

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 8th APRIL 2016**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde, Noel Birchall, Ian Hogarth, Chris Lynch, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

APOLOGIES: Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson,
Richard Robbins (Conservation Board Member)

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

Kris Batelaan/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Previous Minutes

No discussion occurred on the minutes of the last meeting.

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th January 2016 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

The Chairman circulated the accumulated results of the Council's Performance Evaluation for the Councillor's information.

The Manager informed the Council that Matt McDougal from Eastern Fish & Game will commence the trend counts for Mallards in April. Matt will undertake the trend counts for the Eastern, Auckland/Waikato and Northland Fish & Game regions. The Manager described the sites where the actual trend counts will be carried out in the Northland region. The Council voiced their concerns on the methods of monitoring the Mallard duck populations in differing parts of New Zealand.

The Manager's Annual Performance Review has not been carried out due to the illness of one of the Committee members. The Chairman apologised to the Manager and will have a meeting organised as soon as the Performance Committee is able to convene.

Manager's Report

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

1228.1 Awakino Wetland

Work will commence at the Awakino Wetland to repair the weir and rebuild a new spillway at the end of April. The Manager stated that earthworks will not affect any hunting in this area.

1243 Underwood Property

The Manager contacted the Kaipara District Council to seek an update for the approval for the construction of an access track on the unformed legal road into the recently acquired property. The KDC will consider Fish and Games application when the commissioners meet on the 26th April. The Manager will be notified of the outcome.

1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Competition

An application was sent to Kaipara District Council requesting permission to hold the annual trout fishing competition on the 2nd and 3rd July. The Kaipara District Council was to meet on the 18th April but this meeting has now been postponed and will now meet on the 23rd May to consider the application. The Manager hopes that approval is given earlier so that preparations for the competition can commence.

1331 Game Bird Magazine

The Councillors were asked their views on the recent Game Bird Magazine which was sent to them in March. The Council felt that the articles written are very repetitive from year after year and they would prefer more editorials written on the development and creation of wetlands funded by the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust.

1811 Sports Fish & Game Management Plan

Councillor Ian Hogarth was employed on a short term basis to prepare a draft of the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan. The Manager anticipates that a draft Management Plan will be ready for Council's consideration at the next Council meeting in June.

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

Wayne Pepper/Ian Hogarth

CARRIED.

Kai Iwi Lakes Submission

A copy of the submission for the Kai Iwi Lakes Draft Management Plan was sent to all Councillors requesting that the submission stays confidential until the hearing on the 12th April. The Manager applied to NZ Fish & Game Council to seek funding for all costs associated with preparing and submitting a submission on the Kai Iwi Lakes Draft Management Plan. The Manager obtained quotes and submitted an application which NZFGC approved.

The Manager gave a brief account of the meetings and correspondence he had with the Northland Fish & Game subcommittee, the environmental lawyer (John Burns), the planner (Andrew Riddell) and the scientist (Dr David Rowe).

The Manager and Mr Burns will speak at the hearing on Tuesday 12th April. The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee has allowed 5 minutes per speaker at the hearings but up to 15 minutes for Northland Fish & Game. The Manager and Mr Burns have both prepared a power point presentation highlighting the various points that are made in the submission. There is no right of appeal after the hearings, however if the decision by the KDC affects anglers then the matter could proceed to the High Court for a judicial review.

The Chairman also met with the Rt. Honourable Winston Peters to discuss the Draft Management Plan for the Kai Iwi Lakes. The Chairman recounted the meeting to the Council.

It was moved: *The Council commended the Manager for producing a comprehensive submission for the Kai Iwi Lakes Draft Management Plan.*

Noel Birchall/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Draft Wetland Management Plan

As part of the agreement with the Associate Minister of Conservation, Northland Fish & Game is required to develop a Wildlife Management Plan and Work plan for the parcel of land vested to Fish & Game, currently known as the Underwood property.

A draft Wildlife Management Plan and Work plan was prepared by the Manager and Chris Jenkins for the Council's consideration. The Council agreed that game bird licence holders should be advised by email who could view the document from the Fish & Game web site to submit any comments. The Plan will be available for submissions for a 40 day time period.

It was moved: *That the Council approves the Draft Wildlife Management Plan and Work plan and will call for comments and submissions from licence holders.*

Darryl Reardon/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

The wetland currently known as the Underwood property has no official name. Northland Fish & Game Council is the administrator of the reserve and has the ability to officially name the wetland reserve.

It was moved: *That the Council calls the wetland the "Underwood Wetland" and that all future reference including works and expenses in the Annual Operational work plans to this wetland including signage will be referred to as the "Underwood Wetland".*

Cameron Shanks/ Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFG meeting in Cromwell on the 18th March 2016. The unconfirmed minutes were received and distributed amongst the Councillors. Councillor Birchall had also written some notes highlighting various points and gave a further explanation to the Council:

- **Project 1520: Compliance and Enforcement.** NZFGC will raise its concerns to the Minister of Conservation or Director-General of Conservation over the exclusion of Fish & Game rangers in powers set out in the Wildlife (Powers) Bill.
- **Reparations policy as National Policy.** The NZ Council agreed that the reparation is not used for more serious offences, all reparation funds should be held in designated accounts and reported on annually, and that subject to any changes proposed at the meeting, the document (v.2 Mar16) becomes a national policy.
- There were also two letters from regions, one supporting the continuation of mallard research and another suggesting that the Duck Habitat Stamp fee is increased. Both letters will be considered when the budgets and licence fees are set.

Health and Safety Report

Fish & Game Council 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.

The Manager informed Council that Carmel Veitch from Eastern Fish & Game is currently in the process of updating the Health & Safety Manual/Policy for NZ Fish & Game Council under the new legislation that came in force on the 4th April 2016.

It was moved: ***That the Health & Safety Report is accepted.***

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

2016-2017 Draft Budget

The Manager explained to the Council that the 2016-17 budget is identical to the current year. The Manager advised the Council that the budget level of \$395,985 is the Council's allocation under current budget policy and any amount exceeding budget needed to be considered as contestable funding bids.

The Council considered the salary component within the budget. The Council discussed the Field Officer position and the possibility of sharing a Field Officer from a neighbouring Fish & Game region until the vacancy is filled.

The Manager will advertise the job opportunity in April and will hold interviews in mid-May.

It was moved: ***The Council accepts the Draft 2016-2017 budget with no contestable funding bids.***

Kris Batelaan/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

Financial Report for period ending 29th February 2016

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

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch

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

A report on the accrual of hours for staff to 31st March 2016 was circulated to all Councillors. It was noted that the Manager's time in lieu and annual leave hours were increasing due to extenuating circumstances.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman

