

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 10th AUGUST 2018**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch,
Mike Newson, Cameron Shanks

**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: Mark McGinley, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon

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

Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Northland Fish & Game Council extended their sympathetic thoughts to Darryl and Sandy Reardon for their bad news.

Annual or One Year Agenda

August annual items requiring the Council's consideration includes the final sign off of the Operational Work Plan for the 2018/2019 financial year.

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 8th June are confirmed as true and correct.*

Chris Lynch/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:

1112 Shoveler Survey

The Council's field officers, Andrew Kirk and John Macpherson carried out the shoveler survey on 6th and 7th August 2018. All results have been sent off to the national co-ordinator at eastern Fish & Game Council. The councillors discussed the increase of population for Grey Teal birds.

1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition

The manager commented on the results of the 2018 Kai Iwi Lakes fishing competition. The size of the fish weighed in for the weekend was very small compared to other years. A financial report was included for the council's consideration. The Councillors discussed other ways for sponsorship, such as naming rights for future competitions. The manager will review the amount of advertising for the 2019 competition.

1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition

The final round of the secondary school clay target competition is on 1st September 2018. The manager received an email from Mr Becroft, Secretary/Treasurer of BOI Clay Target Club. This email informed Fish & Game that the Kaeo Clay Target Club has formed another club called the Bay of Islands Clay Target Club. The new club is a fully affiliated member of the NZ Clay Target Association. The location of the new club will be on Purerua Road near Waipapa, Kerikeri. The new facility will be built over three stages. The club members are willing to welcome back the Fish & Game secondary school competition as soon as the first development stage is completed.

The manager will inform the Northland Secondary School Clay Target committee and Sport Northland and they will make a decision whether to include BOI Clay Target Club in the curriculum.

1411 DOC Liaison

The Memorandum of Understanding agreement between Northland Fish & Game, Department of Conservation and the Iwi has been reviewed by the manager and Chris Jenkins. To date, the agreement is still not signed. Ross Atkinson, DOC representative, will enquire further and respond back to the Fish & Game manager.

1521 Rangers

The ranger warrants are currently being renewed for all Northland Fish & Game honorary rangers. The manager has received four resignations – Wayne Pepper, Maurice Blyde, Darryl Reardon, after 35 years of holding a warrant and Eddy Smith, who also has held a warrant for over 40 years. This experience will be sadly missed by Northland Fish & Game.

1611 Licensing

An email was received from Wellington to inform all regions that the 2018-19 Fishing regulation booklets have been delayed for distribution which means the 2018-19 fish licences will be delayed for sale until Tuesday 21st August 2018. Fay will notify all agents of this change.

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

Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

Manager's Report on the US Wildlife Society Conference and Sabbatical

The manager provided an expense report to the councillors for their information on his sabbatical to the States last year. NZFGC has reimbursed Northland Fish & Game for the staff scholarship that the manager obtained.

The councillors congratulated the manager on a very good detailed report of his trip to the States.

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed both Field Officers' reports briefly.

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

Mike Newson/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a meeting in Wellington on the 19th July 2018. The unconfirmed minutes had been sent out to all councillors for their information and Councillor Birchall provided some notes on the meeting.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Conflicts of interest register. The Minister has received some complaints about some regions not registering any conflicts of interest at the Council meetings.
- Licence fees were approved by the Minister. NZFGC has introduced new fishing licence categories which only affects overseas visitors. The changes to the non-resident junior and child will come into force for the 2018-19 fish season. The proposed changes to the short term and day licences did not proceed as the majority of regions wanted the Licence Working Party to make recommendations to Council for discussion. The LWP was requested to prepare a report for the November NZC meeting with options to increase the total LEQs by a minimum of 1,800 LEQs.
- NZ Council Audit Policy. There is now a policy for the procedure of carrying out audits of regions in accordance with the Conservation Act's Section 26C(1)(j). The NZC has begun a performance audit on North Canterbury Fish & Game region which has been over budget for the past seven years and will be over again this year. NZC must investigate why and how this has happened under their statutory obligations.
- IRD tax status. IRD has agreed that NZ Fish and Game and its regions is considered as a body promoting amateur games and sports and on this basis IRD consider Fish & Game exempt from income tax.
- NZ Wetland Restoration Symposium. The Northland Fish & Game field officers, John Macpherson and Andrew Kirk, will be attending this symposium in late September in Napier.
- NZFG Council has relocated to Victoria Street in Wellington.
- Fish & Game magazine. The magazine has been reduced to the two special editions that are sent out free to the licence holders in March and August. The commercial publication of the Fish & Game magazine will be stopped due to the expense and decrease of advertising revenue.
- Staff Salary reviews. Councillors discussed the current process where the regions approve the salary review and then apply for funding from NZC.
- Review of Contemporary Salmonoid stocking practices in New Zealand. This report discussed the stocking of rivers, improving the habitat and restoring acceptable levels of self-sustaining wild fish spawning numbers and establishing an acceptable level of hatchery fish harvest.

It was moved: *That the NZC Report is received.*

Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

The Manager informed the council that the Officer of the Auditor General wants to change and improve the quality of Fish & Game Council's Performance reporting at year end. The OAG is placing increased interest in the relevance of performance information in Fish & Game. There is no common template for any of the regions to follow. The councillors suggested that a couple of the regions trial a template before the rest of the regions follow suit.

Adoption of the 2018-2019 Operational Work Plan

The budget for the 2018-2019 financial year is \$528,885 which included a CPI increase for staff salaries.

The Council adopted the 2018-2019 operational work plan for the Northland region.

It was moved: *That the 2018-2019 Operational Work Plan be adopted and approved.*

Mike Newson/Chris Lynch **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 noted that Field Officer John Macpherson attended a 4x4 driving course sponsored by the Department of Conservation in Kaitaia.

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

Mike Newson/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Financial Report

The financial report for the ten months of the financial year attached showed a net expenditure of 75%. The financial administrator included a spread sheet showing the balance of dedicated and current reserves the Council holds to the end of June 2018.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report for the period ending 30th June 2018 is accepted.*

Kris Batelaan/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

General Business

Correspondence received by the Chairman:

1. Email dated 31/07/2018. The chairman received an email from NZ Fish & Game CEO, Martin Taylor, inviting the Northland Fish & Game Council who was unsuccessful in a contestable funding bid for a salary increase to resubmit an application. My Taylor requested further information which meant disclosing some confidential employment details.
The council directed the chairman to resubmit an application and include a salary band and allowances which does not disclose too many personal details.
2. Letter dated 27/07/2018. The chairman received a letter from the secretary of the Wairarapa Fish & Game Club addressed to the NZFGC Chairman, Lyndsay Lyons. This letter was sent to all regional Fish & Game Council chairmen querying the process and rationale for the decision to stop the commercial publications of the magazine.
The councillors discussed the ownership of the magazine and also queried whether ceasing the magazine was good for the organisation.
3. Monday 23/07/2018. The chairman received an email from Lyndsay Lyons, advising the regional chairmen of the NZ Fish & Game Audit policy and the commencement of an audit with North Canterbury Fish & Game region.

These three letters were recorded in the Correspondence Schedule as received.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman

