

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2021**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Russell Daniels, Darryl Reardon, Stefan Seitzer, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates, Mark Bell

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

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: Peter Allen, Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Mike Newson, Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

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

Cameron Shanks/Darryl Reardon *CARRIED.*

The Chairman asked the Council for any late items to be addressed in the agenda. The Manager wished to include the Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions paper later on the agenda.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 22 January 2021 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Stefan Seitzer/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Manager's Report

1161 Trout Releases

Staff at Kaipara District Council has asked the Manager to submit a letter asking for approval to release trout into the Kai Iwi Lakes this year. The Council agreed that the Manager should send a letter requesting approval.

1421 Communication

Northland Fish & Game staff has been assisting NRC, DOC, Kaipara District Council and members of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee in netting a koi carp that was reported in the Kai Iwi Lakes. To date, there has been no sighting of any koi carp. Staff have spent a considerable amount of hours at the lakes using the boat and helping set and recover the nets.

1225 Flaxmill Wetland

Mr Edwards is waiting on a geotech report from Hawthorn Geddes Engineers for the repairs to the access bridge. Mr Edwards will commence the repairs as soon as possible as there is land he cannot use for grazing and Fish & Game cannot transport any heavy machinery across to the wetlands.

Mr Edwards has asked permission to remove some black wattle trees on the boundary. The Manager has agreed to the removal although there is a rare and threatened plant close by that needs care.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The contractor has completed the main wall of the final pond of stage one. The contractor has also built up to increase the access track around the new pond as it would inundate with the maximum water level set by the weir.

Permits to hunt upland game birds will be issued this upcoming game bird season.

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly. Staff and the stand holders had a working bee at the Jack Bisset Wetlands on Sunday 21st March.

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

Darryl Reardon/Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Governance Report

The Chairman circulated a summarised report on the Council performance evaluation for 2020-2021. The Chairman believes that the Council has performed its functions well and have conducted meetings in a very professional manner.

It was moved: *That the Council Performance Evaluation Report is accepted.*

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell

CARRIED.

NZFGC Updates

Councillor Birchall sent a brief report on the NZ Council meeting held on the 23rd March 2021. The report highlighted the following:

- Paul Shortis has been appointed as the acting CEO and will stand down as the Wellington appointee to the NZC.
- Advertising for a permanent CEO is underway.
- Meeting on the 5th March to discuss the Ministerial Review and Resource Allocation Project was cancelled due to the Ministerial Review release being delayed. A meeting is proposed to include all regional chair persons and NZC appointees on the 16th April 2021.
- Adoption of the NES winter grazing, wetlands and maimai NZ policy positions.
- Setting up of various NZC subcommittees.
- Consideration of the 2021/22 budget and licence proposals.
- Fish licence sales are approximately 11% ahead of projections in some regions.

- Rescind the decision on Non Resident Levies and regions to consult on this matter.
- Brian Anderton resignation.

An invitation has been received by the Chairman to attend and discuss the Ministers Fish & Game review. The Chairman believed that attending the NZ Council meeting was premature and the recommendations of the review should be discussed at regional level. The Chairman has declined the offer and will email all other regional chair persons with his reasons. The councillors agreed with the Chairman.

2021-2022 Draft Budget and Contestable Funding applications

Copies of the contestable funding applications were circulated to the Council. The Councillors discussed approaching the Hunting & Fishing agents in Northland for sponsorship. The Council will receive very little interest income as rates have reduced remarkably. The Manager explained how the contestable funding applications are worked out:

Contestable Funding App 1	Loss of income due to falling interest rates	\$7,617
Contestable Funding App 2	Salaries – CPI adjustment	\$4,848
Contestable Funding App 3	Council Expenses – increased costs	\$ 500
Contestable Funding App 4	Administration – increased costs	\$3,750
Contestable Funding App 5	Compliance – increased travel cost, warrant renewals, ranger training	\$1,000
Contestable Funding App 6	Repairs and maintenance to the Access Bridge at the Flaxmill Wetlands (come out of Reserves)	\$25,000

It was moved: *The Council accepts the recommendations of the Manager for the 2021-2022 draft budget.*

Cameron Shanks/Mark Bell *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *The Council approves the contestable funding applications for the 2021-2022 draft budget*

John Skeates/Stefan Seitzer *CARRIED.*

The Manager requested that a CF application is submitted for the further development of the Underwood Wetland and to get NZ Council approval to use \$50,000 from the dedicated reserves.

The Manager will also apply to the NZGBHT for a further grant to commence stage 2 and if this application, or the Jobs for Nature application is successful, then the Council will not use their reserves.

Contestable Funding App 7	Underwood Wetland development – stage 2 To come out of Dedicated Reserves	\$50,000
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It was moved: *The Council approves \$50,000 to come out of dedicated reserves to further develop the Underwood Wetland.*

Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

The Councillors discussed various ways to supplement the income for the Council. Councillors Mark Bell and Stefan Seitzer questioned about moving or building small cabins on the wetlands so members of the public and licence holders could camp out for the weekend. The Council will debate this idea at a later meeting.

Resource Allocation Meeting

The Manager and the Chairman suggested that a special meeting is held after the results of the Fish & Game review is published.

Game Bird Guides Licence Latent Provisions

The Department of Conservation are seeking feedback from the regional Fish & Game councils on retaining the hunting guide's game bird licence provisions.

The council had a brief discussion.

It was moved: *That the requirement for a guide to be the holder of a game bird hunting licence provisions is removed.*

Stefan Seitzer/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

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.

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

Russell Daniels/Mark Bell *CARRIED.*

Executive Limitations Report

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

Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks *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 28th February 2021.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 28th February 2021 is adopted.*

Stefan Seitzer/Russell Daniels *CARRIED.*

The staff advised the Council that the next grant instalment from the NZFGC is delayed as a result of the NZFG office not wishing to break a term investment and has suggested the Council uses its own reserves to fund our operation until the term investment matures.

The Council has a \$100,000 term investment maturing on the 8 April and will not reinvest those funds but transfer them to a savings account.

General Business

The Manager advised the Council that the DOC liaison officer Kipa Munro from Kerikeri will accompany Ross Atkinson to our next meeting to discuss ways of liaising with Iwi.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Durham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Durham
Chairman