

MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2023, via Zoom

Present: Grant Dodson (Chair), Sharon Salmons (Deputy chair), Steve McFall, John Cook, Bruce Warburton, Eugene Rewi, Kevin Eastwood, Erin Garrick

In attendance: Tim Gale (General Manager), Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer), Kaylyn Pinney, Hayden Cox, Corina Jordan (Chief Executive - Fish & Game New Zealand)

Apologies: Minister Prime, Philip Colquhoun (DOC), Tui Keenan, Peter Swann.

- 1. Welcome, Apologies, Karakia:** Chair Grant Dodson welcomed Councillors, staff and contractors. Councillor Eugene Rewi opened the meeting with a karakia.

Motion 42/1: Moved Grant Dodson/Steve McFall: that apologies are received.	CARRIED
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- 2. Chairman's Welcome:** Chairman Grant Dodson welcomed Councillors, staff and contractors, noting that Cyclone Gabrielle has resulted in the Council meeting being held via zoom, instead of Wellington. Council's thoughts are with the Councillors whose homes and regions have been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and were unable to attend the meeting.

- 3. Council Only Session – 'Environment scan' identification of key matters arising:** Councillors raised current issues for consideration. A wide-ranging discussion was held on GAC strategic focus, the current GAC work program and its application to current issues and challenges. Where appropriate items are added to the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

Councillors with General Manager only session

- 4. Confirm the agenda:** the agenda was discussed and confirmed – Minister Willow-Jean Prime is not able to join us today.

Motion 42/2: Moved Grant Dodson/Steve McFall: That the revised agenda is confirmed, Minister is not attending.	CARRIED
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- 5. Conflict of Interest Register and Risk Register Review:** Councillors were reminded of the requirement to disclose any new conflicts of interest. The Register has been updated. Management has reviewed the Risk Register and incorporated minor changes as approved at the November 2022 Meeting. Tim Gale briefly talked about reduced risk in some areas, due to additional staff and government funding.

Motion 42/3: Moved Bruce Warburton/Eugene Rewi: That the updated Conflict of Interest Register and Risk Management Register are received and noted.	CARRIED
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- 6. Standing items - Electronic approval of Submissions & correspondence received outside of Meetings.**
Discussion – Council will be putting in place processes to ensure Councillors have early input to the Submission process. Discussion about Meat Report (Wild Deer Management and Meat Recovery Research Report (retracted 22 December 2022, to be updated)), currently being updated to incorporate DOC comments.

Motion 42/4: Moved Steve McFall/Erin Garrick: Council ratifies the acceptance of submissions & correspondence circulated & electronically approved by Councillors between meetings. CARRIED

7. Minutes of previous meeting 16 & 17 November 2022: were taken as read with no alterations.

Motion 42/5: Kevin Eastwood/John Cook: That the Minutes of the 16 & 17 November 2022 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting. CARRIED

8. Action items carried forward from November 2022 Meeting and matters arising: Discussion about action items arising and current situation. Councillor Eugene Rewi was thanked for providing karakia and whakataukī. Discussion about timelines and statutory reporting deadlines for Annual Report, SPE, governance review and template - Councillors will soon receive a link to an annual governance evaluation survey.

An action item from the November 2022 Council meeting was to design an engagement strategy for establishing local stakeholder deer management aspirations and views on the various deer population management options at place. This is progressing with initial steps being to design the framework and necessary steps.

9. Approval of Strategic Plan: Tim Gale provided the background and context for the review of the Strategic Plan. This iteration of the Strategic Plan was initially developed at the “Strategic Plan Planning Session” at the Council Meeting on 25 August 2022, with the subsequent redraft being provided to Council on 30 August 2022 and 22 November 2022. There was some feedback on this draft, with a few minor amendments incorporated. In December 2022 the revised plan was again circulated for consideration and approval. Medium and long-term goals to be incorporated into workplans and reported on in Quarterly Reports, the Annual Report and SPE. Minor alterations were discussed and agreed.

Motion 42/6: Moved Grant Dodson/Eugene Rewi: That Council approves the revised Strategic Plan (with minor alterations as discussed), November 2022, as presented in the Council Meeting Pack. CARRIED

10. Draft Policy - Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use and Game Animal Protection Framework v1: The GAC policy for 1080 use was developed in 2016 and last reviewed in 2018. Since then, pest control has undergone rapid development through the pursuit of Predator Free 2050 and Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) programs. Due to the significant impact vertebrate toxic agent use may have on game animals and hunting, it is imperative that the GAC’s position, preferences, and expectations regarding the use of toxins like 1080 and any mitigation measures, are up-to-date and clearly communicated to both the hunting sector and pest control agencies.

The pest control system continues to develop at pace and knowledge on valued game animal herds and the impacts of toxin use on these herds and hunting is also increasing. The GAC’s 1080 Draft Policy has been updated to reflect changes and advancements in knowledge regarding the use of toxic vertebrate agents and the impacts on game animals and hunting.

ACTION Councillors to provide feedback on the draft Policy. The final may be approved between meetings.

11. Corina Jordan, CE Fish & Game NZ address to Council: Grant Dodson introduced Corina Jordan, Chief Executive, Fish & Game NZ, to address Council. Corina Jordan provided an overview of the role of Fish and Game and current activities and took questions afterwards. There is scope for collaboration between the Game Animal Council and Fish and Game New Zealand.

12. Policy – Sensitive Expenditure: The background to the development of this policy was explained and Councillors were given the opportunity to have input to the revised draft. The revised draft has been reviewed against the Auditor-General guidelines and advice, regarding sensitive expenditure. Council management is satisfied that the draft policy now incorporates all the necessary areas without being overly prescriptive.

Motion 42/7: Moved Kevin Eastwood/Erin Garrick: That Council receives and approves the Sensitive Expenditure Policy with the minor amendments agreed at this meeting. CARRIED

13. Financial Delegations Policy: The Chair proposed increasing the expenditure limits in the Financial Delegations Policy (regarding domestic airfares) from \$1,000 to \$1,500. It was also discussed and agreed to increase the tolerance for moving expenditure between budget categories from \$3,000 to \$5,000 (Financial Delegations Policy section 3.8.3).

Motion 42/8: Moved Bruce Warburton/John Cook: That Council receives and approves the increase in allowable expenditure on domestic airfares from \$1,000 to \$1,500; and increase the tolerance for moving expenditure between budget categories from \$3,000 to \$5,000 (Financial Delegations Policy v2.0, section 3.8.3). CARRIED

14. General Manager’s Report: Tim Gale read through his report. The Council has had a huge workload since Christmas and staff and contractors were thanked for their valuable input. The following were covered in the General Manager’s Report:

- Te Ara ki Mua: online meetings now rescheduled for 1 March 2023
- External Engagement with stakeholders
- Funding Stewardship & Accountability
- HOSI Process
- Hunter Safety & Education Programme (Better Hunting Aotearoa): see the letter to Minister Williams (21 December 2022) ‘Hunter safety and education programme development update’ for the latest progress regarding the programme.
- Whakatipu white tailed deer and Dart/Caples 1080 operation
- White-tailed deer management Rakiura/Stewart Island
- Tahr Control Operational Plan 2022/23
- Rakaia Red Deer Research and Management
- Three Submissions:
 - Submission on Arms Regulation Review of Fees (NZ Police) lodged 15 February 2023
 - Long Term Briefing Insights Feedback (DOC & LINZ) lodged 16 January 2023
 - Natural Built Environment Bill Submission (Environment Select Committee) lodged 12 February 2023 - Kaylyn Pinney and Tim Gale to speak to this Submission on 20 February 2023.
- Perceived risks and opportunities to hunting and game animals
- Molesworth aerial 1080 operation and the Code of practice for aerial 1080 kea habitat

- ICT Review
- Progressing carbon and ungulates research
- Lake Sumner Trial Final Report – discussion about the Interim Report, analysis, timing of final report and potential application of this project to other RHAs.
- Research on deer meat recovery associated with deer management activity, to incorporate feedback received from DOC.

ACTION Whakatipu white tailed deer and Dart/Caples 1080 operation - A report of the results will be prepared, expected to be completed before the next council meeting.

ACTION Molesworth aerial 1080 operation - Council to develop a proposal for DOC/OSPRI to reduce the sowing rate in a limited area of the operation.

Motion 42/9: Moved Sharon Salmons/Bruce Warburton: That Council receives and notes the February 2023 General Manager's Report. CARRIED

15. Quarterly Performance Report Q2 2022-23: The GAC has achieved or partly achieved many of its 2022-23 targets. Some targets have not yet been achieved due to timing and being only halfway through the financial year.

Motion 42/10: Moved Kevin Eastwood/Eugene Rewi: That Council receives and notes Quarterly Performance Report Q1 2022-23, NZGAC Q2 Reporting Statement Financial Position 31 December 2022, NZGAC Q2 Reporting Statement of Cash Flows 31 December 2022. CARRIED

16. Financial Reporting and financial variation report: Councillors were provided with a Financial Reporting and Variances Report, the Profit and Loss Report (ended 31 December 2022) and Balance Sheet (as at 31 December 2022). Tim Gale informed Councillors of the financial performance and position for the Game Animal Council financial year 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, income and expenditure versus annual budgeted figures, including Jobs for Nature funding.

Motion 42/11: Moved Bruce Warburton/Sharon Salmons: That Council receives and notes the Financial Reporting and Variances Report for the month ending 31 December 2022, approves the overspend relating to OPEX for Air Travel, Food & Accommodation, Local Travel/Mileage, Parking Fees and Per Diems & Allowances, approves the additional spend in Hunter Safety & Education Programme Lead employee related costs and receives and notes the Profit and Loss Report (ended 31 December 2022) and Balance Sheet (as at 31 December 2022). CARRIED

17. Approval of Quarterly Reporting Format: Tim Gale provided the context for this paper. The GAC has developed a Quarterly Reporting and Invoicing Policy which is intended to provide structure regarding the format of reports, and timing and actions associated with reports and invoicing. This is considered necessary as DOC reporting requirements (including timing with invoicing, content, and level of detail) continue to change as a result of staffing changes in the DOC Governance Unit. Council to approve the reporting format to support future certainty and consistency.

Recommendations made by MacGregor Jamee Limited (the consultant), as part of the Funding Stewardship & Accountability review, include amending the format of the quarterly financial report. These amendments have been included in the Quarterly Performance Report Q2 2022-23.

Motion 42/12: Moved Sharon Salmons/Steve McFall: That Council receives and notes the Quarterly Financial Reporting format, approves the Quarterly Financial Reporting format as depicted in Table 1 (and as per the Quarterly Performance Report Q2 2022-23). CARRIED

18. General Business:

- Appointment and reappointment of Councillors: four Councillors' appointments are due to expire on 30 June 2023, unless they seek reappointment. Nominations close 28 February 2023
- Letter of Expectations (LOE) from the Minister – suggestion to introduce a tracking sheet for any correspondence that is subject to statutory timeframes. Include in Standing Items at future Council Meetings
- Sika Show 2023 – Preparation and planning discussion
- Governance Training – scheduled for the next financial year. Updated Governance Calendar included in Council Meeting Pack.
- General Policy document – Council meeting scheduled for 21 February 2023
- Meeting planning: agreed dates;
 - 4 May 2023 in Wellington
 - 16 June 2023 in Christchurch
 - 18 August 2023 (venue to be advised)
 - 10 November 2023 (venue to be advised)
- Meeting Review: Eugene Rewi provided feedback on how the Council performed during this meeting.

Eugene Rewi closed the meeting with a karakia.

Meeting closed at 3.45pm.