

## MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING 27 MAY 2020

**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 & Dave Carlton (DOC), Garry Ottmann & Geoff Kerr (ex-Councillors)

- 1. Welcome, Agenda, Health & Safety:** Don Hammond welcomed Councillors and visitors to the Zoom Meeting and confirmed the agenda.
- 2. Chairman's Report:** Don Hammond provided an update; new Councillor recommendations have been signed off and sent to the Coalition Government Committee for approval. Councillors at end of tenure may be seconded back to Council for a transition period. Council has received positive feedback on our public relations and communications and liaising with stakeholders.
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 26 & 27 February 2020** were taken as read.

<b>Motion 28/1:</b> Moved Roger Duxfield/Sharon Salmons: that the Minutes of the 26 & 27 February 2020 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting. <span style="float: right;">CARRIED</span>
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- 4. Matters arising** – Roger Duxfield mentioned his work with the NZ Police on international firearms licences – it has now been two years since we first raised it.

**Action items** – items that are now on the workplan have been removed from the Action Table:

20/3 AATH Review – no update.

23/7 Lead Bullets - Geoff Kerr provided an update on recent developments; to frame discussion around the science and inform Councillors.

25/1 Accreditation of industry standards - Roger Duxfield to produce report for GAC about May 2020 Guides Association Meeting.

26/4 Continuing to work with Police on the new firearms licence system.

26/7 Hunting trophies, no progress. Roger Duxfield to keep a watching brief.

Comments on action items: the GAC will keep in touch with Mark Beardsley of DOC regarding the Hunter Permit System; Kiwibank issues now all resolved; ZIP operation did not go ahead due to Lockdown; the GAC has written to Dave Carlton re Deer Management; progress on the Hunter Education Strategy stalled due to Lockdown but work has now resumed on this.

- 5. Financial and Administrative Matters:** Garry Ottmann and Tim Gale spoke to the financial report. The Letter of expectation draft is still in development; scope to include new projects. Additional funding has been provided by the Department for 20/21 year. Working with Shand Thompson on accounts and audit, timeline developed.

Risk Assessment Register - Suggestion to include Pandemic or Biosecurity incursion in Risk Assessment. Potential new risk - illegal release of game animals. Add specific risk in the Risk Register and have something more generic in the Work Plan around communications.

- 6. Approve Workplan & Budget:** Tim Gale & Garry Ottmann spoke to the Work Plan, seeking confirmation from Councillors that it is an accurate reflection of discussions at the last meeting. Tahr to be added in the list of first priorities. Promoting the interests of the hunting sector – Theme 8 captures the work of the GAC, providing advice to Ministers during the Pandemic to allow hunters to return to hunt on public land.

**Motion 28/2:** Moved Roger Duxfield/Steve McFall: that the Work Plan and Budget as presented, is approved. CARRIED

**Motion 28/3:** Moved Roger Duxfield/Steve McFall: that the Council accepts the financial reports and that expenditure to-date be approved. CARRIED

**Motion 28/4:** Moved Roger Duxfield/Steve McFall: that Council approves the expenditure on the credit card. CARRIED

BIM and SPE for Annual Report begin to be developed, based on the Budget and Work Plan.

GAC to identify key issues and messages for political parties in the lead up to the election.

- 7. Governance & Relationship Matters:** Rod Treder advised a new Governance Manager has been appointed as the key interface with DOC. Rod Treder to continue to provide some support. Mervyn English will move away from the GAC in a staged transition. Reiterated our appreciation to Rod Treder for his work with the GAC. His assistance and advice are hugely appreciated, and his presence will be missed.

- 8. Deer Plan Update:** Dave Carlton (Project Lead – Biodiversity Threats, DOC) joined the Meeting. He has been consulting with all stakeholders, to develop a report by the end of June. Seeking deer management solutions that will have good outcomes for all parties. Two main issues: what is happening in the front country and what is happening in the back country. Recognised there is no data on population estimates and trends available to inform sensible conversations, and there are different solutions for both. No national solution as situation differs everywhere in the country so need regional based solutions. GAC will continue to have ongoing input into project.

It is critical that sound science continues to inform decision making. Also consider lessons learned through the Ruahine consultation process – there was a big investment from hunting sector in the Ruahine project, that ultimately stalled. This new project represents an opportunity to replicate the model but see it through to fruition this time around. The GAC is very keen to work with the government to create some work opportunities and use the expertise of the Guides and other hunting industry stakeholders.

Action - Tim Gale to send Dave Carlton details of GAC suggestions already sent to the Department and the Minister.

- 9. Tahr Plan Update:** Tim Gale reported that the next Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group Meetings have been scheduled with DOC and planners (mid-June) to get feedback from various sectors. Don Hammond has had discussions with Ben Reddiex about timing and pointed out that May would be a bad time to finalise the plan with most hunters being out in the hills. Have had 14 inputs

from Tahr App during April/during Lockdown. Created instructional video and other communications to encourage use of Tahr App.

**10. General Manager's Update:** Tim Gale's report was taken as read. The GAC budget proposals have received no formal response.

- Fiordland Venison Mince Project – first 100 deer have been shot and product distribution being arranged, product stickers printed, and recipes being developed. Report on Pilot to be delivered within the next week. Following approval of full project, 500 deer more to be harvested. Lots of positive feedback on this project, a great relationship builder. GAC to work with the DOC communications team.
- Biodiversity Strategy update – Working with DOC and to get 'valued introduced species' added into the plan for kai, recreational, cultural and commercial interests and managing them in tandem with indigenous species.
- Permit Review - Tim Gale has spoken to Mark Beardsley (DOC) about permit issues that arose during lockdown. GAC have been invited to come and look at the system for Hunters Education Strategy.
- ZIP Tahr Project – Tim Gale to make changes to GM Report as advised by Geoff Kerr.
- Communications have mainly been around COVID-19 supporting the domestic commercial hunting market. Facebook engagement reached 78,000 people, up 72%.
- Policies – first drafts of new Code of Conduct and Health & Safety Policy have been prepared. Risk Assessment also prepared in draft stage. Could maybe sign off at next meeting.

**11. Funding for Projects and General Business** - Overall funding strategy has been impacted by COVID-19 in terms of the GAC levy.

Action - Don Hammond & Stephen Hall will work on draft letter outlining the impact of COVID-19 on GAC funding, the projects we want to work on and seeking funding to allow us to do coordinate those projects. Draft letter to Minister explaining impact on GAC funding. Include impact on planned increase of operational output and outcomes due to COVID-19. Where does the Council see the Trophy Levy sitting in the medium to long term as a major source of funding. Set out what has changed and for how long, consult with the Guiding sector. Indications from the industry is that clientele base is expected to be impacted for at least 2 years so it could be as long as 5 years before we have a viable industry that would be able to support a levy. However, there is a long lag time for drafting regulations so it would be useful to maintain the momentum for the implementation of the levy while we wait for the sector to recover.

Action - Tahr on Game Estates Report – Garry Ottmann and Geoff Kerr to finalise by end of June.

Don Hammond thanked Steve McFall for the report he sent through on the Animal Welfare and Behaviour Consultative Committee meeting he attended at Ag Research, Invermay, Mosgiel, on 11 March 2020.

Next meeting planning. Jenny Wotten to consult with Councillors to find a suitable date in late June. Meeting closed at 9 30pm.