

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Darryl Reardon (Appointed)

**Councillors:** Noel Birchall, Russell Daniels, Chris Lynch, Mark McGinley, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates

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

The Manager asked for nominations to appoint a Chairman for the Council meeting as Chairman Phil Durham was absent from the meeting.

**It was moved:** *That Darryl Reardon is duly appointed as Chairman for the meeting.*

*Dave Nicholson/Noel Birchall* **CARRIED.**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table.

**APOLOGIES:** Phil Durham, Kris Batelaan, Mike Newson,  
Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 are confirmed as true and correct.*

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

**Matters Arising**

**1172 Game Gazette**

DOC Wellington did not support the Council's resolution on the definition of Area A from the previous meeting. As a result, the wording for the 2019 Game Notice was changed slightly by DOC to describe the definition of Area A.

**1221 Jack Bisset Wetlands**

The Council applied to the Oxford Trust for funds to assist in the removal of aquatic weed from the ponds in the wetland. The Council was successful in receiving a grant of \$5,000

from the Trust which meant a shortfall in funding. The swamp monster has cleared away large areas of the aquatic weed in the ponds.

A field trip was discussed to show the new councillors the number of wetlands that Northland Fish & Game own and manage.

### Manager's Annual Performance Review

7.25pm Resolved: *(Dave Nicholson/Chris Lynch)*

#### That the Council move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting to **discuss the Manager's Performance Review 2019** *(and that Rudi Hoetjes and Fay Stodart are permitted to remain in the room for the consideration of this review).*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released.	Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

#### Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

"(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

**7.50pm Resolved: (Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks)**

**That the open meeting of the Northland Fish and Game Council resumes**

**It was moved: That the Council receive and approve the Manager’s Annual Performance Review.**

**Cameron Shanks/ Wayne Pepper**

**CARRIED**

**Manager’s Report**

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

**1121 Kai Iwi Lakes**

On the 18-19<sup>th</sup> March, the manager was at the Kai Iwi Lakes with some students from NorthTec collecting samples of rainbow trout and invertebrates as part of the research for the Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group. These samples will be sent away to Dr Adam Canning in Palmerston North to be analysed using isotope technology.

The manager will also speak at a hearing on retaining the use of power boats on Lake Waikare at the Kai Iwi Lakes. Under the adopted Taharoa Domain Management Plan, the KFC is seeking a bylaw to ban the use of all power boats on Lake Waikare.

This hearing will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Kaipara District Council office.

**1225 Flaxmill Wetland**

In early April, the manager will engage a helicopter company to aerial spray the pampas and raupo around the ponds at the Flaxmill Wetland. A contractor will also be engaged to mulch the track in and around the wetland to provide for easier access for hunters.

**1226.1 Underwood Wetland**

The Kaipara District Council passed a resolution to close an unformed road (Roberts West Road) going through the Underwood Wetland but Northland Fish and Game Council must also consult with Te Roroa and Te Uri o Hau to seek agreement on the proposed inundation of the unformed legal road, being an extension of Roberts West Road.

The stopping of this road will only be through the main part of the wildlife management reserve, leaving a section of the road for legal access for the adjoining neighbour.

**1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition**

The manager has prepared a set of rules based on the NZCTA rules for the Secondary School Clay Target competition. The first competition is held at Mangapai Combined Gun Club on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

**1811 Sports Fish & Game Management Plan**

The Sports Management Plan is nearing completion and the manager hopes to have the draft to councillors very shortly.

### Field Officer's Reports

The field officers reports were discussed and received by the Council.

**It was moved:** *That the Manager's and Field Officer's Activity Report are received.*

*Wayne Pepper/John Skeates* *CARRIED.*

### NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019. All chairpersons from the Fish & Game regions met on the previous day, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The unconfirmed minutes were circulated to all councillors for their information.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Regional Chairpersons meeting. The council agreed that the regional chairpersons should meet annually.
- Audit findings
- NZC Strategic Plan for coming year
- Regional Leadership discussion
- Lindsay Lyon was re-elected for Chairman of the NZ Council
- Councillor Noel Birchall was elected on to the NZ Council Executive Committee, along with Chris Owen and Paul Shortis
- Game Preserves
- Other NZ Council audit findings
- Trout Farming
- Salmon Season in the South Island

The council also discussed the tragic event in Christchurch and the proposed new gun reform laws and how the new laws may affect NZ Fish & Game as an organisation.

A letter had been sent from the CEO, Martin Taylor, to the Prime Minister on the review of firearm legislation and the banning of military style weapons and Fish & Game's position.

The councillors congratulated Noel on being elected to the NZ Council Executive Committee.

### Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has sought feedback to changes on the game hunting code of conduct that is produced in the Game Bird Hunting Guide booklets. The council discussed the proposed code of Practice/Conduct and made the following comments:

- The rules and regulations should include the safe distance of shooting on or across a road.
- The rules and regulations should include the safe distance of shooting around or near a dwelling.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish & Game Council accepts the proposed code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting.*

*Mark McGinley/Russell Daniels* *CARRIED.*

### **Governance Evaluation Report**

The summary of the 2018-2019 Council's performance evaluation was circulated to all councillors. The administrator had collated the last four years so the Councillors could compare the results. The Councillors considered the results to be fair.

