

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 12th OCTOBER 2018**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks.

Department of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

NZFGC: Martin Taylor (CEO)

The Chairman welcomed the CEO, Martin Taylor, the Councillors and the DoC representative, Ross Atkinson to the table.

APOLOGIES: Chris Lynch, Darryl Reardon

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

Cameron Shanks/ Dave Nicholson *CARRIED.*

Northland Fish & Game Council took a moment's silence in recognition of the passing of Darryl Reardon's wife, Sandy. The manager informed the council that the office will be closed on Monday 15th October as the staff would attend the funeral.

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 10th August are confirmed as true and correct.*

Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde *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 is waiting for an approval from DOC to issue another authority to disturb game birds pursuant to Section 54 of the Wildlife Act 1953. The manager advised DOC of this requirement several months ago. In the meantime, the staff will advise anyone requiring an authority to disturb game birds out of season to contact the DOC office directly.

1211 Resource management Act

Northland Fish & Game objected to a resource consent application made by North Power in the operation and maintenance of a power scheme at the Wairua River Falls. North Power met with the manager to discuss Fish & Game's concerns particularly on taking water from the river and access issues for fishing. The Manager also proposed that a trust fund is established to help with environmental projects.

The manager was also contacted by the MFE (Ministry for the Environment) for his view on renewable energy for the Northland region.

1226.1 Underwood Wetlands

The manager has sent another letter to the Kaipara District Council seeking a formal agreement for the closure of a section of an unformed legal road within the Underwood Wetland.

An official letter from the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust was received to inform Northland Fish & Game that their application for a grant for stage one at the Underwood Wetlands was approved. NZGBHT has recognised that the Underwood Wetland stage 1 proposal is a major project and approved a grant up to \$75,000 (GST inclusive).

1228 Wairua Wildlife Management Reserve

A new written agreement between Fish & Game, DOC and Ngati Hau has been agreed to between all parties for a further 10 year period. The manager accompanied the DOC Operations Manager, Louisa Litt around the reserve to show her how the tracks and access within the reserve had deteriorated. The manager indicated to the council that DOC and Fish & Game must make a financial commitment for ongoing maintenance work.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game Council will sign an agreement for the Wairua Wildlife Management Reserve for a further 10 year period.*

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

1521 Rangers

The ranger warrants have been sent to Northland Fish & Game office and will be sent out to the honorary rangers. Northland Fish & Game only have six rangers at present.

The manager updated the council on the prosecution cases from the 2018 game bird season. One prosecution case is completed where the offender has accepted diversion and made a donation to the habitat fund and a contribution towards the court costs. The firearms have been returned to the offender.

The second prosecution case will be before the court on the 8th December 2018.

Martin Taylor advised the council that the Infringement Bill for reparations is still before the Minister.

1710 Council Meeting

A new council will be confirmed on the 16th October 2018 and all councillors will be notified by Electionz.com. The new council is obliged to meet within 3 weeks from the results being published.

The new council will elect the chairman and the New Zealand Fish & Game Council appointee at this special meeting. They will also decide on the meeting dates for the 2019 year and discuss a resolution for the approval of the annual accounts.

It was moved: *That the new council will have a special meeting on Wednesday 7th November at the Northland Fish & Game Council office.*

Cameron Shanks/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

1900 Administration

The manager notified the council that Andrew Kirk had resigned from Fish & Game and will be employed by DOC as a Senior Ranger in their Living Waters project. His last day was on the 12th October 2018. The councillors wished Andrew well for the future.

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

Wayne Pepper/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed both Field Officers' reports briefly.

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

Dave Nicholson/Mike Newson **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.*

Kris Batelaan/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Correspondence

Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishery and Research Protocols

A draft proposal was received from Kaipara District Council outlining concerns from the Mana Whenua on the way some research has been undertaken on the monitoring of the Dune Lakes Galaxias in the Kai Iwi Lakes. They believed that Fish & Game had a conflict of interest and this work should be completed by independent organisations/persons and analysed by other research companies.

The council rejected any conflict of interest and agreed that they could not contribute financially. The councillors agreed and understood the importance of reporting in Te Reo language but unfortunately have no resources within Fish & Game to do so.

The manager told the council that Dr Adam Canning, Fish & Game Wellington Research Scientist, has offered to help in this research. There is new technology within universities that can analyse the diet of a trout through isotope analysis of trout flesh.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game Council makes a commitment to the Kai Iwi Lakes research programme in equipment and staff time, up to the value of \$10,000.*

Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

**New Zealand Falconers Association (NZFA)
Hunting game with trained Australasian harriers**

The NZFA requested the Northland Fish & Game Council to submit to the Minister a notice providing for the take of game birds with harriers under the process detailed in section 15 of the Wildlife Act 1953.

The council believed that New Zealand Fish & Game Council should have a policy on the hunting of game birds with trained Australasian harriers for the purposes of falconry. This policy, if considered, should be legal in all regions.

It was moved: *That this request from the NZFA is referred to New Zealand Fish & Game Council to get a national perspective.*

Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

The manager was instructed by the council to write a letter to the Dr Laurence Barea, NZFA, informing him of the council's decision.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a meeting in Wellington on the 21-22 September 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:

- The importance of registering any Conflicts of interest.
- The Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill has caused a conflict with the Minister of Conservation who did not consult with Fish & Game on our interests. NZFG Council obtained an opinion from Sir Geoffrey Palmer who also confirmed our concerns. NZFGC will work with DOC and the select committee to obtain changes to the draft bill.
- Wellington Fish & Game's letter on processing of all council's budgets. This year the budget setting process highlighted several anomalies. NZFGC resolved to review all councils to establish their baseline funding, assets and reserves.
- Cawthorn Institute Report on salmonoid stocking. This report has highlighted some hatchery and release programs that could be costly, ineffective and detrimental to the fisheries in some regions. A working party will be established to draft a National Policy for consultation.

- National Sea-run Salmon Committee update. This committee is looking at all options to improve the salmon runs including the possibility of closed seasons or other restrictions.
- R3 Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation update. Consultant Steve Doughty delivered a power point presentation on implementing the programme. This programme will be trialled in four regions – Eastern, Nelson/Marlborough, Wellington and Otago.
- National Licence Sales are following similar trends to the previous year. The Licence Working Party has been asked to bring options to the November meeting to restore the LEQ's level when the new licence fees and categories were introduced.
- Staff Salary reviews. Councillors discussed the current process where the regions approve the salary review and then apply for funding from NZC.

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

Dave Nicholson/Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

Financial Report to 31st August 2018

The financial report for the twelve months of the financial year attached showed a net expenditure of 93%. An update on the fish licence sales was circulated as an excel spread sheet with a comparison of YTD figures for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report for the period ending 31st August 2018 is accepted.*

Mike Newson/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

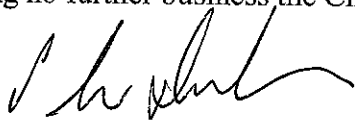
Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

8.45pm: Ross Atkinson left the meeting at this point of time. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

General Business

A contestable funding application was resubmitted to the NZFG Council for a salary increase. Martin Taylor spoke to the council on the NZ Council's statutory duties and the financial position for the whole organisation. He advised the council that they should review the Operational Work Plan to possibly exclude some projects that were causing extra hours of work.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman

