

## MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 28 APRIL 2022 Via Zoom

**Present:** Grant Dodson (Chair), Rachael Dean (apologies for lateness), Sharon Salmons, Steve McFall, John Cook, Don Patterson, Kevin Eastwood, Eugene Rewi

**In attendance:** Tim Gale (General Manager), Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer), Ben Reddiex, Ngaire Best, Jacqui Bassett, Sam Green, Samuel Eccles (DOC were only in attendance for part of the meeting), Larry Blair (GAC), Hayden Cox. Roger Duxfield and Garry Ottmann attended for part of the meeting. Mike McIlraith, NZ Police also attended for part of the meeting.

- 1. Welcome, apologies:** Apologies have been received from Minister Kiritapu Allan, Stephen Hall (Deputy Chair), Bruce Warburton & Erin Garrick. The Chair welcomed Councillors & DOC guests.

<b>Motion 38/1:</b> Moved Grant Dodson/John Cook: that apologies are received.	CARRIED
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- 2. Chairman's Welcome:** The Chair welcomed Councillors, staff and the Departmental governance advisors.
- 3. Environmental scan:** Open discussion about current issues, including WARO Land Access Review, Illegal Hunting and poaching, access issues (and carriage of firearms across private land). Council noted and appreciated recent and ongoing advice provided by the Departmental Governance Unit, in relation to project work.
- 4. Confirm the agenda:** the agenda was discussed and confirmed with no changes.

<b>Motion 38/2:</b> Moved Grant Dodson/Steve McFall: that the agenda is confirmed.	CARRIED
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- 5. Conflict of Interest Register and any additional disclosures:** Councillors were reminded of the requirement to disclose any new conflicts of interest.
- 6. Risk Register Review:** The Risk Register has been updated following the last Council Meeting on 18 February 2022. The changes were approved by Council. The General Manager has been donated some office space in Timaru which is working well, at present.

<b>Motion 38/3:</b> Moved Grant Dodson/Eugene Rewi: that the updated Risk Management Register is received and noted.	CARRIED
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- 7. Statutory responsibilities - approve the 2020-21 Annual Report:** The 2020-21 Annual Report has been circulated to Councillors several times previously. The updated Management Letter from the Auditor has also been circulated. Discussion about process, statutory timeframes and extended deadlines. Council noted that the deadline was not met. Auditor to include a sentence in their management letter drawing our attention to this breach (not attributable to the Council – as it occurred due to a New Zealand wide auditor shortage and consequential effects of COVID 19, including lockdowns). The audit was completed on 28 April 2022 and the Auditor has confirmed that they are issuing an unmodified report.

Council received and noted the content of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021, Audit Report for the year ended 30 June 2021 and Audit Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021. Chairman Grant Dodson thanked the Management Team for a good result and for having all the checks and balances in place.

**Motion 38/4:** Moved Eugene Rewi/Kevin Eastwood: that Council approves the 2020-21 Annual Report and the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2021. CARRIED

**Motion 38/5:** Moved Grant Dodson/Steve McFall: that Council receives the Audit Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021. CARRIED

ACTION 1: The completed and signed 2020-21 Annual Report will be provided to DOC Governance Unit. The Report is then provided to the Minister who Tables the Report in Parliament. Council will then publish the Annual Report on the GAC website.

#### **8. Update on progressing a sustainable funding strategy:**

A draft Funding Strategy was presented to Council at the 18 February 2022 meeting. From that meeting the recommended action was: MartinJenkins to finalise draft including clear links to the GAC legislative mandate, a path of stepped funding increase, and add a timeline. Aim to complete by end of February 2022, circulate to Councillors, then provide advice to Minister.

Following the 18 February meeting, MartinJenkins undertook to provide clear links to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 functions. The updated draft funding strategy was presented (with additions included) to the Department of Conservation Governance Unit on 14 March, allowing for the opportunity to review the document and provide feedback by 25 March 2022. A meeting took place on 25 March 2022 with the DOC Governance Unit. This feedback concerned:

- ensuring only Council activities mandated by the Act are considered for funding.
- Including details of implications of any scaling of funding.