**It was moved:** *That the Council Performance Evaluation results are received.*

*Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper* *CARRIED.*

### **2019-2020 Draft Budget & Contestable Funding Applications**

The manager advised the council that the budget level of \$528,885 is the council's allocation under the current budget policy and any amount exceeding budget needed to be considered as contestable funding applications. The manager clarified each costings for each output in the budget for the benefit of the new councillors.

The manager advised there was one contestable funding application for CPI adjustment to staff salaries and allowances.

The Council discussed the contestable funding applications and approved the application.

**It was moved:** *That the Council approves the draft 2019-20 budget and the CPI contestable funding application for salaries and allowances.*

*Chris Lynch/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:** *That the Health and Safety Report is received.*

*Wayne Pepper/Russell Daniels* *CARRIED.*

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Chris Lynch/ Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

**Managers Financial Report**

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The financial report for the period ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 has a net expenditure of 44%. A spread sheet on the licence sales to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 was circulated to all councillors.

**It was moved:**

**That the Financial Report to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 is adopted.**

**Noel Birchall/Wayne Pepper**

**CARRIED.**

**General Business**

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



**Darryl Reardon**  
**Chairman**

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Russel Daniels, Chris Lynch, Mark McGinley, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates.

**Department of Conservation:** Sue Reed-Thomas, Ross Atkinson

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table and made a special welcome to Sue Reed-Thomas, Director of Northland Department of Conservation.

**APOLOGIES:** No apologies received.

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

Sue Reed-Thomas gave a brief description of her background and her job description. She believed in building and strengthening the relationship between the Department of Conservation and Fish & Game as both organisations have common goals. Sue acknowledged the huge amount of work by Fish & Game and especially, Rudi, the manager in the Wairua Wildlife Management Reserve. She thought that signing a ten year agreement was a real milestone.

The manager informed the Council that a past life member of the Northland Fish & Game Council, Mr Snow Cochrane, had passed away the previous week. Mr Cochrane was instrumental in purchasing the Draffin Farm which is now known as the Jack Bisset Wetlands.

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 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:

#### **1121 Kai Iwi Lakes**

The Manager informed the council that Dr Adam Canning from Wellington Fish & Game and the Northtec students will be going to the Kai Iwi Lakes to take gut and flesh samples from trout on the 5-7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He will take 15 trout from each lake and will analyse the flesh from individual trout using isotopes.

#### **1172 Game Gazette**

An email was received from DOC, Wellington querying the definition of Area A in the Northland region. The council discussed the definition and believed that the definition was following a geographical line and if any changes are discussed, the licence holders from the Kaitaia area and the Far North should be consulted and reviewed fully before the 2020 game bird season.

**It was moved:** *That the definition of Area A in the Northland region stays the same for the 2019 game bird season.*

*Wayne Pepper/Mark McGinley* **CARRIED.**

#### **1221 Jack Bisset Wetland**

The stand holder committee had a meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to discuss the maintenance programme and the predator control work on the Jack Bisset Wetlands.

At the request of the stand holders committee, Northland Fish & Game will make an application to the Oxford Trust for the shortfall of the costs to have the swamp monster come to the wetland for weed control management.

**It was moved:** *That Northland Fish & Game Council applies to the Oxford Trust for development work, mainly weed control, on the Jack Bisset Wetlands.*

*Dave Nicholson/Russell Daniels* **CARRIED.**

#### **1228 Wairua Wildlife Management Reserve**

The 10 year co-management agreement has been signed by all three parties, Fish & Game, Ngati Hau Iwi and the Department of Conservation. The manager reminded Sue Reed-Thomas of the Department's obligation to contribute enough funds for some overdue maintenance and repair work. The manager informed DOC that access was a priority for all parties concerned and the control of pest plants, which are now potentially weakening the stopbanks and placed at risk if a storm or flood was to occur. Sue Reed-Thomas will talk to the Operations Manager, Louisa Gritt, on the urgency of this project.

#### **1228.02 Greenheart Property**

The digger work at this wetland is now completed. There will be no ballots for the 2019 game bird season as the pond will not be established with plantings.



### **1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition**

The Bay of Islands Gun Club is not organised for the first shoot of the 2019 clay target competition and this shoot will now be at the Whangarei Combined Gun Club on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

### **1317 Junior Shooting**

The manager informed the council that there are two available ballots at the Jack Bisset Wetland. For the 2019 game bird season, the manager will advertise one vacant stand for either junior shooters, novice shooters or female shooters who have never shot before. The other vacant stand will stay vacant due to Health & Safety reasons.

