

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 5th December 2014.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Phillip Durham, Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks, Mark Williamson.

**Conservation
Board Member:** Richard Robbins.

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Nathan Burkepile (Field Officer)
Fay Stodart (Office Administrator).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Council table and proceeded with the Presentation of the Annual Report.

Adoption of Annual Report 2013-2014

It was resolved: *That the 2013-2014 Annual Report is adopted.*

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Presentation of Annual Report

The Chairman gave a brief presentation on the Chairman's Report, highlighting the Operation Duck Pond programme associated with the National Mallard Research Project organised by the Northland Region's Field Officer, and the development work completed in the various Fish & Game and DoC wetlands over the past year. The Chairman made a special acknowledgement to Councillor Mason Elliott for his contribution to Fish & Game on his retirement from the Council and also to the Council's Manager having completed 20 years' service with Northland Fish & Game in January 2015. The Chairman also recognised the work of the honorary rangers of Northland Fish & Game and concluded in thanking his fellow Councillors and the staff for their support over the past year.

The Manager presented the financial statement of Comprehensive Income for the 2013-2014 financial year. The Council made a surplus of \$29,816 which was made up from a surplus of licence sales over budget, grazing fees collected on the Greenheart Wetlands and savings made in the expenditure.

The Manager presented the Statement of Service Performance and asked Council if there were any queries. Councillor Lynch inquired on why there was a steady decline in the issuing of permits since 2005. The Manager said that there were a range of reasons for the decline which included rising prices in the public liability insurances and dogs needing kiwi aversion training certificates to enter various forests.

7.30pm: The Council returned to the normal Fish & Game Council meeting.

The Chairman asked for any apologies. There were no apologies given.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2014 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Wayne Pepper/Phil Durham

CARRIED.

Matters Arising

The Manager updated the Council on a replacement for a representative from DoC to attend the Fish & Game bi-monthly meetings. He had spoken to Nicola Douglas, Director Conservation Partnerships, Northern North Island and Ms Douglas advised the Manager that she intends to attend two Fish & Game meetings through the year and someone from the Whangarei or Kerikeri office will attend the other meetings. The Manager will be notified early next year.

Councillor Durham commended Nathan, the Council's Field Officer, on the presentation he had given to the Rotary Club in Whangarei. Nathan spoke on wetlands; why they are so important and ways of developing wetlands.

The Manager had a 2014 Habitat Print framed to give to Mason Elliott for the recognition and appreciation of the years he had given to Northland Fish & Game Council as a councillor. A plaque has been attached to the print and a thank you card which was signed by all of the Councillors, will accompany the gift.

Manager's Report

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

1181 Game Bird Dispersal

All of the gas guns owned by the Council have been hired out to farmers to disperse mainly Paradise Shelduck from crops. The hiring of gas guns is seen to provide a service to the community.

1225 Flaxmill Wetlands

The Council discussed the results of the questionnaire sent out to all stand holders of the Flaxmill Wetlands.

It was moved: *That the permit fee for the Flaxmill Wetland increases to \$45.00 from the 2015 game bird season onwards to enlarge the funding for the predator control programme within the Wetlands.*

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

1228.01 Awakino Wetlands

The Manager met with NRC staff and they informed the Manager that staff from DoC was unaware of any resource consents application for the Awakino Wetlands was made and of the history between DoC and Fish & Game. The Manager will inform DoC that the Department consented to this work a few years earlier and has already paid for the resource consent application.

1311 Manganui Reserve

The Council was deeply concerned that the access to the Manganui River Wildlife Reserve will not be accessible for hunting due to new ownership of the neighbouring forest block. The Manager will contact the new owner to discuss access and inform them of the current use and how Fish & Game issues permits on behalf of DoC in the new year when Mr Holyoake is available.

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

Leo Leonard/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 21st -23rd November 2014. Councillor Lynch discussed the following points:

- Standard Operation Work Plans
- Staff sharing between regions
- NZC coordinated national programmes.
- All legal funding is now on a spreadsheet which can be easily read and understood.

All Regional Managers and the Chairpersons attended a governor's workshop on the 22nd November with the NZFG Council appointees. The workshop included two presentations: the first was from Fish & Game regional staff on improvements that could be made to the organisation and then Elana Geddis, barrister and co-author with Sir Geoffrey Palmer, on the NZ Council legal opinion on the Council's coordination role.

The second part of the workshop involved groups in a discussion on the output classes and regional functions, external threats facing Fish & Game and external opportunities awaiting the organisation.

The Chairman thought that the workshop was very beneficial and felt that the workshop should be held annually.

Councillor Performance Review Governance Policy

Under the Governance Policy 11.3.2 states that "*The Council shall every six months carry out a review of its performance*"

At the previous Council meeting, there were a number of Councillors who were not present at the meeting. The Council discussed changing the Council Performance Evaluation Review from six monthly to once a year and deferred the decision when more Councillors were present.

It was moved: *That the Council will change the Council's Performance Evaluation Review to an annual basis which will be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.*

Cameron Shanks/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

The Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust

The Auditor contacted the Manager to inform the Council that there could be a change in the state sector reforms on the accountability obligations of public entities. The parent Fish & Game Council will only need to do parent financial statements, not group reporting as it is currently. The subsidiaries of Fish & Game Councils will only have to report if their Trust Deed states it in the Trust.

It was moved: *That the future of the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust lay on the table till the Council hears officially on the new reporting changes, as advised by BDO Northland Ltd.*

Phil Durham/Dave Nicholson

CARRIED.

Councillor Resignation and Bi-Election

Mr Elliott has officially resigned from the Northland Fish & Game Council. The Council will ask for anyone who could be interested in becoming a Fish & Game Councillor to put their name forward. The Council will advertise the vacancy in the local papers in the Far North. If no one from the Far North area stands, the vacancy will open to the rest of the Northland region.

It was moved: *To advertise the vacancy in the Northland Age and all regional community papers and the Far North Hunting & Fishing Club.*

Noel Birchall/Dave Nicholson

CARRIED.

Presentation of Wetland Workshop attended in USA

Field Officer Nathan Burkepile presented a power point display on the Wetland Restoration Workshop he attended whilst in the States earlier this year. Nathan showed a number of photos from start to finish on restoring a wetland which occurred over the two day course. Nathan updated the Councillors on the 4 Wetland Restoration Workshops he has organised in New Zealand; two of these workshops will be held in the Northland region. The Council found the power point presentation very interesting and thanked Nathan for attending the Council meeting.

Appointment of Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee

The Chairman advised the Council that the Manager's performance review was due and that a committee was required.

It was moved: *That the committee stay the same as the previous year which was made up of Dave Nicholson, Noel Birchall and Chris Lynch.*

Cameron Shanks/Phil Durham

CARRIED.

The Chairman will arrange a suitable meeting date for an end of year performance review with the Manager and the appointed Councillors.

