

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Mark McGinley, Chris Lynch, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon.

**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 table.

**APOLOGIES:** Mike Newson, Cameron Shanks

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

*Dave Nicholson, Maurice Blyde* **CARRIED.**

The Council acknowledged that this was the first meeting that Cameron Shanks had missed in ten years. Councillor Shanks had attended a funeral for the secretary of the Kaipara Hunting and Fishing Club, Joss Tolley.

Northland Fish & Game Council extended their sympathy to Tony Smith and family for the tragic loss of his partner.

**Annual or One Year Agenda**

June annual items requiring the Council's consideration includes a review of governance policies, consideration for the budget and licence fee recommendations for the 2018/2019 season and the Angler's Notice – issues requiring NZC consideration.

The Chairman received a letter from a stand holder and this letter was added to the agenda to discuss at the completion of the meeting.

**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.

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Wayne Pepper/ Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **Manager's Report**

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

### **1181 Game Bird Dispersal**

The Manager informed Council that the field officer in Kaitaia could provide some assistance in controlling Canada Geese in the Far North region. John was instructed to liaise with NRC, FNDC, Iwi and the local community on this problem but to limit his time. The councillors wished to be informed of any special organised shoots and they believed that our licence holders should also be informed.

### **1212 Resource Consents**

Northland Fish & Game approved an application retrospectively to release Grass Carp into ponds at the La Pointe Beach Estates, One Tree Point. Ross Atkinson explained further the process of interviews with the residents involved in the illegal release of Grass Carp. DoC has decided not to prosecute but will be sending a letter explaining their decision to the One Tree Point committee.

### **1228.02 Greenheart Wetland**

There will be no balloted stands at this development stage of the wetland. Development work has commenced but has now ceased due to the weather and ground conditions. The Council approved to use the funds from the Habitat Development Fund to develop a shooting pond last year (December 2017 meeting).

### **1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition**

The tickets for the 2018 fishing competition are on sale and the manager requested if any of the councillors are available to assist on the weekend of the competition. A kayak has been kindly donated by Viking Kayak for a lucky draw in the competition.

### **1421 NRC, District Council Liaison**

The manager and the chairman attended a meeting with the CEO of the Northland Regional Council to discuss the letter sent to the Minister of Conservation seeking removal of Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck from the game schedule. The CEO was advised that these birds come under Fish & Game jurisdiction and all complaints or issues should be directed to Fish & Game.

### **Taharoa Domain Governance Committee – Kaipara District Council**

The manager attended a Taharoa Domain Governance Committee meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The committee granted permission to release trout into the Lakes in 2019 but they reserved the right to control if and how trout are released based on any new knowledge that may be attained. The manager believed that the status quo should remain.

The manager and a representative from NorthTec also sought approvals to take samples of DLGs from the Kai Iwi Lakes as part of the research for the Dune Lake Galaxid Working Group.

### 1511 Ranging and Ranger Training

The manager gave a brief summary of the licence checks and the number of unlicensed hunters found over the opening weekend of the hunting season. A report has been prepared for the Prosecution Committee to consider.

The manager received resignations from Ranger Wayne Pepper and Ranger Maurice Blyde. The manager presented a small gift on behalf of the Council in appreciation for their many years of service and effort to Wayne and Maurice.

The manager also presented a gift to Ross Atkinson on behalf of the Council for providing ranger training to the Northland rangers for the past 20 plus years.

**It was moved:***That the Manager's Activity Report is received.*

*Kris Batelaan/Wayne Pepper* ***CARRIED.***

### Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed both Field Officers' reports briefly.

**It was moved:***That the Field Officers Activity Reports are received.*

*Wayne Pepper/Darryl Reardon* ***CARRIED.***

### NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a two day meeting in Wellington on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Part of the meeting was jointly with the regional managers to discuss the budget and licence fees. The unconfirmed minutes had been sent out to all councillors for their information.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Criteria for evaluating contestable funding applications. Council agreed to accept a draft policy document and for it to be circulated for consultation with regional councils before becoming policy.
- Using its audit powers under Section 26C(1)(j), the NZ Council agreed to audit all Fish & Game Councils in relation to all staff terms and conditions of employment. The audit will be carried out by an independent third party.
- NZ Council approved all CPI adjustment on the staff salaries component.
- Staff Development Grant was approved for Lawson Davey, Field Officer for Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game Council to travel and meet with the Californian Waterfowl Association.
- Proposed Research Funding. NZ Council approved two proposals out of seven. They were the "Cost Benefit Analysis of NZ Sports Fish Hatcheries" and "Native fish/sports fish interactions".
- NZ Council discussed and agreed on recommended licence fees.
- Licence category fee ratios. NZ Council agreed to set up a review of licence ratios to improve and maintain customer satisfaction.
- Process for reparations to change to diversion. Diversion is a prosecution process used by other agencies including DOC and the Police.

