NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI 7.00 PM FRIDAY 14th AUGUST 2020

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Mark Bell, Noel Birchall, Russell Daniels, Chris Lynch,

Darryl Reardon, John Skeates, Stefan Seitzer.

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

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

APOLOGIES: Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks,

Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

It was moved: <u>That those apologies are accepted.</u>

Stefan Seitzer/Darryl Reardon CARRIED.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th June 2020 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Kris Batelaan/Chris Lynch CARRIED.

Matters Arising

Flaxmill Wetland Access

The new owner has been advised that Northland Fish & Game's contribution will be 50%, to a maximum of \$25,000 for the bridge access repairs. The contractor hopes to start in six to eight weeks' time when ground conditions allow.

Manager's Report

1161 Trout Liberations

Trout liberations for 2019-2020 will occur in the second week of September. The field officers are attending a CERTs course in Rotorua and liberations will coincide with this course.

Secondary School Clay Target Competition

Sports Northland cancelled the second competition due to Northland region moving to Covid-19 Level 2 restriction.

NRC Water & Soil Plan

Northland Fish & Game have spent approximately \$39,000 from the legal fund held by NZFGC. The manager advised the NZC that it is most unlikely Northland will require any further funds.

National Liaison

Maritime New Zealand has recently completed an audit of the Northland Fish & Game Council and the national MTOC to operate vessels. Maritime NZ will also audit three other regions to ensure that all records are up to date. We will receive an audit report in due course.

It was moved: <u>That the Manager Activity Report is received.</u>

Russell Daniels/ Darryl Reardon

CARRIED.

The Annual Report for Fish & Game by the NRC on the removal of tench, perch and gambusia was supplied for the councillor's information and is part of the permit conditions granted to the NRC.

Field Officer Reports

The Council considered the Field Officers' reports briefly. The councillors discussed the recommendations for the 2020 trout releases.

It was moved: That the staff decides on the number of fish liberated in the different

catchments and reservoirs.

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan CARRIED.

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

Chris Lynch/Stefan Seitzer CARRIED.

NZFGC Updates

Councillor Birchall has attended two teleconferences since the last Council meeting in June. All minutes are recorded on the Fish & Game website. Councillor Birchall gave a brief update on the following:

- Budgets for all regions are confirmed. All regions except one complied with the 5% reduction.
- An audit for the Covid Wage subsidy by the regions was completed and all were found to comply and were entitled to receive the subsidy.
- Non-resident levy reserves. The Minister has agreed that the regions can spend their non-resident levies within their operational work plan.
- Over \$34k is collected annually from the Game bird licence for the Mallard Research project. NZC is to consider removing this special fund.
- A new Eyede contract will commence on the 1st September 2020. Two regions have not signed off this new contract. The licensing committee considered all points raised by the regions to be relevant.
- Reserves Policy. A draft summary of the principles on the accumulation and management of reserves within Fish & Game was discussed.

Councillor Birchall also noted that only three regions had uploaded their 2018/2019 Annual Performance reports on the NZFG website. Northland region was one of those regions.

Kai Iwi Lakes Fishery

The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee has not approved the continued liberations of trout into the Kai Iwi Lakes. The manager and chairman met with the Kaipara District Council mayor and KDC will not override this decision.

The following options were considered by the council:

- Legal ramifications
- Funding
- Continue with the judicial review
- Cultural abyss
- Publicity campaign
- Finish off the trout/galaxid research
- Maintain a line of communication and establish a relationship with Iwi

After considerable discussion of the future of the Kai Iwi Lakes fishery:

It was resolved:

That Northland Fish & Game Council maintain dialogue with the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee and the fisheries working group and continue with the research on Dune Lake galaxids to endeavour to retain the diversity of the fishery.

Mark Bell/ John Skeates

CARRIED.

Review of Fish & Game

The manager asked all councillors for their attendance to the meeting held at the Northland Fish & Game office on the 15th September 2020 to meet with the reviewers.

A number of councillors indicated that they will attend this meeting between 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

At the meeting, the councillors will discuss whether Fish & Game are fit for purpose and other options to improve the workings of Fish & Game at regional and national levels.

The councillors were advised they could also submit their own submission on this review.

A draft term of reference is to be circulated to the councillors.

Adoption of the 2020-2021 OWP and Budget

NZ Council asked all regions to reduce their budgets by 5% for the 2020-2021 financial year as licence sales decline and the economic recession the country will face. The total budget for the 2020-2021 financial year is \$508,203.

It was moved:

The council adopts the 2020-2021 annual operational work plan and budget.

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

Health and Safety Report

Northland Fish & Game is required to provide a Health & Safety report at each Council meeting. Plans have been put in place as per the government and health professional's recommendations for the Corona Virus pandemic.

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

Russell Daniels/Stefan Seitzer

CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Kris Batelaan/Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Cash Flow Eftpos Card

The banks are slowly phasing out cheques and this is becoming an issue for the office to run efficiently. The manager proposed that the council considers a cash flow eftpos card and to open a bank account with a limit of \$500. This eftpos card will be used for petty cash and other small purchases to run the office.

It was moved: That the Council approves the manager to open a new bank account

which requires only one signature and a cash flow eftpos card can be issued by the bank. This bank account will have a limit of \$500.

Noel Birchall/Chris Lynch CARRIED.

The council also approved the following:

It was moved: That David Nicholson is removed from the signatories for the Northland

<u>Fish & Game ASB bank accounts and Rachael Quin is approved as a signatory for Northland Fish & Game Council ASB bank accounts.</u>

Darryl Reardon/Noel Birchall CARRIED.

Financial Report for period ending 30 June 2020

The most recent fish and game bird licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the councillors. The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report.

It was moved: That the Financial Report to the 30th June 2020 is adopted.

John Skeates/Kris Batelaan CARRIED.

9.45pm: John Skeates left the meeting

General Business

Councillor Darryl Reardon gave a brief update on the Te Tai Tokerau Trust water storage and use project. A full report will be sent out in due course from Councillor Reardon.

A term deposit of \$300,000 has matured and the manager informed the council of the interest rates. The councillors discussed the options.

It was moved: That this term deposit is split into three equal investments at 6, 9 and 12

months periods.

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch CARRIED.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Phil Durham Chairman

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