

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

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

**Conservation  
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

**APOLOGIES:** Dave Nicholson

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

*Wayne Pepper/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 10 December 2015 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks* **CARRIED.**

**Matters Arising**

A letter was not written to the Northland Regional Council on their official position where they stood on the Black Swan issues in the Far North. The Field Officer met with NRC staff in the Far North to assess the damage being caused by Black Swan. They decided that each complaint would be investigated and considered on an individual basis.

**Manager's Report**

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

**1243 Underwood Property**

The Manager informed Councillors that the Council had paid their contribution for the Underwood property to the Crown on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The 44 hectares which will be vested to Fish & Game as a Local Body Reserve should be completed in the next two months.

### **1311 Negotiated Access**

The Manager met with Mr Bob Shirley, the Manager of Summit Forest in the Far North to discuss the game bird hunting in the Aupouri Forest for the 2016 hunting season. The land has now been returned to the northern Maori tribes as a result from recent Treaty Settlements, so Fish & Game will now have to seek permission from all four tribes to gain access for game bird hunting within the forest.

### **1510 Ranging**

The Manager is currently organising a one day CERT's refresher ranging course for all rangers to attend later this year.

### **1610 Licensing**

The fishing sales for Northland are above from the previous year's sales by approximately 10%. This increase is largely due to the recently introduced non-resident licence sales.

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

*Kris Batelaan/Maurice Blyde*

*CARRIED.*

### **2016 Game Gazette Notice Final Recommendations**

The trend counts were completed on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The Manager advised Council that several sites were not counted this year due to disturbance factors on some sites and also the extra flying distance associated with some sites. The staff felt that the number of birds were very similar to the previous year. The Council considered the Manager's recommendations.

The Council voted on the draft recommendations made at the December 2015 meeting:

**It was moved:**            *That the Paradise Shelduck daily bag limit for the open season from 7 May to 7 August 2016 is reduced from 25 to 20 birds and for the Special Paradise Shelduck weekend in 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the daily bag limit remains at 20 birds per day.*

*Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks*

*For 5 votes/ Against 5 votes*

*Status quo prevailed*

**It was moved:**            *That the Paradise Shelduck daily bag limit is 25 birds per day for the open season from 7 May to 7 August 2016 and for the Special Paradise Shelduck weekend in 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the daily bag limit remains at 20 birds per day.*

*Noel Birchall/Mike Newson*

*CARRIED.*

The Council discussed the number of birds for a sustainable harvest which could occur.

**It was moved:** *The 2016-17 Game Season Gazette recommendations are accepted as per the Manager's recommendations with the change of the daily bag limit for the Special Paradise Shelduck weekend from 25 to 20.*

*Maurice Blyde/Ian Hogarth* **CARRIED.**

### **Mallard Research Report**

The Council discussed the Mallard Research Report and concluded that there are no regionally consistent ways and methods of monitoring Mallard duck populations. Matt McDougal from Eastern Fish & Game region will be carrying out the trend counts for Mallards in the Northland region in March. Councillor Birchall, the Northland Fish & Game appointee will convey the Council's concerns at the apparent lack of consistent methods on monitoring mallard populations at the next NZ Fish & Game Council meeting in February.

**It was moved:** *That the Mallard Research Report is received.*

*Mike Newson/Wayne Pepper* **CARRIED.**

### **Kai Iwi Lakes Draft Management Plan**

The Manager outlined a summary of the Kai Iwi Lakes Draft Management Plan and his concerns that Kaipara District Council does not have an elected Council. The draft Management Plan has been developed by the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee which consists of two commissioners from KDC and two representatives from Iwi groups in the Kaipara District.

The Manager advised Council that all submissions close on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 and there are no right of appeals after hearings being held in April from those who wish to speak to their submissions.

The Council discussed the actions that this Council will take to prepare submissions and to seek legal advice. The Manager requested permission to email all angler licence holders to notify them of the Draft Management Plan and to encourage them to make a submission.

The Council instructed the Manager to apply to the NZFG Council for legal funding.

**It was moved:** *To authorise the Manager to proceed with the appropriate submissions to the Draft Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan and the Draft Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Powerboat Bylaw 2015 on behalf of Northland Fish & Game Council.*

*Noel Birchall/Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *To form a subcommittee to approve expenditure on relevant submissions of up to 10% of the Northland Fish & Game annual budget. The subcommittee will consist of the Chair person, Phil Durham, Councillors Kris Batelaan and Ian Hogarth.*

*Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *To authorise the Manager to apply to NZFG Council for funding of all costs associated with the preparation and presentation of submissions on the Draft Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan and the Draft Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Powerboat Bylaw 2015.*

*Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper*

*CARRIED.*

### **Draft Northland Fish & Game Council Management Report**

A letter and a report were sent to Council from BDO Auditors setting out their findings of their recent audit and asking for comments to their observations and recommendations. This report was distributed to the Councillors and introduced into the agenda as a late item.

The Councillors were asked to review the Fraud Assessment Policy and they agreed to do so at their next Council meeting. The Auditors also recommended to Councillors to monitor the Manager's time in lieu more closely and regularly. The Council decided to have Fay itemise all Time in Lieu and Annual Leave owing from all staff members at each Council meeting for Councillor's information. The auditors recommended that a password should be used on both the accounting and payroll systems. The Manager informed Council that this recommendation has been actioned.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish & Game Council Draft Management Report is received.*

*Wayne Pepper/Kris Batelaan*

*CARRIED.*

### **Governance Councillor Performance Review**

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.*

All reports from all Councillors were collected by the Chairman. The Chairman will collate all of the results and convey them at the next Council meeting.

### **Managers Annual Performance Review**

Councillor Birchall was duly elected on to the Manager's Performance Review Committee at the previous meeting in December. As he was absent from that meeting, Councillor Birchall respectfully declined being on the Review Committee. Councillor Nicholson was part of the committee previously, so the Council requested the Chairman to ask if Councillors Nicholson will accept being part of the committee again for this year's review.

The Chairman will arrange a suitable meeting date for an end of year performance review with the Manager when the Review Committee is formed.

### **Managers Financial Report**

**It was moved:** *That the Financial Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 is adopted.*

*Chris Lynch/Maurice Blyde*

*CARRIED.*

**Executive Limitations Report**

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

**Noel Birchall/Tan Hogarth**

**CARRIED.**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.38pm.



**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**