

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 22nd JANUARY 2021**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Russell Daniels, Mike Newson, Darryl Reardon, Stephan Seitzer, Cameron Shanks.

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

**Member of
Public:** Peter Allen

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

APOLOGIES: John Skeates, Mark Bell, Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

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

Russell Daniels/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th December 2020 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Mike Newson/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

The management report was received from the BDO Auditors. The councillors were asked to bring any questions to the table regarding the 2020 Annual Performance Report. There were no concerns that needed to be addressed.

1225 Flaxmill Wetland

There has been no progress on the repairs to the Flaxmill Wetland Bridge. Mr Edwards has not met with the engineers to date.

Council Vacancy

Northland Fish & Game Council placed a Public Notice in the local papers advising the public of two vacancies on the Northland Fish & Game Council. The Minister of Conservation was notified of the resignations of Chris Lynch and Wayne Pepper from the council. The Council received one application to stand for the Northland Fish & Game Council.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council appoints Peter Allen to the Northland Fish & Game Council.*

Russell Daniels/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

The chairman formally introduced Peter Allen to the Council. Mr Allen gave a brief account on his fresh water fishing and more recently, his game bird hunting experiences.

Mark Bell – Freshwater Policy – NES-FW

The councillors commended Councillor Bell on a well written report. The manager advised councillors Mischa Davis is currently preparing a national submission on behalf of the NZ Council. The submission will seek amendments to the legislation regarding the requirement to now obtain resource consent for the construction of maimais in wetlands, the limitations on vegetation clearing around maimais and the cost and limitations for wetland maintenance work and whether resource consents are required.

The council decided that the manager should add to Councillor Bell's submission regarding the Department of Conservation's wetlands.

It was moved: *That the manager adds to Councillor Bell's submission and once completed to send the report to NZ Council in support of the national submission.*

Darryl Reardon/Stefan Seitzer

CARRIED.

Manager's Report

1111 Aerial Trend Counts

The field officers commenced the ground trend counts in the far north on the 15th January 2021 on the Houhora and Parengarenga Harbours using the Fish and Game vessel. DOC in Kaitia is supporting our field officer by using their drone to count waterfowl at the Te Paki Station birds. Graham undertook a ground count of the birds at the Jack Bisset Wetland.

The aerial trend counts will commence tomorrow over the weekend of the 23rd January 2021.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The contractor is nearing completion of stage one at the wetlands. The progress has been very slow due to wet ground conditions.

The Manchurian Rice Grass was aerial sprayed again on the 9th January 2021.

1721 Council

The manager presented a framed Habitat Print to retiring Councillors Pepper and Lynch in December 2020 for their service and dedication to the Northland Fish & Game Council.

1900 Administration

The manager updated the council on the insurance claim for the Isuzu D Max which was involved in an accident with a Fonterra milk tanker last October. The insurance company replaced the vehicle and the council paid the insurance excess of \$500. The insurance company has now waived the excess and will refund the council the excess. The manager discussed with the council whether the Council should take Fonterra to the disputes tribunal to admit liability as the insurance premiums will no doubt increase with this claim. Councillors felt the matter lie and not to proceed to the disputes tribunal.

The Mazda BT-50 is due for replacement. Pacific Motor Group has valued the Mazda at \$28,000 including GST as a trade in price for a new Mitsubishi Triton.

It was moved: *That the Mazda BT-50 is traded in as per the Manager's report and purchase the new Mitsubishi Triton 4WD GLX.*

Darryl Reardon/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

It was moved: *That the manager's report is received.*

Russell Daniels/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly and the access for hunting opportunities on the Sweetwater station wetlands in the Far North. John Macpherson is currently setting up a permit system for licence holders to obtain for hunting within these areas.

It was moved: *That the Manager and Field Officers' Activity Reports are received.*

Cameron Shanks/Russell Daniels **CARRIED.**

QE11 Trust Flaxmill Report

This report was included in the agenda for the councillor's information. The council briefly discussed the report.

NZFG Updates

There have been no NZFG Council meetings since November last year. Councillor Birchall reported that:

- The CEO, Martin Taylor, resigned in December.
- Paul Shortis is currently the Acting CEO for NZ Council.
- Ray Grubb is the new Chairman for NZ Council
- A zoom meeting will be held on the 16th February.
- The Minister is expected to release the outcome from the NZFG review in mid-February.
- The next NZC meeting will be held in Wellington on the 5-7th March 2021 to discuss the ministerial review.

