/Richard Burdon: that Tim Gale become the administrator of the Kiwibank Account & that Terry Pierson be removed as administrator.	CARRIED
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<b>Motion 26/3:</b> Moved Don Hammond/Richard Burdon: that Terry Pierson and Geoff Kerr be removed as signatories on the Council's Kiwibank accounts as soon as possible after Tim Gale has been added as administrator.	CARRIED
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- d. Action 22/1 Cam Speedy attended the Tuhoe summit. The GAC didn't have an available representative but conveyed our apologies. Don Hammond to contact Tuhoe in order to meet with them and Tim Gale.
- e. Garry Ottmann updated Council on the ZIP proposal to expand its programme in the Perth Valley (South Westland) into the adjacent catchment <https://zip.org.nz>.

Garry Ottmann & Tim Gale met with them to convey concerns, particularly around the timing of the operation, the impact on WARO operators, the potentially significant impact on the Whataroa chamois hunting resource and local deer, the need to consult more widely, a recommendation to use deer repellent and the need for scientifically robust information to support their decisions. The GAC has been supportive of ZIP to-date and we would like to maintain the relationship.

Action item 26/3 Tim Gale will write to ZIP to convey these concerns, meet with them to be clear about our concerns, discuss this & future operations, explore other mitigation options and continued use of deer repellent.

- f. Funding/Levy Collection Process – Garry Ottmann has been doing further work on the collection mechanism for the levy. Garry Ottmann will put together a brief on the proposed collection mechanism for Rod Treder to convey to the Minister

#### 5. Action table update

- Action 20/4 Roger Duxfield has continued to advocate with the NZ Police. The issues continue to cause frustration for both clients and NZ based operators.
- Action item 26/4 Roger Duxfield will raise the issues again with the NZ Police and again at the FCAC Meeting on 7 April. The GAC may refer the problem for attention to our Minister and the Minister of Police.
- Action 24/4 Tim Gale to work with DOC on the management of deer on public land. The GAC sees there as being 3 partners in developing plans around deer management and that is the GAC, DOC and iwi and this was agreed at our first meeting on the subject on 17 December 2019.
- Action 26/5 Tim Gale to liaise with Dave Carlton (DOC) and reiterate the agreement and confirm the GAC is still an active partner. Reconfirm GAC intention to be an active partner in the delivery, engagement, and plan design phase and when identifying possible sites.
- Action 24/5 Garry Ottmann gave an update on deer repellent developments including open country, Molesworth & ZIP operations. GAC have advocated for more use of deer repellent and it appears some operations will be 100% deer repellent.
- Commonalities of Interest – Councillors were reminded of the need to review and declare any conflicts before, during and after Council meetings and to keep the document up to date.

6. **Correspondence:** The correspondence list was circulated.

7. **Financial Reports** – Garry Ottmann spoke to the financial report as circulated. Cash forecast projections to the end of the financial year and to 31 December 2020 to be developed. Once the tag levy proposal is approved, Council will bring that into the financial projections.

<p><b>Motion 26/4:</b> Moved Roger Duxfield/Richard Burdon: that the Council accepts the financial reports and that expenditure to-date be approved.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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<p><b>Motion 26/5:</b> Moved Roger Duxfield/Carol Watson: that the Council approves the expenditure on the credit card.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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8. **General Managers' January and February Reports and Matters arising not already on the agenda** – Tim Gale spoke to his report. This included relationships developed, media releases and growing social media following and the educated hunter podcast by Don Hammond. The GAC is depending on the levy progressing to full implementation this year. \$200k funding has been confirmed for the coming year and outyears until otherwise advised.

Action – Tim Gale to send Councillors regular (fortnightly) updates about how the Tag Levy is progressing.

Action - Health and safety is a priority for the GAC, and this includes ensuring H&S policies are up to date and regularly reviewed. This will be a standing item on all future council meetings. Tim Gale to develop and disseminate this document and update for each Council Meeting.

