

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
6.00 PM THURSDAY 10th December 2015.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks.

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

Member of Public: Barry Birchall

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table and made a special welcome to Mr Birchall.

APOLOGIES: Noel Birchall, Ian Hogarth, Darryl Reardon.

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

Dave Nicholson/ Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Adoption of the Performance Report 2014-2015

It was resolved: *That the 2014-2015 Performance Report is adopted.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Presentation of the Performance Report

The Manager presented the Statement of Financial Performance for the 2014-2015 financial year which made a surplus of \$1,277. The Manager stated that the year was exceptional by the achievements that the Council and staff had achieved which was over and above the operational work plan.

The Manager explained that the Performance Report had been standardised and all of the Fish & Game regions followed the same format.

The Manager highlighted the areas, which were over in budget, with an explanation to the Council.

The Manager presented the Statement of Service Performance and asked Council if there were any queries. The Manager described the Statement of Service Performance as an historical document. NZFG Council could also be standardising this report in the coming year like the Financial Performance Report.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the Manager and the staff on an excellent year.

6.20pm: The Council returned to the normal Fish & Game Council meeting.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Manager was recently presented with a Vocational Service Award by the Rotary Club of Whangarei South, for the outstanding commitment and effort in Wildlife Management, especially in the fields of wetland development, conservation and fresh water sporting activities.

The Council congratulated the Manager on the worthy recognition by the Rotary Club.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2015 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Oath of Office

The Council discussed the Oath of Office document and whether there was any need for the declaration. The Council concurred that it was not necessary to adopt this document at present as the Councillors declare any conflict of interest on an annual basis and they all accept their responsibilities and duties as Councillors of the Northland Fish & Game Council.

It was resolved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council does not adopt the Oath of Office.*

Wayne Pepper/ Dave Nicholson *CARRIED.*

Manager's Report

The Council considered the operational report with discussions on the following item:

1243 Underwood Property Acquisition

The Manager updated the Council on the Sale and Purchase agreement for the Underwood Property. The agreement has been signed by both parties and payment for the property will be made to the Underwoods just before Christmas. All legal titles for the boundary adjustments have been finalised. The Council will be vested and gazetted 44.2277 hectares as a Local Purpose Wildlife Management Reserve once the Underwood Property is transferred to the Crown. The Crown will invoice Northland Fish & Game for their agreed contribution when payment to the Underwoods has been completed.

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

Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Black Swan Meeting with NRC

Field Officer, Nathan Burkepile, gave a brief account on a meeting he attended in Kaitaia on the impacts of Black Swan in the Far North. The Council questioned Nathan on various aspects of the meeting.

The Field Officer will be attending another meeting in the Far North with staff members of the Northland Regional Council, to visit farms which could have problems with Black Swan and to discuss any concerns by landowners on a farm by farm basis.

The Field Officer recommended that the Council write a letter to the CEO of the Northland Regional Council and ask whether the need for a cull on Black Swan in the Far North is their official position and if so, can the NRC provide sound science and legitimate concerns to justify such a cull.

It was moved: *That the Field Officer's Report on the "Impacts of Black Swan in the Far North" is accepted and the Council endorses the recommendations made in the report.*

Chris Lynch/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Draft Game Season Recommendations for 2016

The Council considered the Field Officer's recommendations for the 2016-2017 game bird season and whether the game bird season regulations should be set for three years. The Council decided not to set the regulations for three years as the Council does not change the bag limits and dates of the season very often.

After some discussion the Council made the following resolution:

It was moved: *That the Council accepts the daily bag limits as stated in the recommendations subject to the 2016 trend counts.*
That the Council extend the dates of the season for the Grey/Mallard duck, Shoveler, Black Swan and Quail so that the season is the same length as previous years.