The GAC and Martin Jenkins have been working to address any remaining Departmental Government Unit concerns, including presenting implications of any scaling of funding.

ACTION 2: Tim Gale to seek Councillors input and approval and then provide to DOC and the Minister.

**Motion 38/6:** Moved Steve McFall/John Cook: that Council receives and notes the report. CARRIED

#### **9. Establish new Finance Committee and bank signatories:** Council needs to appoint a new Chair of the Finance Committee and new bank account signatories as Stephen Hall and Rachael Dean's appointments expire at the end of June. Council considered who would replace Stephen Hall and Rachael Dean on the Finance Committee. Council agreed to appoint Sharon Salmons as new Finance Committee Chairperson and Eugene Rewi and John Cook as new signatories on the Council's bank account.

**Motion 38/7:** Moved Grant Dodson/Steve McFall: that Council approves the appointment of Sharon Salmons as the new Finance Committee Chairperson, and the appointment of Eugene Rewi and John Cook as bank signatories, effective immediately. CARRIED

**Motion 38/8:** Moved Grant Dodson /Steve McFall: that the resignations from the Finance Committee of Stephen Hall and Rachael Dean and from the approved bank signatories, take effect from 1 July 2022. CARRIED

ACTION 3: New bank account signatories to receive GAC financial processes training.

**10. Minutes of previous meeting 18 February 2022:** were taken as read with minor alterations.

**Motion 38/9:** Moved Kevin Eastwood/John Cook: that the Minutes of the 18 February 2022 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting. CARRIED

ACTION 4: Management team to report on Action items.

ACTION 5: Follow up work on Donations to be carried over to a future meeting.

**11. Minutes of previous meeting 3 March 2022:** were taken as read with minor alterations.

**Motion 38/10:** Moved Sharon Salmons/Eugene Rewi: that the Minutes of the 3 March 2022 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting. CARRIED

**12. Financial Reporting:** Council received the Financial Reports.

**Motion 38/11:** Moved Sharon Salmons/Rachael Dean: that Council receives and notes the contents of the reports. CARRIED

**13. General Manager Report to Council:** Tim Gale provided an update on recent activities:

**Te Ara ki Mua** - A discussion took place on 3 March 2022, via a Zoom Council meeting regarding the draft Te Ara ki Mua Framework. DOC attended part of the meeting to provide context and answered questions about the draft. Council approved the draft. This document is currently with the Director-General Penny Nelson for review and approval and Council is expecting to see an updated version shortly.

**Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO)** - The Department of Conservation is working to establish a new national WARO concession based on an approved schedule of public conservation land and timings. The GAC is drafting a letter providing advice and making recommendations to the Minister of Conservation regarding the review and the broader WARO system. The Game Animal Council will also be presenting a submission to the Department.

Council believes that the current review is too limited in its scope and only considers available areas and dates for WARO concessions and substantially fails to address the core issues that have existed within the WARO system for many years. Importantly, the current review fails to address the lost conservation opportunity inherent in WARO that could be achieved through a more comprehensive review.

The GAC intends writing to the Minister and providing advice in relation to the WARO Review. The GAC has received feedback from stakeholders regarding the timing of the Review and Submission process, occurring over a period that incorporated Easter, school holidays, Anzac long weekend & the

Roar - not ideal for getting Submissions written. The GAC will continue to liaise and provide advice in relation to the Review.

**ACTION 6:** GAC is writing to the Minister to request a comprehensive WARO review.

**Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area (RHA) Project** - Councillors were provided an update on progress of the Lake Sumner RHA Deer Management Project on 24 March 2022. The GAC has continued to liaise with the DOC and the NZDA to improve hunting opportunities in the RHA, with the intent still being for recreational hunters to undertake deer management in the latter part of May. The DOC is willing to contribute funding to this initiative and a research grant is being submitted to the NZDA.

**Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) Process** – Brief discussion, the documents, templates and criteria developed in 2017 have been updated and included in the current HOSI Review. Discussion about next steps.