**Tahr** - The GAC continues to promote the Tahr App. The challenge is to get more hunters to use it.

Tim Gale will recommend to Council to reconvene last year's Tahr research & monitoring. There is growing concern about the lack of progress following the May 2019 Workshop. The GAC will seek

commitment from DOC at the 24 March 2020 Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group (TPILG) Meeting.

**Submissions** - Tim Gale coordinated a submission on the Glenaray & Whitcomb properties for tenure review. Principles recommended: Hunting access & provision for vehicles and offering expertise and advice to the Commissioner on any aspects of access across CPL and hunting related matters.

The GAC submitted on the Firearms Prohibition Orders, the Arms Legislation Bill SOP 408 a combined Submission on the Arms Legislation with the NZ Hunting Sector (following a GAC convened workshop). The GAC has opposed provisions that do not demonstrate that they contribute to increasing public safety and that unfairly impact on law abiding firearms owners and hunters. GAC made representations on behalf of hunters at Select Committee hearings.

<b>Motion 26/6:</b> Moved Stephen Hall/ Roger Duxfield: that the Council accepts the General Manager's recommendations re updates and information for Councillors.	CARRIED
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<b>Motion 26/7:</b> Moved Steve McFall/Sharon Salmons: that the Council accepts the General Manager's Report.	CARRIED
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- 9. Hunter Education Strategy** - this is a high priority and the GAC is aiming to make a recommendation to the Minister by the end of March as conveyed in the Minister's Letter of Expectation.

Action 26/6 Tim Gale to draft a letter to circulate within Council and then send to the Minister outlining a high level GAC Hunter's Education Strategy.

- 10. Funding streams** – Garry Ottmann and Tim Gale gave an overview of the current state of funding considerations. Top priority is a sustainable funding model for Council, including contributions from the recreational sector, the commercial sector and the Government. GAC are considering a Donate Now button on the website.

- 11. Governance and relationship matters** – Rod Treder outlined DOC's priorities and Ministerial responsibilities and spoke about Access Easements. It is his view that maybe there is not a one size fits all solution to this problem and that arrangements between local DOC offices and landowners may be more important than the formal type of access easement approach. He also suggested that the focus should be on resolving access issues on a prioritised area by area basis and linked in with the priorities being set for deer population management.

## **12. General Business:**

**Tahr** - The GAC is extremely disappointed with the sensationalised stories on unsubstantiated tahr numbers being promoted by DOC in the media. The GAC will advise DOC of their concern that they were not advised of the impending release and the use of emotive and unsubstantiated claims in the release.

**Sending hunting trophies and souvenirs through international channels:** Richard Burdon would like the GAC to make a submission on this as it impacts on NZ and has consequences for some stakeholders in the hunting industry and their businesses.

Action item 26/7 Richard Burdon, Roger Duxfield and Don Hammond to draft a letter to MFAT to get this issue on their agenda.

**GAC Mission statement**- this document was developed in 2014 and will now cease to be used.

**NZCA** – The GAC will consider seeking an appointment to the NZCA, as a Statutory Authority. Hunters are one of the largest users of conservation land and while previously they were represented by FMC, this appears to have waned. Council asked Rod Treder to provide a paper to the GAC on what would be required (legislative change or otherwise) to ensure GAC or other form of hunter representation on the Authority.

**NZPHGA** - The NZPHGA AGM approved a proposal that the commercial guided hunting sector support a NZ\$90 game animal tag system which was unanimously approved. This is part of a proposed funding approach in conjunction with a recreational hunter/retail sector and the Crown.

Action - Roger Duxfield and Richard Burdon to make sure that the tag levy receipt paperwork has the appropriate wording.

**Communications** – the GAC's communications, Press Releases and social media, are going well.

**Invitations** – the GAC has received an invitation to participate in a forum hosted by the South Eastern Game Association in Melbourne (SEAGM) on 21 April 2020. We will consider the invitation along with other priorities and respond. The GAC has also received an invitation to the 67<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the CIC in Riga, Latvia over 14 to 16 May 2020. Steve McFall will represent the GAC at the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee meeting in Mosgiel on 11 March 2020.

Meeting closed 2.35pm.