Dave Nicholson/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

The Council agreed with the following regulations:

Game That May Be Hunted or Killed—Duration of the 2016 Season

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit
Grey/Mallard duck and any hybrid of that species	<i>7 May to 3 July 2016</i>	12
Shoveler duck	<i>7 May to 3 July 2016</i>	3
Paradise Shelduck	<i>7 May to 7 August 2016</i>	25
Paradise Shelduck	25 February and 26 February 2017	25
Black Swan	<i>7 May to 7 August 2016</i>	15
Black Swan	25 February to 5 March 2017	15
Pukeko	7 May to 28 August 2016	12
Pukeko	25 February to 5 March 2017	12
California and Brown Quail – Area A *	<i>7 May to 7 August 2016</i>	10
California and Brown Quail	7 May to 28 August 2016	10
Cock Pheasant – Area A *	<i>7 May to 7 August 2016</i>	3
Cock Pheasant – Rest of region	7 May to 28 August 2016	5

The Council agreed with the shooting hours and changed the Special Conditions slightly to the following:

2 * Definition of Area A

All lands north of a line running east/west, north of the Whangape Harbour, then along the main ridgeline of the Maungataniwha Range and out to and including all lands north of Whangaroa Harbour.

3 Shooting Hours

6.30am to 6.30pm, except the hunting of:

- a) Paradise Shelduck on 25 February and 26 February 2017, shooting hours will be from 6.00am to 8.00pm.
- b) Pukeko and Black Swan from 25 February to 5 March 2017, shooting hours will be from 6.00am to 8.00pm.

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

- 5.1** No person shall wilfully leave on the hunting ground any game bird(s) shot or parts of any game bird(s) shot.
- 5.2** Camouflaged Rowboats: Persons may hunt or kill game from an unmoored camouflaged rowboat.
- 5.3** During the 25 and 26 February 2017 special Paradise Shelduck weekend, no person shall hunt within 300 metres of any urban sewage oxidation ponds.
- 5.4** During the 25 February to 5 March 2017 special Pukeko and Black Swan season; no person shall hunt within 300 metres of any urban sewage oxidation ponds.

NZFG Council Meeting

Councillor Lynch, Noel Birchall and the Manager attended a NZFGC meeting in Hamilton on the 20th – 22nd November 2015. Councillor Lynch updated the Council on the following points:

- **Environmental Scan.** Parts of the country are heading towards another drought with low ground water being a major concern. Fish & Game will need to be vigilant regarding the protection of environmental flows.
- **Research Projects Update.** A template similar to the RM/Legal Update report should be introduced to help Councillors to understand each project's status.
- **2015 Regional Fish and Game Council Elections.** Warwick Lampp, the Returning Officer, presented his report on the Fish & Game elections. This report provided a number of suggestions for improvement. The NZFG Council agreed that there needs to be a consistent approach on what is specified in candidate profiles. A template or policy would provide some guideline.
- **Resource Management Legal Spending.** Management of Fish & Game's legal expenses is defined by NZ Council policy but not by a national policy. NZFG Council made several proposals to the Review Committee to consider.
- **MOU between NZFGC and NZ Professional Fishing Guides.** The NZ Council accepted the MOU as amended by the Professional Fishing Guides as with the addition that the MOU is reviewed on a three yearly basis or at the request of either party.
- **Legal opinion on dealing with donations and bequests to Fish & Game.**

The Council thanked Councillor Lynch for his final NZ Fish & Game Council report.

Reparations Policy Review

NZ Fish & Game Council has developed a national policy on reparation and asked all regions to consider this document. The Council discussed the document and agreed that reparation fees and possibly the purchase of a licence if the offender is unlicensed, is set by the regions.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council supports the draft Reparation policy from the NZFG Council for adoption subject to allowing regions to set their own reparation fees.*

Mike Newson/ Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Appointment of Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee

The Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee was discussed amongst the Council.

It was moved: *That Cameron Shanks is nominated to the Manager's Performance Review Committee.*

Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

Councillor Shanks accepted the nomination.

The new committee consists of the Chairman, Phil Durham, Councillors Noel Birchall and Cameron Shanks.

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

Managers Financial Report

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 31st October 2015 is adopted.*

Wayne Pepper/Dave Nicholson **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Maurice Blyde/Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

General Business

The Manager informed the Council that he had visited the Awakino Wetland and Mr Whippy, the neighbour, has allowed access for the digger through his property when work commences at the wetland.

The Chairman wished all Councillors a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman



