

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Maurice Blyde, Noel Birchall, Ian Hogarth, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

**Conservation**

**Board Members:** Richard Robbins, Alan Martin

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

**APOLOGIES:** Kris Batelaan

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

*Dave Nicholson/Wayne Pepper* **CARRIED.**

**Annual or One Year Agenda**

June annual items include consideration for the budget and licence fee recommendations for 2016/17 fish season and the Anglers Notice – issues requiring NZC consideration.

**Previous Minutes**

No discussion occurred on the minutes of the last meeting.

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Maurice Blyde/ Chris Lynch* **CARRIED.**

**Matters Arising**

The Manager informed Council that he had not received any correspondence or heard anything on the submission for the Kai Iwi Lakes Draft Management Plan that was sent in March. The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee is meeting at the end of June and when the revised management plan is finalised, the outcome will be made public afterwards.

The Kaipara District Council approved the application to hold the trout fishing competition at the Kai Iwi Lakes this year. Plans are well underway to hold the competition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

**Resolution to exclude the Public**

Time: 7.10pm Friday.

Resolved (Cameron Shanks/Ian Hogarth)

**That the public (including staff) be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:**

**a. The Manager's Annual Performance Review**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released.	Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.

**Note**

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

Time: 7.45pm

Resolved (Chris Lynch /Dave Nicholson)

**To move out of Public excluded and resume with the open meeting of the Northland Fish & Game Council.**

The Council accepted the subcommittee recommendations for the Manager's remuneration.

### Manager's Report

The Council considered the operational report with discussion on the following items:

#### **1181 Game Bird Dispersal**

A swan shoot was organised for the Queen's Birthday weekend in the Far North region by the Far North Sport Shooting Club. The Northland Regional Council was also involved in the shoot, by offering to supply steel shot cartridges and making an analysis of the bird's crop content to verify the diet of the birds. The Manager is hoping to obtain a report from the NRC in due course.

#### **1243 Underwood Property**

The Manager updated the Council on the access into the Underwood Wetland Property. The Kaipara District Council was considering a geotech report would be necessary to build the unformed road to the boundary of the wetland which could prove very costly. KDC staff however is currently revising their earlier advice that the road may be formed without a geotech report with a requirement that a sign is erected at the commencement of the road stating "4 WD vehicles" only. The KDC have advised that an engineer's report for the already formed road up to Mr & Mrs Underwood's house may be required.

#### **1311 Negotiation**

Some of the Far North Landcorp Farms which are still managed under the Crown are not allowing access for game bird hunters this year because of Health & Safety issues. The Manager is meeting with the Farm Manager in the next few weeks to resolve this situation.

#### **1531 Compliance**

The Manager informed the Council that the one offender, who was caught hunting without a current game bird licence and using lead shot within 200 metres of water, has accepted the reparations offer.

#### **1900 Administration**

A total of 80 applicants applied for the Field Officer vacancy. The position has been filled by Andrew Kirk who will commence work on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

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

*Maurice Blyde/ Wayne Pepper* *CARRIED.*

#### **Health & Safety Bi-monthly Report**

Northland Fish & Game is required to give a Health & Safety report at each Council meeting detailing:

- The implementation and adherence to Health & Safety policy/manual
- Any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed.
- Progress with any ongoing issues.
- Outcomes of audits and reviews required in the Health & Safety manual.
- Any near misses or injuries.

**It was moved:** *That the Health and Safety Report – June 2016 is accepted.*

*Noel Birchall/Mike Newson* *CARRIED.*

### **Health & Safety Policy**

Fish & Game NZ asked all regions to adopt a national Health & Safety Policy based on the new Health & Safety at Work Act 2015. The Councillors discussed the policy and made some changes to the wording within the draft policy.

The Councillors stated that the Ranging Policy must be read in conjunction with the national Health & Safety Policy.

The Council considered the national Health & Safety Policy as a living document which could be updated when necessary.

**It was moved:**            **That the Northland Fish & Game Council adopts the Health & Safety Policy subject to some changes to wording within the policy.**

**Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks**

**CARRIED.**

8.30pm:            Dave Nicholson left the Council meeting.

### **NZFG Council Update**

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFG meeting in Wellington on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The unconfirmed minutes were received by the Councillors. Councillor Birchall gave a brief account to the Council:

- A letter from the NZFGC Chairman is sent to regions asking for their top 5 priorities of Fish & Game functions that lend themselves to SOP treatment.
- The recommendations from the workshops held at the previous Council meeting are confirmed in the public minutes.
- RM/Legal Updates report. Additional funding to CSI was approved to cover additional expenditure for the Hakataramea River project and to Southland for the hearing of the Mountain Cycleway along Upper Oreti River.
- Legal Counsel for NZ Council. It was agreed to look at recent cases to determine percentages spent on costs to lawyers and expert witnesses.
- Submission and Regulatory Impact Statement for introducing Guide Licences. The Council resolved that the revised paper is submitted to the Minister of Conservation seeking her support for securing a sports fish and game guide licences.
- Captive Reared Mallards. NZ Council proposes to ask the Mallard Research Committee and any staff to prepare a report on the risks and benefits of captive reared mallards and the effects of releasing these mallards.

**It was moved:**            **That the NZFGC report is accepted.**

**Chris Lynch/Maurice Blyde**

**CARRIED.**

## Correspondence

### **Hunting & Harvest Ethics**

NZFG Council invited comments from all regions on the need for a national policy on hunter and harvest ethics. Northland Fish & Game Council noted that the "Code of Conduct" was already in the Game Bird Regulation Booklet, to consider the rights of others and observe the hunters code of conduct.

The Council also discussed whether there should be a change from using plastic casing wads to a biodegradable alternative. Councillor Reardon agreed to contact some ammunition companies he used to deal with and investigate whether there could be an alternative to plastic casing wads.

The Council agreed that a national policy on Hunter and Harvest Ethics lay on the table.

### **Anglers Notice 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule Working Party**

NZFGC made some recommended changes to the 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule of the Anglers 'Notice. Councillor Batelaan had also submitted his recommended changes to the Introductory Content of the Anglers Regulation Booklet.

**It was moved:**            *That the Council supports the recommended amendments to the First Schedule of the Anglers' Notice for all Fish & Game regions.*

*Darryl Reardon/Ian Hogarth*

*CARRIED.*

### **Decisions taken potentially impinging on other Councils**

The Council considered this memorandum and declared that individual Fish and Game Councils are encouraged to consult before finalising its position on matters that could influence commercial behaviour.

### **NZGBHT Board Nominations**

NZ Fish & Game Council is seeking nominations from regions for a board member to sit on the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board for the next three years.

**It was resolved:**        *That Ian Hogarth is nominated to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust on behalf of Northland Fish & Game.*

*Noel Birchall/ Darryl Reardon*

*CARRIED.*

Councillor Hogarth accepted the nomination. The Manager will write to Robert Sowman, NZ Fish & Game Council notifying him of Ian's nomination.

### **Fish & Game Magazine**

At the last Council meeting in April, the Councillors were asked their views on the latest Fish & Game magazine. The Manager wrote to NZ Council relating these views and included the reply he received from Don Rood, Communications Manager NZFGC in the agenda. The Manager also informed Council that in the latest hunter survey, hunters were asked if they knew what the duck stamp was and a lot of the hunters did not know where the money was spent for the stamp.

The Council discussed setting up a national register of wetlands where all Fish & Game Councils register significant wetlands within their regions. The Council then considered having a no net loss of wetlands within the Northland region.

**It was moved:** *That Northland Fish & Game includes a no net loss of wetlands within their Sports Fish & Game Management Plan.*

*Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch* **CARRIED.**

### **2016-2017 Licence Fee Recommendations**

The Council briefly discussed the proposed increases for the 2016-2017 financial year.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish & Game Council support the NZFGC recommendation for the 2016/17 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$125 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$93 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.*

*Cameron Shanks/Chris Lynch* **CARRIED.**

### **2016- 2017 Anglers Notice**

The Manager provided the Council with a recommendation that no changes be made to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule of the region's Angler Notice.

**It was moved:** *That there are no changes for the 2016/17 Second Schedule of the Northland Fish & Game Anglers' Notice.*

*Noel Birchall/Ian Hogarth* **CARRIED.**

### **Audit Arrangements – Letter from OAG**

A letter was received advising the Council that the contract with BDO to complete the annual audit expired on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. The Office of the Auditor General is proposing to renew the audit contract with BDO for a further three years. The Manager will contact BDO for costings of the proposed audit fees for the coming three years.

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde* **CARRIED.**

### **Financial Report for period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

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

*Chris Lynch/Mike Newson* **CARRIED.**

An updated report on fish and game licence sales was received and conveyed to the Council by the Manager. Licence sales are to date above budget for the Northland region.

## **General Business**

### **Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition**

The Manager asked any Councillors for their assistance for the 2016 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition. As Health & Safety is a concern, the Manager thought that some Councillors could help by checking the boats and any fishing equipment for any aquatic plant pests and get the "Check Clean Dry" message out to the anglers. Some of the Councillors agreed to help at the competition.

### **Northland Conservation Board Member**

The Chairman thanked Richard Robbins for his attendance and diligence as a Conservation Board representative over the years. The Fish & Game Council welcomed Alan Martin who will be the new representative for the Northland Conservation Board at the Northland Fish & Game Council meetings. The Councillors applauded Richard for his attendance.

### **NZFG Council Grant**

For the first six months of the financial year, the cash flow for the Northland region is very restricted as the fish licence sales are not substantial and the game bird licence sales commence in March. The Manager advised Councillors that 2 double grants need to be received to help out with the region's operational needs. The Council instructed the Manager to write to NZFG Council and ask to have the grant money paid in 2 double instalments, one in November and the other in February.

### **NZFG Council Meeting in Northland**

A NZ Council meeting is planned to be held in Northland commencing on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The Manager is planning a field trip on the Saturday to take all NZFG Council members, staff and Northland Fish & Game Councillors. The Manager hoped that all Councillors will be available to attend the meeting and/or the field trip.

### **Annual Trout Liberations**

The Manager informed the Council that the trout liberations would take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June and the office would be closed for the two days.

### **Office Hours**

The Chairman enquired on the office hours and when the office is open. He had some enquiries for permits from licence holders who arrived at the office after 4.00pm and found the office closed. The Chairman requested that the office is open until 5.00 pm for licence holder's enquiries and permits two weeks prior to the opening game bird hunting season. A sign of the office hours will be fixed to the front door with after hour's contact details.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

**Phil Durham**  
Chairman

