

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

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

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

**NZC Staff:** Steve Doughty (Business Development Manager)

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and made a special welcome to Mr Doughty to the Council table.

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

**APOLOGIES:** John Skeates, Mark Bell, Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

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

*Chris Lynch, Wayne Pepper*

*CARRIED.*

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks*

*CARRIED.*

**Matters Arising**

The management report was received from the BDO Auditors. The councillors were asked to bring any questions to the table regarding the 2019 Annual Performance Report. There were no concerns that needed to be addressed.

**Northland Regional Plan**

The manager has had no further meetings with the Northland Regional Council. The Department of Conservation will appeal the regional plan and intend to go to the environmental court on water quality related issues.

**Game Bird Season Recommendations**

Councillor Lynch wished to make the Council aware of their responsibilities on the removal of Area A from the Schedule. The chairman stated that the council had discussed this matter and a motion was passed at the last council meeting.



**It was moved:** *That the Auditors Management letter is received.*

*Chris Lynch/Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *That the staff is commended for an excellent report and a positive outcome.*

*Chris Lynch/Russell Daniels* **CARRIED.**

### **Appointment of Managers Annual Performance Review Committee**

The Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee was discussed amongst the Council.

**It was moved:** *That Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Noel Birchall and the chairman, Phil Durham is nominated to the Manager's Performance Review Committee.*

*Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson* **CARRIED.**

Councillors Reardon, Shanks and Birchall accepted the nominations.

The committee consists of the Chairman, Phil Durham, Councillors Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Noel Birchall and Councillor Chris Lynch as a reserve.

The Chairman asked the Review committee to meet after the council meeting to arrange a date and time for the Manager's review.

### **Manager's Report**

#### **1111 Aerial Trend Counts**

Drought conditions were seen in many parts of Northland when the aerial trend counts were flown in January. These dry conditions may affect the game bird hunting season if this weather continues. Botulism is very prevalent in the Far North and other parts of Northland. An updated spread sheet with the trend counts was attached with the agenda for the councillor's information. The Manager gave a brief explanation on the overall numbers of birds counted which had increased from the previous year.

The council confirmed the bag limits and dates as proposed at the previous meeting and the extended dates for the Special Paradise Shelduck Week in 2021.

#### **1211 District Regional Plans**

##### **National Policy Statement on the Indigenous Biodiversity**

The manager informed the council on the direct impact on future management of all wetland properties if this document and policy is passed by the government. The Federated Farmers are expressing similar concerns. The manager will raise this matter with NZFGC and the regional managers. He has asked Peter Wilson to evaluate the documents and to give his opinion.

The Council has received two resource consent applications from NRC regarding water takes, one from the Puketotara Stream for Kerikeri Township and a second application regarding the water take from the Awanui River for pasture and horticulture in Kaitaia.

Northland Fish & Game will object on both applications, stating that the applicants and NRC need to look for alternative sources and water take. Any water should be undertaken during peak flows rather than in the summer months when the rivers and the flows are very low. The





**General Business**

The Chairman thanked Steve Doughty for his presentation and for travelling to the Northland region.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.25pm.

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

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