

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Trevor Osbaldiston & Dave Nicholson

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Phillip Durham, Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks, Mark Williamson.

**Conservation  
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

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

**APOLOGIES:** Kevin Alexander

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

*Dave Nicholson/Chris Lynch* *CARRIED.*

Chairman Osbaldiston welcomed the new Councillors to the Council table and congratulated them for stepping up to take on this new role.

**Adoption of Annual Report 2011-2012**

**It was resolved:** *That the 2011-2012 Annual Report is adopted.*

*Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED*

**Presentation of Annual Report**

The Chairman gave a brief presentation on the approved Comprehensive Income Statement to the Council. The Chairman explained that there was a \$34,386 surplus, less \$28,000 for the purchase of a Stabicraft boat within the financial year. In actual fact the Council had a \$6,386 surplus.

The Council's Manager presented the Statement of Service Performance, which highlighted the Council's achievements within the financial year. The Manager explained how the Statement of Service Performance is divided into eight output classes.

The Manager then commented on the overall game bird season, the sponsorship from Juken New Zealand Forest and the predator control programme undertaken within the Aupouri Forest and other Council owned wetlands.

The Manager also remarked on obtaining resource consents from the Northland Regional Council for the Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve for a period of 32 years. The Manager acknowledged the liaison with Chris Jenkins and Ian Hogarth of the Department of Conservation throughout the year.

The Manager pointed out the achievements of students in the Northland Secondary School Clay Target Competition both at a local and national level.

On completion of the presentation, the Chairman thanked the Manager for all the good work, which was achieved over the financial year.

**It was moved: That the Manager and staff are congratulated for an excellent report and for achieving within budget for the 2011/2012 financial year.**

**Trevor Osbaldiston/Noel Birchall CARRIED.**

### **Dissolution of Current Council**

**It was moved: That the present Council is dissolved.**

**Trevor Osbaldiston/Chris Lynch CARRIED.**

On behalf of the Council, the Manager thanked Trevor Osbaldiston for his help, guidance and leadership over the past nine years as a Councillor and as the Chairman.

At this point, Trevor Osbaldiston left the meeting.

The Manager took over as Chairperson and called for nominations for the new Chairman for the current Council.

### **Appointment of New Council**

#### **Election of Chairman**

**It was moved: That Dave Nicholson is nominated as Chairman.**

**Cameron Shanks/Leo Leonard**

Dave accepted the nomination.

The Manager called for further nominations but none were received.

The Manager declared Dave Nicholson as the new Chairman of the Northland Fish & Game Council.

## **Election of Northland Fish & Game Appointee to the NZFGC**

Chairman Nicholson called for nominations for a NZFGC appointee.

**It was moved:**            *That Chris Lynch is nominated for the New Zealand Fish & Game Council Appointee.*

*Cameron Shanks/Leo Leonard*

Councillor Lynch accepted the nomination.

The Chairman called for further nominations but none were received.

The Chairman declared Chris Lynch as the NZFG Council appointee.

### **Councillor Induction/Governance Course**

The Manager advised the whole Council of their obligations and responsibilities and the requirements under the local government official and meetings act and other laws affecting members, as well as the Council's governance document and policies. Councillors were advised that they would be reimbursed for vehicle-running expenses associated with travel to and from meetings.

The Manager suggested the Council should meet in the new year and go through the governance document and Northland Fish & Game's policies. The Council decided to confirm a date at their next meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February.

At this point of the meeting, Councillor Williamson excused himself from the Council table and left the meeting.

### **Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:**            *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Leo Leonard/Chris Lynch*

*CARRIED.*

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Fire Safety Standards within the Office**

The Manager updated the Council on the progress concerning the fire safety issues within the Fish & Game office. The Manager and with the assistance of Councillor Kris Batelaan, have applied for a building consent to the Whangarei District Council and are awaiting approval.

A builder has prepared an estimate to complete the work. He was asked to apportion the estimate to the landlord and to the Fish & Game Council. The builder has apportioned the work and the landlord should be responsible for 40% of the total costs. The Manager circulated the builder's estimate to the Council. The quotation included the hire of a scissor lift and fire stopping costs which increased the quotation to \$11,300 plus GST. The builder is confident of finishing within this price. The Council accepted the quotation.

### **Wetland Field trip**

The Manager met with Malcolm Nicholson, the CEO of NRC briefly and will make another appointment in the new year to discuss wetland management and restoration.

### **Greenheart Group**

The Manager met with Grant Fenton, Director of Project Planning & Development, and Edwin Tam, Finance Controller, of the Greenheart Group recently and they are still very interested in selling the block of land adjacent to the Jack Bisset Wetland.

Greenheart is currently obtaining valuations for all of their forests and they promise to respond to Fish & Game early next year. At the meeting a boundary adjustment was discussed but Fish & Game would prefer to acquire the whole block and lease a few hectares of land to Greenheart Group to enable them to plant trees and continue to claim the carbon credits.

The Manager updated the new Councillors about the piece of land adjacent to the Jack Bisset Wetland which the Council may be able to acquire through a purchase agreement.

### **Administration**

The Manager had responses from two regions regarding the Councillor and Employee Liability insurance. Both of these regions feel that the legislation should cover all Councillors and employees and the insurance is not required.

The Manager met with Ian Hogarth to present him with a gift and a card which was signed by all Councillors. Ian was very appreciative of the gift and said he would continue to help with the trend counts and stay involved in some wetland work in his private capacity.

