

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE**  
**NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**  
**7.00PM THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

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**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Cameron Shanks, Mark Bell, John Skeates, Darryl Reardon, John McEntee, Kelvin Ellis, Russell Daniels

**Staff:** Craig Deal (Manager), Rachael Quin (Administrator)

**Member of the public:** Ted Harrison

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

**APOLOGIES:** Penny Smart (Northland Conservation Board representative)

**It was moved:** *The apologies are accepted.*

*Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell* **CARRIED**

**It was moved:** *The member of the public is given speaking rights.*

*Cameron Shanks / John Skeates* **CARRIED**

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*John Skeates / Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED**

**Matters Arising**

The manager contacted Whangarei District Council requesting Fish & Game be notified of future botulism events.

There has been no feedback from rangers regarding the draft compliance policy.

The manager advised that the Anglers Notice has been submitted to be published in the gazette.

The manager circulated a memorandum outlining the benefits of banding and advised the council of his intention for staff to attend banding events to upskill and scope out potential sites.

A replacement vehicle for Kaitaia field officer has been ordered via the All of Government purchasing scheme.

### **Managers' Report**

#### **1160 Releases**

A recent query received by the manager regarding a potential pheasant preserve in the region was discussed.

#### **1210 Resource Management Act**

The manager commented on current RMA involvement.

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

The manager advised that self-resetting predator traps have been purchased and set at multiple wetland sites.

#### **1228.01 Awakino Wetland**

The manager advised that Fish & Game have had approval to surrender the resource consent and are awaiting confirmation from NRC.

#### **1310 Access**

The manager advised that planning will be underway shortly to organise the Whau Valley fishing day.

#### **1431 Media Liaison**

The high levels of bittern recorded at Fish & Game properties will be publicised in a press release.

#### **1440 Public Promotions**

The manager advised that the Northland Fish & Game fishing competition winner will be published in the upcoming issue of the Fish & Game magazine.

#### **Public excluded session of the meeting**

The public excluded session of the meeting was for Councillors only without public, or representatives of groups.

Time: 7.35pm

It was resolved: *That the Council move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting.*

*Darryl Reardon / John Skeates*

*CARRIED*

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
XX.	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.
	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	Sec 9(2)(g)(ii)	Prejudice or harm is likely to occur making it necessary to withhold the information to prevent that occurring.	Only where the public interest in disclosure of the information, in whole or part, outweighs the need to withhold the information.
	Maintain legal professional privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.
	Enable a Minister of the Crown or any Department or organisation holding information to carry out without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	Sec.9(2)(j)	To enable the Council to discuss the information without improper gain or advantage being given to third parties.	Once agreement has been reached or contract signed.

Time: 7.58pm

It was resolved:

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

*Cameron Shanks / Kelvin Ellis*

*CARRIED*

Action: The chairman will draft a letter for NZC.

### **1821 Budget**

Cr Reardon explained to council the decision by the Minister to grant an increase of licence fees to address the Fish & Game deficit.

### **1531 Prosecutions**

The manager updated council and advised that all prosecutions except one are hunters from out of the Northland region.

### **1600 Licensing**

Cr. Reardon suggested that councillors attend duck nights preceding opening weekend to speak on behalf of Fish & Game. The Chairman reiterated the need to publicise police support at ranging to encourage licence purchases.

### **1840 National Liaison**

The manager corrected the list of policies in the agenda and put the following nationally approved policies to Council for adoption:

- Governance Code of Conduct
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Procedure

It was moved:

*To adopt the four national policies approved by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.*

*Darryl Reardon / Kelvin Ellis*

*CARRIED*

Action: Manager update policies file and chairman to sign.

### **Field Officers Reports**

Flaxmill wetland bund wall is reported to be stable.

The chairman has had a discussion with Corina regarding the avian influenza threat. A media release will be released soon regarding human health and response.

Nothing further to report regarding John Sturgess.

It was moved: *That the Manager and Field Officers reports be received.*

*John McEntee / Russell Daniels*

*CARRIED*

### NZFGC Update

Cr. Reardon advised that the recent minutes had not been received at the time of this meeting so had nothing to report.

### Budget 2024/25

No comment from Council.

It was moved: *The budget for 2024/25 is approved.*

*Kelvin Ellis / Mark Bell*

*CARRIED*

### Operational Work Plan

The manager tabled a revised introduction to the OWP to include strategic outcomes and priorities, requesting council approval.

It was moved: *The OWP introduction include the Northland Fish and Game Council strategic priorities and NZFGC strategic objectives.*

*John Skeates / Cameron Shanks*

*CARRIED*

Discussions regarding OWP project codes and possible redundant projects that may no longer be worth allocating effort toward.

Action: Manager to investigate actual hunting opportunity at non-Fish & Game properties and work toward discharging responsibility or seek permission to issue permits.

It was noted from Conservation Board meeting notes that there is no budget for pest control at Wairua Wetland in Hikurangi. It was suggested that a landcare group is formed to conduct predator control with Northland Fish & Game coordinating it.

Action: Manager to investigate predator control options at Wairua Wetland.

It was moved: *The Operational Work Plan for 2024/25 be adopted.*

*John McEntee / Cameron Shanks*

*CARRIED*

### Compliance Policy

The proposed ranging policy was discussed.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish and Game Council support the draft Fish & Game Ranger Policy.*

*Kelvin Ellis / Darryl Reardon* **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.*

*Mark Bell / Russell Daniels* **CARRIED**

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Darryl Reardon / Cameron Shanks* **CARRIED**

### **Financial Report**

Financial report ending 30 June 2024.

Action: Financial controller to define each reserve and any restrictions for its use.

**It was moved:** *That the Financial Report is adopted.*

*Russell Daniels / John Skeates* **CARRIED**

### **General Business**

#### **Ranger Recruitment**

The need for more rangers was discussed and a suggestion of recruitment from those already in compliance roles rather than hunters.

Action: Manager to approach DOC requesting support with ranging.

#### **Budget Transfer**

The manager requested budget transfers as follows;

- \$1500 transferred from 1966 Computer Expenses to 1981 Field Equipment Purchases
- \$500 transferred from 1954 Equipment Insurance to 1981 Field Equipment Purchases

Increased budget for Field Equipment is for procurement of gill nets, marquee, and drills.

It was moved: *The transfer of funds within the current budget is approved.*

*Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon* *CARRIED*

Performance Reviews

Action: The manager to send the chairman a list of competencies for grading.

It was moved: *That the Performance Review Committee consist of Cameron Shanks, Kelvin Ellis, Phil Durham (chairman) and John McEntee (reserve).*

*Mark Bell / Darryl Reardon* *CARRIED*

Action: The chairman will contact the committee in due course.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Phil Durham  
Chairman



