

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 26th July 2019**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Kris Batelaan, Russell Daniels, Dave Nicholson, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates (arrived at 7.10pm)

Department of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the DOC representative, Ross Atkinson to the Council table.

APOLOGIES: Mark McGinley

Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson **CARRIED**

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

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th May 2019 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED**

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Manager's Report

The Council considered the operational report with discussions on the following items:

1211 Resource Management Act

A letter was received from North Power proposing some riparian planting within the Wairua River catchment as part of an environmental compensation package. North Power has lodged an application to renew the resource consents associated with the Wairua Hydroelectric Power Station. Northland Fish & Game have not supported the application for various reasons:

- Loss of habitat

Field Officer's Reports

The chairman commented on the state of some maimais and rubbish left in or around the Jack Bisset Wetlands. The councillors believed an audit should be made by the Field Office pre-season and post season. A letter will be written to the Jack Bisset Stand Holders committee informing that an audit will take place.

It was moved: *That an audit will be undertaken on all stands of all of the Fish & Game wetlands.*

Noel Birchall/Darryl Reardon *CARRIED.*

The councillors were informed that a working bee at the Jack Bisset Wetland will take place on the 10th August 2019.

It was moved: *That the Manager's and Field Officer's Activity Report are received.*

Chris Lynch/ Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Infringement Fines Reasoning

Feedback was sought from the Fish & Game regions regarding the proposed infringement notice offence fees. This document was included in the agenda for the councillor's information. Ross Atkinson, DOC representative, informed the councillors that DOC is developing a compliance database.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 7th June 2019. A brief report from Councillor Birchall was circulated at the council table.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Non-residents licence funds held within each region should be more transparent where the funds are used.
- Increase in the licence fees was approved by the Minister of Conservation
- Create ways to raise revenue from alternative sources such as advertising using the Fish & Game name.
- A donation tab has been added to the Fish & Game website for donations.
- The Chairman's meeting proposed in November and their views on the value and subjects to be considered.
- Three sub committees to be established on the NZC with representation from the regions and NZC.
- Draft audit of the Hawkes Bay Fish & Game region is being considered and will be released shortly.

Sub Committee Members

There are three sub committees to be established on the New Zealand Council:

- Licensing committee to make recommendations to NZC on licence contracts, licence categories and pricing. This committee has two NZ Council members plus three Fish & Game Council appointees.
- Strategic Finance Committee to investigate the longer term financing of Fish & Game as an organisation.

- Remuneration Committee to prepare a national policy on remuneration.

The finance and remuneration committees will be made up from two NZ Council members plus two regional Fish & Game appointees. The regions were asked to propose any nominations for these committees.

It was moved: That Phil Teal, Wellington Fish & Game Manager, is nominated for the Remuneration Committee.

Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch CARRIED.

Phil Teal was contacted and he accepted the nomination.

The Council discussed the five year long term financing of Fish & Game as an organisation. There were no nominations proposed for the Finance Committee.

Correspondence

Dates to set Licence Fees in 2020

A letter from the NZ Council addressing the timetable to set licence fees in 2020 was received. The Northland council addressed this matter earlier this year and changed their meeting dates to accommodate NZ Fish & Game Council. Northland council will decide their meeting dates for the 2020 year at the meeting in December 2019.

Fish & Game Chairs Workshop 23rd November 2019

Another workshop for all regional Chairs and NZ Council members is being organised for the November Council meeting in Wellington.

The councillors discussed some suggestions of what items should be included on the agenda.

These suggestions included:

- What NZ will be like in 10-20 years' time
- Invite a guest speaker

Adoption of the 2019-2020 Operational Work Plan

The total budget for the 2019-2020 financial year is \$534,950. There will be a slight deficit of \$6,065 which NZ Council has approved that these funds come out of Northland's reserves.

The Council adopted the 2019-2020 operational work plan for the Northland region.

It was moved: That the 2019-2020 Operational Work Plan be adopted and approved.

Chris Lynch/Darryl Reardon CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson CARRIED.

It was moved: *That the manager writes a letter to Lindsay Lyons expressing our concerns with the CEO of NZ Council releasing media statements supporting the second round of changes to the gun laws without consultation to the regions and licence holders.*

Dave Nicholson/John Skeates

CARRIED

An Official Information Act request was made from a journalist on communications between Fish & Game and Federated Farmers namely;

In light of the Fed Farmers campaign to get farmers elected to Fish & Game councils in the October 2018 elections, the journalist requested all reports, letters, emails and other correspondence between @Fishandgame.org.nz email addresses and @Fedfarm.org.nz email addresses since November 1, 2018.

- All advice prepared for Fish & Game councils on Fed Farmers since the October 2018 election.*
- Any correspondence, emails, and letters relating to concerns about Fed Farmers members being on Fish & Game councils.*

The manager received an email from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 seeking information and responses to a set of seven questions.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman