

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE**  
**NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**  
**7.00PM FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

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**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Cameron Shanks, Mark Bell, John Skeates, John McEntee, Kelvin Ellis, Russell Daniels, Lloyd Altham, Barrie Barnes, Sean Brickland, Lewis Peart

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

The Chairman welcomed the councillors to the council table and acknowledged the outgoing councillor. The Conflict-of-Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

**APOLOGIES:** Darryl Reardon, Noel Birchall

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

*John Skeates / Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED*

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*John McEntee / John Skeates* *CARRIED*

**Matters Arising**

The Manager reported on prosecutions progress with all cases soon to be dismissed in what has been a smooth process. The Chairman suggested a current licence purchase to be part of restitution, but it was uncertain if this was lawful.

The Administrator advised that the reserves classification descriptions would be part of the Annual Report available at the next meeting (11 December 2024).

**In Committee**

**It was moved:** *That other members are excused while the remuneration committee discussed a remuneration review.*

Other members were excused from the remuneration review discussion in committee.

**7.14pm Out of Committee**

The Chairman proposed that performance review documentation is sent out to councillors, to be returned by Christmas, with the results at the following meeting (21 February 2025).

**Presentation to Outgoing Councillor**

The Chairman thanked and acknowledged outgoing councillor John Skeates for his contribution and presented a gift on behalf of licence holders and fellow councillors.

**Elections**

The current council was dissolved and the Chairman stood down. The Manager explained two options for a voting system.

**It was moved:** *That system B from Standing Orders is implemented for electing a chairperson and the New Zealand Council representative.*

*Phil Durham / Cameron Shanks*

*CARRIED*

Nominations were called for a chairperson. Cameron Shanks nominated Phil Durham. Kelvin Ellis seconded. There were no other nominations received.

**It was moved:** *That nominations be closed.*

*Barrie Barnes / Lloyd Altham*

*CARRIED*

There being no other nominations, Phil Durham was appointed chairperson.

The Chairperson sought nominations for the role of NZ Council appointee. Lewis Peart nominated Barry Barnes. There were no other nominations received.

**It was moved:** *That Barrie Barnes is appointed NZ Council Representative.*

*Russell Daniels / Lewis Peart*

*CARRIED*

Cr Barnes extended a vote of thanks to Darryl Reardon for his outstanding work as past NZ Council appointee.

Cr Skeates extended a vote of thanks to Phil Durham for his contribution as Chairperson.

## Schedule of Meetings

The schedule of 2025 meetings was approved at the previous meeting but requires approval by the new council.

It was moved: *That the 2025 meeting schedule approved at the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 meeting is approved.*

*Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell* *CARRIED*

It was moved: *That the members of the public in attendance have speaking rights.*

*Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell* *CARRIED*

## Managers' Report

### **1119 Trout Population Assessment**

The Chairman asked about the condition of trout in Lake Manuwai. The Manager explained the decrease in trout growth and condition relating to the environmental conditions in the reservoirs. Cr Barnes enquired as to stocking rates and environmental challenges in Northland dams.

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

Council discussed the preference for sole management of the reserve but unsure of likelihood. Cr Shanks questioned why DOC were not convinced of the legality of the existing management agreement, with regard to delegation of management and control.

### **1310 Access**

The Manager shared the success of the Fish Tuition Day held at Whau Valley Dam and thanked Cr Daniels for assisting.

The Manager explained that balloting for Underwood Wetland next season would be closer to opening weekend to encourage more interest.

### **1431 Media Liaison**

The Manager expressed concern that the issue between Southland Federated Farmers and Southland Fish & Game has the potential to become a national issue that could affect the advocacy role of Fish & Game. Cr Barnes elaborated. The Manager outlined the advocacy work he is currently involved with, in particular Marsden Solar Farm, to advocate for wetland preservation. Cr Barnes was supportive of this work.

### **1451 Northland Field Days**

The Manager tabled a memorandum outlining the opportunity to be involved in the upcoming Northland Field Days in Dargaville. Historically Northland Fish & Game participated in the Field Days but discontinued due to cost and time. The council agreed it would be worthwhile to

have a stand and appropriate for the national ReWild campaign. Cr. Barnes suggested a letter is sent to NZ Council seeking support.

**It was moved:** *That the Manager secures a stand at the Northland Field Days and approaches NZ Council to be involved with the ReWild campaign.*

*Kelvin Ellis / Mark Bell* **CARRIED**

#### **1840 National Liaison**

The Manager reported a successful visit from Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Labour Spokesperson for Conservation.

**It was moved:** *That the Managers Report be received.*

*John McEntee / Kelvin Ellis* **CARRIED**

#### **Field Officers Reports**

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

*John McEntee / Russell Daniels* **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

#### **Executive Limitations Report**

**It was moved:** *That the Health and Safety Report and Executive Limitations Report are received.*

*Russell Daniels / Lloyd Altham* **CARRIED**

#### **Financial Report**

Financial report ending 30 September 2024.

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

*Lewis Peart / Kelvin Ellis* **CARRIED**

## **General Business**

### **Minister for Hunting and Fishing letter**

The Manager table a letter (4 November 2024) from the Minister for Hunting and Fishing requesting council's views to questions. The Chairman shared his thoughts and asked for opinions from each councillor. The Chairman will report back to the Minister with the collective views of the Council.

### **Standing Orders**

The Manager reported that the Standing Orders reviewed by NZ Council have been updated and will be circulated to councillors for approval at the 11 December 2024 meeting.

### **Commercial Preserve**

Cr Shanks asked if there was an update regarding the commercial pheasant preserve. None to report.

### **Outgoing Councillor**

John Skeates thanked the Northland Fish & Game Council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.17pm.



**Phil Durham**  
*Chairman*