**Hunter-led management of tahr in Management Unit 1** - Isaac Russell (Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua) has joined the project investigation/design team. Ngāi Tahu want to participate in design as well and will be represented by Ben Hodgson. Garry Ottmann, Geoff Kerr, Isaac Russell and Ben Hodgson will attend a hui in Christchurch on 4 May 2022, supported remotely by DOC.

- GAC has liaised with the DOC and Ngāi Tahu to establish a steering group to take project oversight. Councillor Bruce Warburton is the GAC representative on the steering group.
- GAC is liaising with DOC to provide feedback on the establishment of a new vegetation monitoring system.
- GAC continues to liaise with the hunting sector on progress with the hunter-led management in MU1.
- A community agreement with the Department will be negotiated and signed during the 2022-23 Tahr Control Operational Plan operative period.

The GAC has also made both oral and written submissions on the 2022-23 Tahr Control Operational Plan. Discussion about data input errors associated with population data. GAC acknowledged the cooperation & collaboration between stakeholders, including the Department.

<b>Motion 38/12:</b> Moved Sharon Salmons/Kevin Eastwood: that Council receives and notes the General Manager's Report.	<b>CARRIED</b>
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**14. Firearms Update:** Grant Dodson acknowledged the huge amount of time that Roger Duxfield has been putting into this mahi. Roger Duxfield addressed Council, provided background. The GAC provided significant input to the storage and transport of firearms guidance document and that piece of work is now publicly available on both the GAC and the NZ Police website.

The implementation of part of the Arms Amendment Act Regulations 2021 that came into effect on 20 February 2022 had little noticeable impact on NZ recreational hunters but will increase their costs because firearms dealers have had to increase their security and recording processes. For those international hunters arriving on our shores without a firearm but with ammunition and firearms parts, they will need additional permits on top of a visitor firearms licence, (which was not the case before) in order to carry those items out of the airport. Work continues on the provision of firearms

ranges on public land. DOC has 11 listed ranges of which some are currently functioning NZDA ranges. A piece of work that many firearms disciplines are working on right now is the submission process (due 4 May 2022) on Clubs and Ranges. The GAC will raise awareness of those parts of our constituent members submissions that directly affect the training and ability to get hunters out on the hill.

**ACTION 7:** The GAC to submit its views on “Proposals for new regulations under the Arms Act 1983 (Phase Two) Shooting Clubs and Ranges”, by 4 May 2022.

**15. Mike McIlraith, Director Partnerships, Arms Safety and Control, Police National Headquarters:** addressed the Council, providing an update on current issues and future work programs. Grant Dodson thanked Mike McIlraith for speaking to Council and the open and receptive way he has engaged with Council.

## **16. General Business**

**New draft Fraud Policy and new Sensitive Expenditure Policy** – Due to time constraints, these policies were received (in the meeting documentation) but not considered during the meeting. Consideration of the policies will be held over until a future meeting or considered and approved between meetings.

**Meeting planning** – as per previous email with dates, as circulated.

**Animal Welfare and Behavioural Consultative Committee** - Bruce Warburton attended the Animal Welfare and Behavioural Consultative Committee Meeting on 16 March 2022. The committee is looking at changing its name to the Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa. Next meeting is planned for 21 September 2022.

**Hunting Aotearoa request for Letter of Support** – Councillors considered a request for the Game Animal Council (GAC) to endorse the TV show Hunting Aotearoa. It was determined that the GAC is not in a position to provide the endorsement. The GAC remains fully supportive of hunting sector television and the opportunities hunting shows provide to share game animal management messages and hunter education with a large audience.

<p><b>Motion 38/13:</b> Moved Steve McFall/Eugene Rewi: that Council affirms the set of principles as stated and declines the request.</p>	<p><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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**Kea Conservation Trust** – The GAC to ensure it is recognised and acknowledged for its advocacy work undertaken in collaboration with other stakeholders.

**Meeting Review by Steve McFall** – Steve McFall reported back verbally on how the Council performed during this meeting (how Council spent its time, did it stay in governance mode, did the meeting stay on track with the agenda, any recommended improvements).

Meeting closed 6.17pm