

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 16th AUGUST 2013.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Phil Durham, Mason Elliott, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks.

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Office Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

APOLOGIES: Leo Leonard, Mark Williamson, Darren Jones (Dept. of Conservation).

It was moved: *That those apologies are accepted.*

Maurice Blyde/ Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June 2013 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Cameron Shanks/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

The Manager requested that the next Council meeting change to 11th October 2013 as Fay will be away on Annual Leave on the 18th October. All Councillors were agreeable to change the meeting to a week earlier.

Governance Training Day

The Council discussed another date for the Governance Policy Review day which had been postponed twice during the year. The Councillors agreed on the 12th October 2013, immediately after the next Council meeting. This review day will be held at the office of Northland Fish & Game, commencing at 8.30am.

Fire Safety Standards within the office

The Manager was happy to report that the Code of Compliance had been issued from the Whangarei District Council for the work completed within the Fish & Game office. The land lord has been sent an invoice for his share of the costs towards the alterations totalling \$9,137.20 plus GST. Copies of each account associated with the repairs and a copy of the Code of Compliance was sent with the statement. The land

lord has made no contact to query the account and payment for this invoice is due on the 20th August 2013.

Manager's Annual Performance Review

The Chairman informed the Council that the Review Committee met at the end of June to discuss and review the Manager's Annual Performance. The Chairman phoned all of the Councillors to get their approval on the finalised agreement. The new agreement is now in place.

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Nomination

Ian Hogarth's nomination for the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust was sent to Robert Sowman, NZ Council on behalf of Northland Fish & Game.

NZ Council received eight impressive nominations from all regions and out of the eight nominees; three candidates were selected to recommend to the Minister of Conservation.

At a recent NZ Council meeting, NZ Council voted that Ian Hogarth, Mark Sutton and Andy Tannock as the NZ Council's nominations for the Game Bird Trust Board to the Minister of Conservation.

Compliance

The Manager reported to Council on the ten offenders who were apprehended over the opening weekend for the 2013 game bird season. Nine offenders were offered reparation and a letter of warning was issued to one offender. Seven of the offenders have made reparations and the other two offenders have contacted the Manager and are hoping to pay their reparations before the end of this month.

2013-2014 Licence Fee Recommendations

The Minister of Conservation has approved the licence fee recommendations from NZ Council. The approval was deferred which has made printing of licence books very late. These books will be sent to agents once they are produced. 2013-2014 Fish Licences are on sale either through the Agents on Line facility or through the internet.

Manager's Activity Report

The Council considered the operational report on a page by page basis.

1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition

The Manager told the Council that the fishing competition held in July was very successful although the trout caught this year was slightly smaller than previous years. The Manager thanked the Councillors who came to the competition and helped out and the Chairman for speaking at the prize giving.

1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition

The Secondary School Clay Target competition is very close this year with the final round scheduled on the 31st August 2013. The Chairman and all Councillors were invited to attend the prize giving.

1360 Clubs

All clubs were notified that some pheasants will be available for release at a cost of \$20.00 inclusive of GST. All clubs were asked to notify Fish & Game of the numbers

required by the end of August. Delivery of these birds is planned for the second week in September.

1521 Ranger Training

Councillors were advised that the Ranger Safety Training Course, (CERTS) held the previous weekend was a great success. Darcy Forrester was the tutor for the one day course. Approximately 14 participants attended the course, including one ranger from the Auckland/Waikato region. Councillors Blyde and Pepper also commented on the professionalism of the course and felt that the day was very worthwhile.

1721 Council

The Chairman, Manager and Councillors Batelaan and Lynch commented on their visit to the Whangarei MP, Mr Phil Heatley, regarding the proposed changes to Sections 6 & 7 of the RMA.

The Manager, Councillors Batelaan and Birchall also attended a meeting in Kerikeri. The Greens Party, Eugenie Sage, Andrew Riddell formerly from DoC, and a representative from a Maori Party all spoke on their concerns on the RMA changes and access to waterways. The advice which came from the meeting was for all concerns to be emailed to Mike Sabin, National MP for Northland.

1811 Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan

The Northland Fish & Game Sport Management Plan has not commenced this financial year. The Manager has made it a priority to revise the Sports Management Plan and have it completed during the next 2013-2014 financial year.

The current Management Plan expires in November 2013 but will remain operational until a new plan has been adopted by the Council and approved by the Minister of Conservation.

