NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI 7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 26th July 2019

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Kris Batelaan, Russell Daniels, Dave Nicholson, Chris

Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron

Shanks, John Skeates (arrived at 7.10pm)

Department of

Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the DOC representative, Ross Atkinson to the Council table.

APOLOGIES: Mark McGinley

Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson CARRIED

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

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th May 2019 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan CARRIED

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Manager's Report

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

1211 Resource Management Act

A letter was received from North Power proposing some riparian planting within the Wairua River catchment as part of an environmental compensation package. North Power has lodged an application to renew the resource consents associated with the Wairua Hydroelectric Power Station. Northland Fish & Game have not supported the application for various reasons:

• Loss of habitat

• No access for public to fish the river. A paper road has been blocked off and no alternative route has been provided.

The council considered the letter and need more information on the environmental compensation package for Fish & Game to consider their proposal. Councillor Kris Batelaan suggested that North Power should reinstate the river flow periodically.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The Manchurian Rice Grass is beginning to grow and the manager is planning to spray early in the new financial year. The manager informed the council that NRC is supplying the spray and Fish & Game will meet the helicopter costs to apply the spray.

1315 Trout Fishing Competition

The manager gave a brief report on the fishing competition, commenting on the good turnout of volunteers who helped. A celebrity chef also demonstrated a number of ways to cook trout on the barbeque.

The manager has written a letter to Kaipara District Council expressing several concerns on the state of the Lake Waikare Education Centre and how this venue has degraded over the past couple of years since the KDC has taken it over.

1360 Clubs

The Far North Sporting Shooters Club is winding up very shortly. The manager requested a copy of the Club's constitution to check on how the assets and remaining cash should be distributed. The councillors asked the manager to write a letter to the Far North Club to remind them of their moral obligations in winding up the Club.

1421 Communications

The council received a letter from the Northland Regional Council inviting Fish & Game to nominate a representative to participate as a member of the Project Advisory Group to assess the potential for a new water storage and infrastructure in the Kaipara area around Dargaville and two sites in the mid-north near Kaikohe.

The manager believed that it was important that Fish & Game is represented on this Advisory Group but thought that the representative did not need to be a staff member. Councillor Reardon gave a brief account on his background with a water quality group formed in the Mangawhai area.

It was moved: That Darryl Reardon is nominated as a representative to the Project Advisory Group

Noel Birchall/Kris Batelaan CARRIED

Darryl Reardon accepted the nomination.

Angler Notice

On request from the NZFGC, the format for the 2019-2020 Angler Notice has changed. This year, all rivers, dams, lakes and reservoirs are listed with the season length, species, daily bag limits listed for each location. This new format is common for all Fish & Game regions.

Field Officer's Reports

The chairman commented of the state of some maimais and rubbish left in or around the Jack Bisset Wetlands. The councillors believed an audit should be made by the Field Office preseason and post season. A letter will be written to the Jack Bisset Stand Holders committee informing that an audit will take place.

It was moved:

That an audit will be undertaken on all stands of all of the Fish & Game wetlands.

Noel Birchall/Darryl Reardon

CARRIED.

The councillors were informed that a working bee at the Jack Bisset Wetland will take place on the 10th August 2019.

It was moved:

That the Manager's and Field Officer's Activity Report are received.

Chris Lynch/ Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

Infringement Fines Reasoning

Feedback was sought from the Fish & Game regions regarding the proposed infringement notice offence fees. This document was included in the agenda for the councillor's information. Ross Atkinson, DOC representative, informed the councillors that DOC is developing a compliance database.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 7th June 2019. A brief report from Councillor Birchall was circulated at the council table.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Non-residents licence funds held within each region should be more transparent where the funds are used.
- Increase in the licence fees was approved by the Minister of Conservation
- Create ways to raise revenue from alternative sources such as advertising using the Fish & Game name.
- A donation tab has been added to the Fish & Game website for donations.
- The Chairman's meeting proposed in November and their views on the value and subjects to be considered.
- Three sub committees to be established on the NZC with representation from the regions and NZC.
- Draft audit of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game region is being considered and will be released shortly.