### **1421 Te Paki Reserve**

John Macpherson, the field officer in the Far North has been actively working with Northland Regional Council to make an attempt to manage and try to eradicate the Gypsywort pest plant in the Te Werahi Wetlands. There has been very little support from the Department of Conservation on this matter. Sue Reed-Thomas informed the council of a major biosecurity problem in the Far North with Argentine Ants and a lot of their resources are going into eradicating these ants on public conservation lands. The manager informed DOC that a major problem will occur if access to these wetlands remains closed as this wetland will become a wildlife refuge and bird numbers will increase significantly.

Sue Reed-Thomas advised she will get DOC Kaitaia to contact the manager to discuss this problem.

### **1900 Administration**

The new field officer, Graham Gallagher, commenced work on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **Field Officer Report**

The Council discussed the Field Officer's report briefly on the botulism outbreak at the Kaitaia Oxidation Ponds. The council instructed the manager to write a letter to all the District Councils expressing our concerns and to notify them of their responsibilities to prevent another outbreak.

**It was moved:**            *That the Manager's and Field Officer's Activity Report are received.*

*Dave Nicholson/ Kris Batelaan*

*CARRIED.*

### **Trend Count Spread Sheets and Graphs**

The council briefly discussed the results of the trend counts. The numbers are very similar to the previous year. The manager advised the council not all of the sites were counted in an effort to reduce the costs of flying.

### **Fish & Game New Zealand Bequests Policy**

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has sought feedback on establishing a uniform policy relating to the acceptance and utilisation of bequests. Councillor Birchall gave a brief summary of the importance of having a policy in place.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish & Game Council supports the recommended Fish & Game New Zealand Bequests Policy.*

*Mark McGinley/ Chris Lynch*

*CARRIED.*

### **Setting National Policy**

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has sought feedback on seeking an agreement on the process for setting national policy. The council discussed the recommendations and thought that a clause 9 should be added. Northland Fish & Game region recommended the following clause:

9. All new policies are to be reviewed after two year period.

**It was moved:** *That Northland Fish & Game Council supports the recommendations of New Zealand Fish & Game Council of setting national policy subject to an additional clause 9 being a review after 2 years.*

*Chris Lynch/ Cameron Shanks*

*CARRIED.*

### **Game Preserves**

The New Zealand Council has sought comments and feedback on the upland game preserves from all Fish & Game regions. The NZFGC provided regional councils with five questions to provide comments and vote on.

The Chair asked each individual councillor to express their views and opinions on game preserves.

The following questions were discussed and voted upon:

1. Does your Council support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee?

*Northland Fish & Game Council does NOT support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee.*

*Northland Fish & Game voted 9 against. 2 support the motion*

*Cr John Skeates is recorded as supporting the operation of upland game properties.*

*Cr Darryl Reardon abstained from voting.*

2. Is there support for non-commercial (i.e. where hunting is not provided for a fee) upland game properties operated by families, private syndicates or friends to provide an immediate and guaranteed hunting opportunity with special conditions?

*Northland Fish & Game voted 9 for and 3 against.*

*They voted adding "with special conditions" to the question.*

3. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other game birds on that property for a fee?

*Northland Fish & Game voted against unanimously.*

4. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions without a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other game birds on that property without a fee?

*Northland Fish & Game voted against unanimously.*

5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on upland game properties with special conditions? ~~but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations?~~

*The Northland Fish & Game Council amended the question and voted against. They believed that it was illegal to charge for hunting rights.*

The recommendation from the Northland Fish & Game Council on Game Preserves is that the Northland Council does not support game preserves.

**9.15pm:** Sue Reed-Thomas left the council meeting. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

#### **Employsure**

A proposal from Employsure was received, specifying their services and a pricing schedule. The councillors believed that the proposal was very expensive and thought that the New Zealand Council should have insurance for all regions for any personal grievances.

**10.00pm:** Ross Atkinson left the Council meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

#### **Auditors Management Letter**

The Auditor's Management letter was received in January thanking the staff for their help and cooperation with the audit. The auditors found no untoward concerns. The Councillors accepted the auditor's management letter and congratulated the Manager and the staff on an excellent report.

**It was moved:** *That the Auditors Management letter is received.*

*Darryl Reardon/Dave Nicholson*

*CARRIED.*

#### **Manager's Annual Performance Review**

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.

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

**Mike Newson/Cameron Shanks** **CARRIED.**

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

**Russell Daniels/ Cameron Shanks** **CARRIED.**

### **Managers Financial Report**

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The manager informed the council that NZC will pay the third instalment of the grant on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The Chairman and councillors advised the manager to write to the NZC to accept this proposal as a one off and expect the grant to be paid in two instalments in the 2019-2020 financial year as agreed upon five years ago.

It was moved: **That the Financial Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 is adopted.**

**Mark McGinley/Darryl Reardon** **CARRIED.**

### **General Business**

Other correspondence items were circulated to the Council table for their information.

Councillor Kris Batelaan has put his apologies in for the next Council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

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



**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**