

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> 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:** *That those apologies are accepted.*

*Stefan Seitzer/Darryl Reardon* *CARRIED.*

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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:** *That the Executive Limitations Report is received.*

*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 Fish & Game ASB bank accounts and Rachael Quin is approved as a signatory for Northland Fish & Game Council ASB bank accounts.*

*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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Durham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

***Phil Durham***  
***Chairman***