

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Mark McGinley, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

**Department of Conservation:** Ross Atkinson

**CEO Fish & Game NZ:** Martin Taylor

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and made a special welcome to Martin Taylor for attending one of the Northland Council meetings.

**APOLOGIES:** Chris Lynch

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

*Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon* *CARRIED.*

**Annual or One Year Agenda**

April annual items requiring the Council's consideration includes a review of governance policies and the approval of the 2018-19 Draft Budget and contestable funding applications.

**Conflicts of Interest Register**

The conflicts of interest register was circulated for Councillors to sign and identify whether or not there are any topics to be discussed at this meeting where they perceive a potential conflict may arise.

**Public Excluded session of the meeting**

The public excluded session of the meeting was for Councillors only without public, staff or representatives of groups present.

**7.05pm Resolved:** *(Cameron Shanks/Darryl Reardon)*

***That the Council move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting.***

That the public, staff and representatives of groups be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

## Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Mark McGinley/Maurice Blyde*

*CARRIED.*

## Matters Arising

The Manager's report on his sabbatical trip overseas is nearly completed and will be sent out to Councillors later in the week.

Councillor Batelaan enquired on the reasoning of the removal or modifications in the suggested recommendations to the terms of reference for the National Salmon Committee.

## Manager's Report

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

### **1211 District Plans**

NZFGC has approved NFGC's application for legal costs to employ legal counsel and a specialist RMA planner to present our case to the NRC hearings committee on the regional plan.

### **1220 Wetland Management**

The manager informed Council that the ground conditions are too wet to start any of the wetland projects which were planned for this year. Also the game bird hunting season will commence shortly and Fish & Game prefers that there is little disturbance around the wetlands.

### **1231 Advice to property owners**

The manager reported that the wetland work at the McCullough farm in Mangapai is near completion. Northland Fish & Game hold funds in reserves for the development of this wetland.

### **1311 Negotiation**

There will be no access to Landcorp Farms for the upcoming game bird hunting season. The CEO, Martin Taylor, commented that he has met with Landcorp Farms and discussed the possibility for access for game bird hunting throughout NZ. Mr Taylor stated that an MOU may be formed to formalise access for recreational hunting use which could transpire in the next year.

New Zealand Council is also looking into a public liability insurance which will cover all fish and game bird hunting licence holders.

### **1316 Northland Secondary Schools Clay Target Competition**

Kaikohe Gun Club has withdrawn their support to hold the third round of the secondary school clay target competition. This round will now be held at the Whangarei Combined Gun Club in Mangapai. Field Officer John Macpherson will attend the second round of the competition in Kaitaia on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## **NZFG Council Update**

Councillor Birchall attended a two day meeting at Greymouth on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The unconfirmed minutes were received for the Councillor's information. Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Water Conservation Order for the Ngaruroro in Hawkes Bay has been split into the upper and lower sections. The CEO is exploring options on the WCO.
- A further NZ Council strategic planning session will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- Revised guide licence proposal will be sent to the Minister of Conservation
- Pay structures for regional managers will be a topic for the next Governors' Forum, which is now scheduled for July 2019.
- Release of captive reared mallards. There is a wish to develop a policy that can be followed consistently across all regions.
- Media Strategy. The Council agreed to continue with the current media strategy noting deficiencies of regional Council initiatives in protecting the environment and highlighting farmers who are being environmentally sustainable.
- Silt and debris washing off recently felled timber plantations.
- NZ Council agreed to submit a contestable funding application to develop a recruitment, retention and reactivation national participation plan and to support a RMA co-ordinator part time.
- RM/legal – approved funds and new applications
- There is no longer an internal reparation scheme available for minor offences and all regions will now have to go through the legal process for all offences.

## **Correspondence**

### **NRC Letter to Minister of Conservation**

Northland Fish & Game received a copy of a letter addressed to the Minister of Conservation from the Northland Regional Council requesting the removal of Black swan and Paradise shelduck from Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1953 in Northland. The Council discussed the letter and directed the manager to request an OIA asking for all copies of letters, emails and phone logs on these complaints.

### **Request for permission to take Perch and Tench**

A letter was received from the Northland Regional Council requesting permission for control and eradication of Tench and Perch from Lakes Parawanui and Kapoai on the Pouto Peninsula. The Council discussed the application.

**It was moved:**                    *Permission to control and eradicate Perch and Tench will be considered on a case by case basis by the Northland Fish & Game Council.*

*Cameron Shanks/ Noel Birchall*

*CARRIED.*

**One vote against**

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

*Mark McGinley/Wayne Pepper* *CARRIED.*

### Executive Limitations Report

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

*Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper* *CARRIED.*

### Managers Financial Report

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report. The financial report for the period ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 has a net expenditure of 40%. A spread sheet on the licence sales to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 was circulated to all councillors.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 is adopted.*

*Dave Nicholson/Mark McGinley* *CARRIED.*

### General Business

The manager has received the first draft of the Northland Fish & Game Management Plan from Mischa Davis recently. Mischa has used the Otago Fish & Game plan as a template. The manager will review the plan and once completed will circulate the plan out to the councillors for their comments.

The manager presented a slide show of his sabbatical to the USA and the Wildlife Society conference he attended in September 2017.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.35pm.

*Phil Durham*  
Chairman

