

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE**  
**NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**  
**7.00PM FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**

---

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Darryl Reardon, Mark Bell, Graeme Stevenson, John Skeates

**Staff:** Rudi Hoetjes (Manager),  
Fay Stodart (Finance Officer/Administrator)

**Member of  
The Public:** Craig Deal

The Chairman welcomed the councillors to the Council table and acknowledged Craig Deal, the new regional manager elect. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

**APOLOGIES:** Cameron Shanks, Peter Allen, Russell Daniels  
*Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)*

**It was moved:** *That these apologies are accepted.*  
*Mark Bell/ Darryl Reardon*

**CARRIED**

The chairman notified the council of the applicants for the regional manager's position. The chairman, one councillor and the regional manager interviewed two very high-quality applicants for the vacancy. Mr Craig Deal was the successful person who obtained the position.

Craig Deal introduced himself and gave a brief precis of his life history. He is currently the Operations Manager for the Department of Conservation in the Whangarei district.

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell*

**CARRIED**

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.



### **Field Officers Reports**

The field officer reports are brief as the last council meeting was in late January.

**It was moved:** *That the Managers and Field Officers reports are received.*

*Graeme Stevenson/Darryl Reardon*

*CARRIED*

### **Governance Report**

The Chairman apologised to the council for no Governance Report but assures them that he will collate the responses for the next council meeting.

### **NZFGC Update**

The 156<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NZ Council was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Councillor Reardon attended the meeting via zoom. The discussion focussed on the following:

- Pressure sensitive fisheries option paper. Fish & Game needs to address the options to ease the pressure on sensitive rivers from the NZ resident anglers. NZC agreed to establish a working party to consider options in time for the 2022/23 angling season. The options paper is approved as a draft and will be circulated to regions for their formal consultation.
- Pricing for the non-resident licences is being looked at for discussion. Currently the non-resident licence fees are set at 1.35x the resident licence fee rate for adult licences. NZ's non-resident licence fees are quite cheap compared to other countries.
- Fish & Game elections. The final overall voting rate return rate was 24.6% of those on the electoral roll, which is very close to the overall return rate for the 2018 election. Several suggested changes were recommended to the NZ Council for their consideration.
- Fish & Game NZ Research Project Funding Application Process & Timing. The Cawthorn Research Institute is researching indigenous fish and the interaction between trout and native fish. Robin Holmes, a freshwater ecologist, is one of the researchers who is undertaking this project. Trout are being seen as pest fish in some areas of the country but not other areas.

### **Draft Regional Structure Review Report**

A Draft Regional Structure Review Report was received at the beginning of March, asking for any recommendations and submissions by the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Chairman Durham had spoken with the Eastern and Auckland/Waikato chairs to get their views. Both councils were looking at different options and agreed that the date for any feedback was too brief and councils had not met in time to discuss the report.

The councillors considered the option of reducing the number of regions and agreed that the costs would overrun the current budgets with no beneficial cost savings to licence holders or regions.

They also agreed that the basis of the draft review report is based on licence income and were appalled at the lack of detail within the report. The report did not address any of the issues that were raised earlier in discussions.

**It was moved:** *That the Chairman will send a letter to David Hunt with the council's views.*

*Mark Bell/Graeme Stevenson* **CARRIED**

### **2022-2023 Draft Budget & Contestable Funding Applications**

The manager advised the council that the budget level of \$427,748 is the council's allocation under the current budget allocation and any amount exceeding budget needed to be considered as contestable funding applications.

The council received funding of \$85,300 from NZFGC to employ a field officer in the Far North for a period of five years. This funding comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and to maintain a staff person in this part of the region, NFGC must reapply with a contestable funding application.

Other contestable funding applications included CPI for salaries, increased audit and accountancy fees, trend count increased costs etc.

The councillors discussed where savings could be made within the budget. The manager wanted to refer to the upcoming remuneration report for all Fish & Game staff before submitting this budget.

**It was moved:** *That the council will ring fence \$50,000 for the development of stage three at the Underwood Wetland in the event of no other sources of funding.*

*Darryl Reardon/Graeme Stevenson* **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

There were no incidents that needed reporting. It was noted that the Health & Safety policy is due for review this year in 2022.

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

*Graeme Stevenson/John Skeates* **CARRIED**

## Executive Limitations Report

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

*Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon*

*CARRIED*

## Financial Reports

The financial administrator gave a summary on the financial report ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The second instalment of the grant was received in February. One of the term deposits was transferred into the Savings on Call bank account for operational costs. The council reinvested the other two term deposits.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 is adopted.*

*Mark Bell/Graeme Stevenson*

*CARRIED*

## General Business

The new regional manager elect, Craig Deal, will begin work with Fish & Game on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. Rudi will work alongside Craig for approximately two weeks as a hand over.

Council has requested Rudi continues to be involved and oversees the Underwood Wetland project once he had left as regional manager of Northland Fish & Game. The Chairman will discuss a contract with Rudi.

Northland Fish & Game will purchase a new vehicle for the new manager. This vehicle will be purchased at the end of March. Rudi will seek a vehicle appraisal and valuation for the Isuzu Mu-X. He may purchase the vehicle from Northland Fish & Game.

Mark Bell queried the council whether there were many reports on shooting Paradise Shelduck out of season.

A farewell function will be planned for the outgoing manager when his last day as regional manager is finalised.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.



**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**