It was moved: **That the Manager's Operational Report is received.**

Mason Elliott/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Greenheart Group Lease

The Manager gave a brief summary on the proposed lease between Greenheart Group and Northland Fish & Game for a large area of flat land (total area 57.2 hectares) at the confluence of the Mangakahia and Northern Wairoa Rivers, highlighting the term of lease, insurance, and rates. The lease has been reviewed by the Northland Fish and Game solicitors and by an Auckland Law firm, Chapman Tripp on behalf of Greenheart Forests.

It was moved: **The Council accepts this 35 year Deed of Lease, authorising the Chairman of the Northland Fish and Game Council and the Regional Manager to sign the lease on behalf of Northland Fish and Game Council.**

Mason Elliott/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in New Plymouth on the 20th & 21st July 2013. Councillor Lynch highlighted the following points from the unconfirmed minutes:

- 4.4 A technical point was raised when making a resolution under Urgent Business. Any issues raised at the meeting should be carried over to the following meeting before there is any resulting resolution.
- 5.7 A combined meeting to include regional Fish & Game Chairmen, Managers and the NZ Council is proposed to be held in conjunction with the NZ Council strategy meeting in November.
- 6.2 Fish & Game NZ Research Programme. The NZ Council approved of the new format of reporting for the NZ Research Programme.
- 7.4 NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board Nominations. The NZ Council was impressed on the level of experience and the number of nominations received for the Game Bird Habitat Trust. Ian Hogarth, nomination from Northland region was one of the three names put forward to the Minister of Conservation.
- 8.2 Water Conservation Orders. There are concerns that the NZ Council national reserves are running low for all water conservation orders.

Correspondence

- a. Status of Canada Geese. These letters were included in the agenda for the Councillor's information.
- b. Far North Sports Shooters Club. The Council instructed the Manager to write a letter to the Far North Club, advising them that Councillor Mason Elliott will attend one of their meetings to answer any queries on any changes to the 2014 Game Bird Hunting season.
- c. Request for a Contribution to the Mallard Research Project. After some discussion, the Council agreed the following:

It was moved: ***That since Northland Fish & Game region has little reserves and the region agreed to the \$1.00 recommended increase in the licence which was to fund the Mallard Research Project; the Council agrees that any funding should come out of the National Research fund.***

Noel Birchall/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

- d. Complaints Policy. The Council will review the complaints policy at their Governance meeting in October.

Adoption of 2013-2014 Operational Work Plan and Budget

The Manager distributed the Operational Work Plan, budget and a letter from the Minister of Conservation on approving the increase in the licence fees.

The Manager highlighted the different areas in the operational plan where the finances and wording have changed. The budget for 2013-2014 financial year is \$389,127.00.

It was moved: *That the 2013-2014 Operational Work Plan be adopted and approved.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

The Future of the Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition

The Manager gave a brief history on the trout fishing competition held at the Kai Iwi Lakes. There are concerns for the future of this competition as sponsors are becoming more difficult to obtain, advertising costs are rising and the number of competitors are declining which makes the competition unviable.

The Manager asked Council whether contestants could fish this competition without a fish licence or have a special licence at a reduced price for this competition only. The Council discussed these ideas and decided the following:

It was moved: *The Council accepts the Manager's recommendations to bring this matter back to the Council table next year closer to the 2014 fishing competition.*

Cameron Shanks/Phil Durham *CARRIED.*

Manager's Financial Report

It was moved: *That the Manager's financial report is adopted.*

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: *That the Executive Limitations Report is received.*

Mason Elliott/Mike Newson *CARRIED.*

General Business

The Manager acknowledged the sudden passing of Ian Pyke nearly two weeks ago. Ian was a keen hunter and a clay target shooter and a highly regarded person within the community. Ian carried out work in the Fish & Game's wetlands with his long reach digger on several occasions. The Council sent their condolences to the Pyke family.

The Manager announced that he is taking two weeks annual leave in August and a further two weeks in September to go to China for a fishing competition between three countries: China, Australia and New Zealand. The staff will keep the office open and functioning.

Councillor Blyde enquired whether having two opening weekends within the game bird season is an option. The Council felt there would be too much opposition and no support.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Into Committee

Resolved: Cameron Shanks/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

Reason: The reason the public is excluded is to protect the privacy of a living person.

Grounds: The grounds for excluding the public are that the public conduct of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would likely result in disclosure of information, where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of living persons.

Out of Committee.

Resolved: Noel Birchall/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.05pm.



Dave Nicholson
Chairman
11th October 2013