

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM THURSDAY 5th December 2019**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

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

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

Members of Public: Mark Bell, Stefan Seitzer

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the members of the public to the Council table.

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

APOLOGIES: Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

It was moved: *That those apologies are accepted.*

Cameron Shanks, Dave Nicholson *CARRIED.*

Prospective nominees to address the Council

The council received three applications for the appointment for the new councillor vacancy. One of the applicants withdrew his application leaving Mark Bell and Stefan Seitzer to address the council. Both applicants gave a brief account on their life history and why they would like to become a councillor.

The councillors voted and appointed Mark Bell as the new councillor. Dave Nicholson tendered his resignation as a councillor as he and his wife are moving to Auckland. The manager notified the council that Fish & Game will advertise the vacancy in the Northern Advocate on the 7th December. The Council invited Mr Seitzer to reapply for this vacancy.

Adoption of the Performance Report 2018-2019

It was resolved: *That the Council adopts the Audited Performance Report of the Northland Fish & Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2019.*

Dave Nicholson/Chris Lynch *CARRIED.*

Presentation of the Performance Report

The manager gave a brief presentation on the Statement of Financial Performance for the 2018-2019 financial year. The manager explained that there was a surplus of \$11,672. The councillors commended the chairman for a very well written Chairman's Report.

The unconfirmed 2018-19 Annual Performance Report was circulated at the meeting as the report was finalised by the auditors within the last few days before the meeting. Councillor Reardon suggested that if there are any issues raised in the 2018-19 Annual Performance Report, that these issues are addressed at the next Council meeting.

On behalf of the council, the Chairman congratulated the manager and the staff on an excellent year.

7:40pm: The Council returned to the normal Fish & Game Council meeting.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th October 2019 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

The agreed stands in the Jack Bisset and Flaxmill Wetlands were re-balloted for the 2020 game bird season. There were 17 applications received by the council for these ballots and the winners will be notified shortly.

NRC – Water Storage and Use Project

A report on the progress of the water storage project was circulated to the councillors for their information. Councillor Reardon gave a brief report on the number of jobs this project will create and an estimated \$230 million per annum may be generated for the Northland region.

Manager's Report

1211 Resource Management Act

The manager and Peter Wilson attended mediation discussions with the Northland Regional Council over the past month. All issues raised in our appeal have been addressed and the final outcome will be declared next year.

An application from Whangarei District Council was received to discharge Diatomix into Wilsons Dam. Northland Fish & Game has agreed to support the consent application. The manager thought that this could be an excellent opportunity to monitor the trout stocks in the dam.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The Manchurian Rice Grass was sprayed by helicopter. The spray was supplied by Northland Regional Council and Northland Fish & Game will pay for the helicopter hire. The manager also informed the council that the earth moving equipment has been moved on site to commence the stage wetland development within the wetland.

At the same time, the helicopter also sprayed out parts of the Jack Bisset Wetland which has extensive beds of glyceria maxima.

1411 DOC – Conservation Board Liaison

An authority under Section 53(3) Wildlife Act to raise and release pheasants can only be obtained through the Department of Conservation. DOC is now charging a \$400 fee for an application.

It was moved: *That this issue is raised with NZ Fish & Game Council and NZC write to the Minister of Conservation about this fee of \$400 for rearing of pheasants.*

Noel Birchall/Darryl Reardon *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *That the manager's report is received.*

Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Underwood Wetland Reserve and stopping of unformed road

Northland Fish & Game applied to the Kaipara District Council to close an unformed legal road that runs through the Underwood Wetland. KDC gave Fish & Game three options and estimated costs to achieve the road closure. The council discussed the options.

It was moved: *That Fish & Game Council will not seek the stopping of the road and will work with the natural features within the wetland to create habitat.*

Wayne Pepper/Russell Daniels *CARRIED.*

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly.

It was moved: *That the Field Officer's Activity Reports are received.*

Kris Batelaan/Mark Bell *CARRIED.*

Refund of money to Dyer Brothers

The council discussed the letter received by Raymond Dyer regarding the termination of his stand at the Jack Bisset Wetland and refunding of \$400 for the shared pond clearing by the swamp monster earlier in the year. The councillors agreed that the stand should be forfeited and re-balloted.

It was moved: *That the council proceeds with the termination of the stand tenure and no refund of \$400 will be paid out.*

Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson *CARRIED.*

The Chairman agreed to write a letter to Mr Dyer to explain the outcome of the meeting.