### **2018 – 2019 Licence Fee Recommendations**

The Council discussed and agreed to support the NZ Council licence fee recommendations subject to the licence fee increase approved by the Minister of Conservation.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish & Game Council support the NZFGC recommendation for the 2018/19 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$130 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$96 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.*

*Darryl Reardon/Mark McGinley* **CARRIED.**

### **Licence Fee Ratio Proposed Changes**

All regional councils were asked to consider the proposed 2018/2019 licence fees and modifications to categories with ratios set against the adult whole season fees.

A spread sheet for the national fish and game bird licence sales to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 was circulated to all councillors.

Since Fish & Game NZ has introduced the new fish licence categories in 2014/15, there has been a reduction in LEQs and revenue. The Council discussed the non-resident licence fee structure and queried whether there should be any day licence available at all to non-resident and whether NZ Council should increase the ratio for the non-resident licence holder.

**It was moved:** *That Northland Fish & Game Council does not support the four new non-resident sub categories proposed by NZ Council.*

*Kris Batelaan/ Mark McGinley* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *Northland Fish & Game Council proposes a new non-resident whole season licence regardless of age.*

*Darryl Reardon/Dave Nicholson* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *The fee for the non-resident licence should be increased to 2.0 of the Adult Whole Season licence.*

*Dave Nicholson/Chris Lynch* **CARRIED.**

### **Rationale**

*The council believes that the ratio for the non-resident licence fee is very low compared to other countries around the world. When New Zealanders travel overseas, the licence fees for non-resident fishing and game bird hunting are exorbitant in comparison to what non-residents pay here. There has already been an outcry from our own licence holders about the pressure non-residents are putting on the fisheries in this country and for very little cost. We have loyal licence holders who have bought licences for the whole of their lifetime. They are the loyal supporters of Fish and Game. Non-resident fishers may only buy a single NZ licence in their lifetime for only a few dollars more than our own loyal long term customers. We need to show our loyal supporters appreciation and respect by increasing the non-resident licence substantially. Double the cost of a full season licence charged to a NZ resident would be a good start. The Government has recently approved the charging of non-residents to walk our*

*tracks and trails through our national parks and forest parks; A tourist expects to be charged a premium and expects to pay substantially more than residents, hence Fish & Game need to meet that expectation.*

The Council further discussed the proposed licence fee increases and ratios for Local Area, Short Break, Long Break and Day Licences. The councillors agreed after having listened to the rationale of Noel Birchall to the reasons the licence fees for these categories needed to be increased given the decrease in revenue that the Councils are receiving since the introduction of Local Area, Short Break, and Long Break licences.

The Councillors also spent some time looking at the other fish licence categories and the general consensus was that the family licence ratio should be increased.

**It was moved:** *That the ratio for the Local Area, Short Break, Long Break, and Day Licences are increased.*

*Chris Lynch/Mark McGinley* **CARRIED.**

*One voted against*

#### **2018/2019 Anglers Notice**

**It was moved:** The Manager provided the Council with a recommendation that no changes be made to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule of the region's Angler Notice.

**It was moved:** *That there are no changes for the 2018/2019 Second Schedule of the Northland Fish & Game Anglers' Notice.*

*Kris Batelaan/Wayne Pepper* **CARRIED.**

#### **Health & Safety Bi-monthly 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.

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

*Wayne Pepper/Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

#### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Dave Nicholson/Maurice Blyde* **CARRIED.**

### Financial Report

The financial report for the eight months of the financial year attached showed a net expenditure of 57%. The financial administrator included a spread sheet showing the balance of dedicated and current reserves the Council holds to the end of April 2018.

**It was moved:** *That the Financial Report for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 is accepted.*

*Mark McGinley/Maurice Blyde* **CARRIED.**

### Governance Policy Review

The Northland Fish & Game Governance Policy reviewed the Governance Policy and there were no changes discussed by the Council.

**It was moved:** *That the Council reconfirms the existing Governance Policy.*

*Maurice Blyde/ Chris Lynch* **CARRIED.**

**10.09 pm.** *At this point of the meeting, Ross Atkinson said his farewells and left the meeting.*

### **Public Excluded session of the meeting**

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

**10.10pm Resolved:** *(Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper)*

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

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

*A letter received by the Chairman and Manager.*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released.	Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

Note Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

**10.55pm Resolved: (Kris Batelaan/Wayne Pepper)**

*That the open meeting of the Northland Fish and Game Council resumes.*

**General Business**

The manager assured the councillors that the report on his sabbatical trip to the USA is completed and will be sent out with the unconfirmed minutes next week..

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.00pm.

**Phil Durham  
Chairman**