Fish & Game Resource Allocation Project

The councillors discussed the key findings of the Resource Allocation Project. This report was based on angler and hunter activity within the Fish & Game regions and the regional breakdown of licence sales.

The council believed that the report did not allow for the following:

- The size of the region
- The current level of resources within that region such as managed wetlands
- Statute of the Conservation Act – The Act places statutory duties on all regions
- The differences in management costs in a region.
- Report compared hunter activity in hours and angler activity in days
- Not all regions were contacted for information for this report
- The terms of reference were not included in the report.

Councillor Birchall will follow up on the terms of reference and will send them out to all of the councillors. The NZ Council will discuss this report at their next meeting in Wellington in March and will decide to make recommendations to go out to all regions depending on the Ministerial review.

Fish & Game Meeting Dates for 2021

A spread sheet was circulated with the meeting dates for 2021 for all regions, NZ Council and Managers. The October meeting for Northland Fish & Game was amended to 29th October 2021.

Governance Councillor Performance Review Evaluations Forms

Governance Policy 11.3.2 states that "*The Council shall every 12 months carry out a review of its performance*" *The Council's Performance Evaluation Review is on an annual basis which will be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.*

Personal evaluations forms were collected by the Chairman. The Chairman will contact any councillors who had not returned their forms. He will collate all of the results and convey them at the next council meeting.

Auditors Management Letter

The Auditor's Management letter was received in January thanking the staff for their assistance extended to BDO Northland during the course of the audit. The audit had two findings concerning the transition to Xero and the layout of the statement of service performance.

It was moved: ***The Auditor's management letter is received.***

Mike Newson/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

The council congratulated the Manager and the staff on an excellent report.

Appointment of Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee

The Chairman called for nominations for the review committee.

The following nominations were received:

<i>Councillor Birchall</i>	<i>Moved: P Durham/S Seitzer</i>
<i>Councillor Shanks</i>	<i>Moved: D Reardon/K Batelaan</i>
<i>Councillor Reardon</i>	<i>Moved: N Birchall/C Shanks</i>
<i>Councillor Batelaan</i>	<i>Moved: D Reardon/C Shanks</i>

All councillors accepted the nominations.

The committee consists of Chairman Phil Durham, Councillors Noel Birchall, Cameron Shanks, Darryl Reardon and Kris Batelaan.

The Chairman asked the Review committee to meet after the council meeting to arrange a date and time for the Manager's review.

Health and Safety 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.

The council discussed the two incidents that the Field Officer sustained.

It was moved: *That the Health and Safety Report is received.*

Peter Allen/Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Kris Batelaan/Darryl Reardon

CARRIED.

Financial Reports

The most recent fish licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the councillors. The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 31st December 2020.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 31st December 2020 is adopted.*

Stefan Seitzer/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

General Business

Jobs for Nature Community Conservation Fund

The manager informed the council of a project funding application administered by the Department of Conservation called Jobs for Nature Community Conservation Fund. This fund supports environment community-led projects on public and private land that creates jobs. Grants from \$300,000 - \$1,000,000 can be applied for projects that create temporary jobs for up to three years.

The manager has considered applying for funding for the Underwood Wetland and the scenic DOC Reserve adjacent to the wetland to upgrade tracks through the reserve, predator control work, spraying of pest plants in and around the wetland etc. The Councillors were concerned about the extra work load put on to the Fish & Game staff to supervise and oversee the workers employed for this project.

The councillors advised the manager to contact DOC and to investigate further into this application.

The Councillors also advised that the manager should perhaps consider Jobs for Nature on Fish and Game and co-managed wetland properties. This would see greater resourcing being applied to our properties and advance management and maintenance.

Letter to Northern Advocate

A letter from Bruce Yorke was published in the Northern Advocate newspaper critical of the decision made by the Taharoa Governance Board to stop the trout liberations in the Kai Iwi Lakes. He was also very disappointed in NZ Fish & Game having made no public statement. The Taharoa Governance Committee is meeting on the 9th February in Dargaville. Northland Fish & Game will discuss any recommendations made from the science advisory group at the next

Council meeting in March. The Chairman requested the manager incorporate the trout releases in the Kai Iwi Lakes in the next agenda.

Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust

Councillor Darryl Reardon gave a brief update on the irrigation scheme. Geotech reports on three sites in the Kaipara area have now been abandoned due to the sites not being suitable. The Trust is now investigating three new sites with one site under negotiation.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Durham', written in a cursive style.

Phil Durham
Chairman