NZFG Council Meeting – 22-24 November 2019

The 138th NZ Council meeting was held in Christchurch over three days with all the chair persons from the regions attending the Governance meeting. Chairman Durham reported on the Governors meeting and the following items were discussed:

- Unanimous disapproval by all the region's chair persons to exclude Bruce Bates (Chairman of Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Council) from the Governors meeting.
- Relationships with DOC by all regions. DOC has not recovered from restructure within its organisation.
- Three audits of the three Fish & Game regions.
- Fish & Game internal review of internal processing
- Fish & Game structure. Is the structure Fish & Game works under still fit for purpose? Is there a possible lack of expertise at director's level?
- Bruce Robertson discussed the governance audits.
- Presentation of the region's audit. The auditor has a duty to present the Annual Performance Financials at the year-end meeting.
The chairman advised the council he had contacted BDO Northland and Adelle Albon agreed to attend the meeting but Northland's financial report is consistent and has no policy changes.
- Anti farming stance by NZ Fish & Game Council. There are concerns about the anti-farming issues from all the regions.

Councillor Birchall provided some notes on the NZ Council meeting. Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Audit outcomes
- NZ Council Annual Performance Report for the year ending 2018-19 was presented and approved. A surplus of \$59,100 was made for the year.
- RMA legal funding. Two applications were received for legal funding from Nelson/Marlborough and Wellington regions. Both cases are trying to achieve changes through mediation.
- Employ an in house lawyer to reduce costs in litigation
- New National Prosecution Policy was adopted
- The national Infringement System has been held in abeyance until the infringement database system and payments are finalised.
- Nominees for the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Five nominations were received. Adrian McIntyre, Steve Scragg and Mark Sutton were appointed for the three positions.
- Agreed to send the NZ Council's draft Communications Strategy for regional feedback to be considered in their public excluded session and respond by 2nd April 2020.
- Agreed to survey licence holders and regional governors on their views on F&G's fresh water advocacy and not to release media reports that contain negative statements about farmers.
- The licence sales system with Eyede providing the back up support was adopted
- NZ Council agreed to withdraw from the appeal on the upper Ngaruroro River
- Hunting Code of Conduct was approved as National Policy
- A letter was received from the Minister of Conservation confirming that Non Residents levy can be used by F&G regions with no legal constraint to carry out their general functions
- Jet Boating NZ MOU
- Staff Development Grant Report was provided by Erin Garrick

- R3 Report and strategy was adopted
- A special presentation to Robert Sowman (retiring) and Jordyn McLean for their support of Fish & Game at the NZ Council meetings

9.30pm: Stefan Seitzer left the meeting

Council Meeting Dates

NZFGC confirmed their meeting dates at the last Council meeting in Christchurch. A spread sheet was circulated with the suggested meeting dates for 2020.

It was moved: ***That the following dates are accepted for 2020:***

- *31st January 2020*
- *27th March 2020*
- *5th June 2020*
- *14th August 2020*
- *16th October 2020*
- *11th December 2020*

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

Game Bird Season Recommendations for 2020 Game Season

The Council considered the recommendations for the 2020-2021 game bird season made by Field Officer Graham Gallaghan. The Council agreed with the recommendations and made the following resolutions:

It was moved: ***That the Council adopts the 2020 game bird season recommendation.***

Wayne Pepper/Dave Nicholson

CARRIED.

It was moved: ***That Area A and the definition of Area A is removed from the Schedule. The bag limits for California quail stay at 10 and the bag limit for Cock Pheasant stay at 5 for all areas.***

Darryl Reardon/ Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Chris Lynch and Cameron Shanks voted against

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.

All staff met on the 22nd October to review all health and safety policies and rules. Rachael Quin, the part time administrator was appointed as the Health and Safety officer by the staff. She is currently updating the work sheet which addresses job safety analysis and toolbox talks.

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

Kris Batelaan/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Dave Nicholson/Wayne Pepper

CARRIED.

Managers Financial Report

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 31st October 2019. Northland Fish & Game are now using Xero, a cloud based accounting system. The council agreed that the Cheque Account Transactions for the two month period should be removed from all future financial reports as there is a lot of personal information within this report.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 31st October 2019 is adopted.*

Chris Lynch/John Skeates

CARRIED.

General Business

NZ Council has appointed Steve Doughty for the R3 programme. The council agreed that the manager invite Steve to the January Council meeting to present the R3 programme.

A letter was sent to Fish and Game regional councils for any councillor who wished to be nominated for appointment to Conservation Boards. This appointment is not voted upon but is by ministerial appointment.

Governance Meeting

The councillors considered employing a professional governor for a refresher governance course for all old and new councillors. They also discussed inviting the auditor to the course for financial training on the financial reports.

10.20pm. Councillor Kris Batelaan left the meeting

The manager discussed the permit fees for the upcoming game bird season. Councillor Birchall suggested that this matter is an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Dave Nicholson for his support over the three terms as councillor. He also wished all Councillors and staff all the best for the Christmas festive season and a happy new year.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.35pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman