

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 5th APRIL 2013.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Mason Elliott,
Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks.

**Conservation
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

APOLOGIES: Phil Durham, Mike Newson, Mark Williamson,
Darrin Jones (Department of Conservation).

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

Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st February 2013
are confirmed as true and correct.*

Chris Lynch/Mason Elliott *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

Governance Training Day

The governance review/training day was postponed due to some Councillors not able to attend. The Council agreed that this review day should be undertaken before the 2013 game bird hunting season commences. The Council agreed to have this meeting on the 27th April 2013 commencing at 8.30am. This training day will be held at the office of Northland Fish & Game. The Manager will contact the Councillors who could not attend the Council meeting and inform them of this date for the Governance meeting.

Fire Safety Standards within the office

The work to correct the fire safety standards within the office has been completed and is now waiting for the annual inspection of the fire detectors. Fire Security Services inspect the fire detectors annually and once this inspection has been done, the Council will apply for the final Code of Compliance certificate. The cost of the work was a little more than first quoted due to extra materials being needed. The carpenter has

charged hours accordingly and approximately 60% of these costs will be charged back to the landlord once the Code of Compliance is received.

Manager's Annual Performance Review

The Annual Performance Review committee will meet with the Manager on the 8th April 2013 to discuss his performance review.

Past Fish & Game Councillors Acknowledgement

At the request of the Councillors, the Manager purchased a 2013 Habitat Print for past Fish & Game Councillors Trevor Osbaldiston and Kevin Alexander for their service and contribution. The Manager was instructed to invite them to a lunch at the Governance meeting on the 27th April to present them both with their Habitat Prints.

2013 Game Gazette Notice

The final 2013 Game Gazette recommendations have been approved by the Minister and are now printed and sent to all agents. Game Bird licences came on sale on the 21st March. The Councillors discussed the several changes within the various regions.

Lease Agreement of Greenheart Land

An email was received from Greenheart Forests regarding a draft lease being drawn up. They requested an aerial photograph of the block of land which Fish & Game wishes to lease. The Manager had nothing more to present to Council.

Manager's Activity Report

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

1225 Flaxmill Wetland

The Manager informed Council of a problem within the Flaxmill Wetland over a hunting stand. A hunter did not use his stand for the opening weekend for the 2012 hunting season. This hunter had a very good reason but did not inform Fish & Game at the time. The number one rule for all Fish & Game wetlands is to shoot from the stand on opening morning of the hunting season. Because of this, the Manager reassigned the stand to another hunter.

This new hunter did a lot of work to the stand and had spent a lot of time and money cleaning up the site around the maimai.

Another stand came available within the wetland so the hunter who lost his stand has been relocated to another stand and the situation has been resolved.

1311 Negotiation

The Manager has had discussions with all of the forestry Managers to finalise permit details and access maps for the 2013 game bird hunting season. There have been delays in finalising some of these permits and access maps because of various reasons.

Juken New Zealand has been bought by Summit NZ and Fish & Game is still waiting on new logos and access maps from them. There have also been staff changes within the Northland Forest Managers Group which has caused delays in finalising access maps to the different forests.

The Farm Manager for the Landcorp Farm, Te Karae has closed the station to game bird hunting for this year only, to help build up game bird numbers.

The Farm Manager at Te Paki Farm/Reserve would like to see more hunters up on his station. He would like to see an organised shoot on his farm in the hunting season. The Councillors discussed this shoot and instructed the Manager to contact the Far North Hunting and Fishing Recreational Club and between them and Fish & Game, perhaps a shoot could be arranged. Geoff Crawford, the Manager of Te Paki Farm is happy to donate a prize for this shoot.

1333 Newsletter

The Council was very pleased with the current newsletter which was sent out to all Fish & Game licence holders in the Northland region. They felt it was a very informative newsletter.

1410 Liaison

The Manager has regular meetings with the Conservator, Chris Jenkins. At a recent meeting, the Manager discussed whether more DoC land was available for hunting and improvement of habitat. The Department is going through another restructure so DoC would prefer to wait for these changes to take place. The Conservancy has 12 regions but could be reduced to 6 regions. Nothing has been finalised to date. The Manager discussed the various DoC lands within Northland which needs management to improve the hunting opportunities and habitat for game birds.

It was moved:

That the Manager's report is received.

Leo Leonard/Wayne Pepper

CARRIED.

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 23/24th March 2013. The following matters were raised in the NZFGC agenda:

- Sir Geoffrey Palmer talked to NZFGC on the proposed changes to the RMA. The Council agreed to engage Sir Geoffrey Palmer to work and assist Fish & Game with these proposed changes to the RMA.
- Licence Category Research Presentation. Christine Palmer presented the findings on the overall review of the fishing licence categories. This presentation was videoed and sent to all regions.
- National Research Programme Update. The Council had concerns on the reporting milestones on the Mallard study.
- NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board is looking for nominations for three people to go on the NZGB Habitat Trust Board.
- Youth Participation Strategy. NZFGC supports a pilot scheme of "Young Anglers". This programme will concentrate on Fishing in Schools, take a kid fishing, teach a kid fishing, role models and mentors and creating a greater awareness. NZFGC recommended that this programme is tested and refined within the North Canterbury region before going nationally.
- Game Notice. NZFGC had concerns of the various changes to the regulations in midst of the mallard research study. These changes could change the outcome and skew the results for this research.

NZFGC Licence Administration Agreement

It was moved: *That the Manager signs the Licence Administration Agreement with Eyede on behalf of the Northland Fish & Game Council.*

Noel Birchall/Chris Lynch *CARRIED.*

NZFGC Research Strategy Review

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council accepts the recommendation made by NZFGC for the research strategy projects.*

Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Nominations

The NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust is asking all regions for nominations to go on the Habitat Trust. The Manager gave a quick explanation on how the Game Bird Habitat Trust worked.

The Chairman asked if any Councillors were interested in being nominated for the Trust. No nominations came forward but all Councillors were asked to inform any members of the public who may be interested.

The Manager will approach Ian Hogarth who has plenty of experience and knowledge in this field to be nominated on to the Habitat Trust.

All nominations must be received by the NZFGC no later than 19th July 2013.

Licence Categories Research Presentation

This presentation was deferred to the next meeting as the DVD had not been received by Northland Fish & Game.

Sub Gauge Lead Shot letter from Southland F&G Council

The Council regarded that this matter had been dealt with in earlier correspondence in which the councillors recommended that the current status quo for 20 gauge shotguns remains.

The Councillors expressed concerns that given the NZFGC had not supported a change to the regulations until further investigations that Southland had still decided to go against national policy.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council does not support Southland Fish & Game's decision to phase in the banning of lead shot in the use of sub gauge shotguns.*

Mason Elliott/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Prosecutions Committee

The prosecutions committee consists of two Councillors and the Manager and this committee deals with all reparations, diversion and recommending prosecutions of any Fish & Game offences that may occur through the year.

As there is a new Council, the Council needed to elect a new prosecutions committee. The Chairman asked the Council for nominations.

It was moved: That Chairman Dave Nicholson is nominated for the prosecutions committee.

Noel Birchall/Wayne Pepper ***CARRIED.***

Dave Nicholson accepted the nomination.

Councillor Birchall was asked whether he wanted to stay on the committee and he replied that he was happy to continue with the committee. The prosecutions committee now consists of Dave Nicholson, Noel Birchall and the Manager.

2013-14 Contestable Funding Applications

The Manager explained to the Council that the 2013-14 budget is identical to the current year. The Manager advised the Council that the budget level of \$355,051.00 is the Councils allocation under current budget policy and any amount exceeding budget needed to be considered as contestable funding bids.

The Manager will make a contestable funding bid to meet salary increases.

The Council asked the Manager to make a further contestable funding bid for Council to employ a new staff member to assist in field and office duties within the Northland region.

It was moved: That the Manager reapplies for a new staff member as a contestable funding bid for 2013-14 budget and to write to NZFGC summarising the reasons for an extra staff member and to consider this application very seriously.

Kris Batelaan/Noel Birchall ***CARRIED.***

Manager's Financial Report

It was moved: That the Financial Reports are accepted.

Chris Lynch/Leo Leonard ***CARRIED.***

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: That the Executive Limitations Report be received.

Mason Elliott/Wayne Pepper ***CARRIED.***

General Business

Information on the RMA submission was circulated within the Council. The Council discussed their options on the RMA and it was decided that the Chairman, NZFG delegate Chris Lynch, Chris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde and the Manager would visit the local MP's regarding the RMA issues.

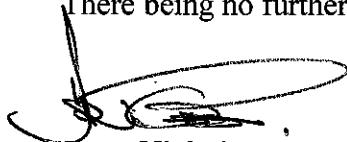
It was moved: **That the Manager would make an appointment to visit the local Members of Parliament on behalf of Northland Fish & Game to discuss the RMA issues.**

Mason Elliott/Wayne Pepper

CARRIED.

A letter from the Chairman of West Coast Fish & Game was received regarding the Oath of Office. The Council will address this letter at their governance meeting on the 27th April 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.



Dave Nicholson
Chairman