Sub Committee Members

There are three sub committees to be established on the New Zealand Council:

- Licensing committee to make recommendations to NZC on licence contracts, licence categories and pricing. This committee has two NZ Council members plus three Fish & Game Council appointees.
- Strategic Finance Committee to investigate the longer term financing of Fish & Game as an organisation.

• Remuneration Committee to prepare a national policy on remuneration.

The finance and remuneration committees will be made up from two NZ Council members plus two regional Fish & Game appointees. The regions were asked to propose any nominations for these committees.

It was moved: That Phil Teal, Wellington Fish & Game Manager, is nominated for

the Remuneration Committee.

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch CARRIED.

Phil Teal was contacted and he accepted the nomination.

The Council discussed the five year long term financing of Fish & Game as an organisation. There were no nominations proposed for the Finance Committee.

Correspondence

Dates to set Licence Fees in 2020

A letter from the NZ Council addressing the timetable to set licence fees in 2020 was received. The Northland council addressed this matter earlier this year and changed their meeting dates to accommodate NZ Fish & Game Council. Northland council will decide their meeting dates for the 2020 year at the meeting in December 2019.

Fish & Game Chairs Workshop 23rd November 2019

Another workshop for all regional Chairs and NZ Council members is being organised for the November Council meeting in Wellington.

The councillors discussed some suggestions of what items should be included on the agenda. These suggestions included:

- What NZ will be like in 10-20 years' time
- Invite a guest speaker

Adoption of the 2019-2020 Operational Work Plan

The total budget for the 2019-2020 financial year is \$534,950. There will be a slight deficit of \$6,065 which NZ Council has approved that these funds come out of Northland's reserves.

The Council adopted the 2019-2020 operational work plan for the Northland region.

It was moved: That the 2019-2020 Operational Work Plan be adopted and

approved.

Chris Lynch/Darryl Reardon CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: <u>That the Executive Limitations Report is received.</u>

Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson 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: <u>That the Health and Safety Report is received.</u>

Russell Daniels / Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Financial Report

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 30th June 2019. The financial report for this period has a net expenditure of 84%. A query on the expense for the Works & Management was explained.

It was moved: That the Financial Report to the 30th June 2019 is adopted.

Chris Lynch / Mike Newson

CARRIED.

The manager informed the council that Northland will be changing the financial reporting system to Xero in the upcoming financial year. Xero will be set up in August and two financial systems will be used until the 2018-19 year is completed and signed off by the auditors.

General Business

The manager received a letter from Councillor Mark McGinley resigning as a councillor from the Northland Fish & Game Council. The Council accepted his resignation with regret and the manager will inform the Minister of Conservation of his resignation. The council extended their gratitude to Mark for his term on the council.

The manager will call for nominations once the Minister is notified and accepted his resignation.

Councillor Birchall asked that the meeting agendas are now sent out via courier as NZ Post is becoming unreliable. Councillors Birchall, Reardon, Newson and Shanks wish to have their agendas sent by courier from now on.

The council discussed the gun buy back scheme which is currently underway and the second round of changes to the new gun laws. Councillor Lynch believed that there could be a marketing opportunity for Fish & Game to have some promotional material at these meetings. Some of the councillors were very concerned about these changes and comments that were made from the CEO of NZFGC.

It was moved:

That the manager writes a letter to Lindsay Lyons expressing our concerns with the CEO of NZ Council releasing media statements supporting the second round of changes to the gun laws without consultation to the regions and licence holders.

Dave Nicholson/John Skeates

CARRIED

An Official Information Act request was made from a journalist on communications between Fish & Game and Federated Farmers namely;

In light of the Fed Farmers campaign to get farmers elected to Fish & Game councils in the October 2018 elections, the journalist requested all reports, letters, emails and other correspondence between @Fishandgame.org.nz email addresses and @Fedfarm.org.nz email addresses since November 1, 2018.

- •All advice prepared for Fish & Game councils on Fed Farmers since the October 2018 election.
- •Any correspondence, emails, and letters relating to concerns about Fed Farmers members being on Fish & Game councils.

The manager received an email from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 seeking information and responses to a set of seven questions.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm.

Phil Durham Chairman

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