### **Manager's Activity Report**

The Council considered the operational report on a page by page basis with discussion on the following:

The Manager commented on the RMA staff workshop he attended in Wellington. All regional councils are aware of the Horizons One Plan.

The Manager circulated a memo to all Councillors on the replacement of the Field Officer's vehicle. This memo summarised the different trade in prices for the Nissan Navara and the suppliers who are within the AOG contract. Northland Fish & Game has signed up for a silver Space cab Ford Ranger directly from Ford New Zealand. A deck with a tool box and a frame behind the rear window will be put on to the vehicle and the tyres will be replaced with all terrain tyres. These highway terrain tyres that came with the vehicle will be put in storage until the Council comes to selling the vehicle in approximately three years' time.

The Manager asked the Council to be discreet with the purchase price of this vehicle. The Nissan Navara has been sold by Pacific Motor Group for \$28,000.00 incl. GST.

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

*Kris Batelaan/Chris Lynch*

*CARRIED.*

### **NZFG Council Update**

Councillor Lynch attended a meeting in Nelson on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November and he provided the Council with an update on matters raised in the NZFGC agenda.

- Establishment of a group of volunteers for those dedicated and valued people who provide support to Fish & Game.
- EPA is calling for submissions on its reassessment of a group of insecticides currently approved for use in New Zealand.
- Honorary Rangers. A discussion was held on the restrictions on the number and age limit of honorary rangers.
- An application for legal funding by Hawkes Bay Fish & Game was received totalling approximately \$507,000. Many of the other F & G regions were reluctant, however supported the application in principle but were expressing concerns on the amount of funding. A vote was held and it was approved to support this application.
- Mallard Research
- Sub gauge exemption to the use of non-toxic shot
- Access Group to be set up
- Elections. It came to NZFGC attention that one region had out of region block voting. The voting was transferred from one region to another.
- Strategic Planning
- Eastern Fish & Game Councillors feel that the mileage rates need to be reviewed. NZFG Council will send out a letter consulting all regions about the mileage rates.

### **Correspondence for Discussion**

A number of items were included in the agenda for discussion. The Council discussed the following:

- Governance Policy on Conflict of Interest. NZFG Council has adopted the conflicts of interest policy proposed by Chen & Palmer. This paper and the issue of conflict of interests would be addressed at the special governance meeting to be held in the new year.
- Oath of Office. The Council decided to defer this matter until the special governance meeting although some Councillors expressed the view that the current legislation under the Conservation Act and the current governance document manual addresses this issue.
- Northland Conservation Board. The Manager gave a presentation to the Northland Conservation Board on all Fish & Game aspects such as the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports fish and game birds, and their working relationship with DOC. The presentation was well received and appreciated. At the end of the presentation a question was asked on what contact does Fish & Game have with Maori and how could Iwi have some input in to the Fish & Game policy. The Manager explained that there was very limited contact with Maori and that Northland Fish & Game will be reviewing their Sports Fish & Game Management Plan next year and this will be sent out to all Iwi groups in Northland for them to make their submissions. It was felt that Fish & Game should consult more with Maori. The Council discussed this matter and asked Richard Robbins for his comments.

It was moved: *That the Manager writes to NZFG Council requesting direction on National advocacy with Maori regarding the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan.*

*Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde* *CARRIED.*

#### **Draft Game Season Recommendations for 2013 season**

The Council considered the Field Officer's recommendations for the 2013-2014 game bird season and after some consideration and discussion the following resolutions were made:

It was moved: *That the Council accepts the draft recommendations made by the Field Officer, for the season lengths and daily bag limits except the Shoveler and subject to the 2013 trend counts.*

*Chris Lynch/Leo Leonard* *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *To keep the bag limit at three and the duration of game season for the Shoveler Duck.*

*Cameron Shanks/Mike Newson* *CARRIED.*

#### **Auditor's Management Letter**

The Council discussed the letter from the auditor where some matters were raised and needed to be addressed by the Council.

#### **Employees Entitlements**

It was moved: *That the employee's entitlements are referred to the Manager's Annual Performance Committee.*

*Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper* *CARRIED.*

#### **Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust**

The auditors have raised concerns about the day to day operation and decision making of the Trust. The Manager needed some guidance and direction on how many hours should be spent on Trust business.

It was moved: *That the Manager writes to all the trustees voicing the auditor's concerns on the day to day operation of the Trust.*

*Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan* *CARRIED.*

#### **Interest's Register**

The Conflict of Interest register was noted by the new Council and will be updated on a regular basis.

#### **2012 Audit**

The Council found the auditor's letter to be constructive and the overall evaluation of the Council and its performance to be good.

### **Appointment of Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee**

The Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee was appointed amongst the Council. The new committee consists of the Chairman, Dave Nicholson, Councillor Noel Birchall and Chris Lynch.

The Chairman will arrange a suitable meeting date for an end of year performance review with the Manager and the appointed Councillors.

### **Managers Financial Report**

It was moved: **That the Financial Reports be received.**

**Noel Birchall/Chris Lynch** **CARRIED.**

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

**Chris Lynch/ Cameron Shanks** **CARRIED.**

### **General Business**

The Manager circulated a media statement on the Auditor General to look at the finances of the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game region.

The Manager sought from the Council if any of the Councillors wanted to order any Fish & Game ties. None of the Councillors wants a tie.

The Council acknowledged the contribution to the Council by Trevor Osbaldiston and Kevin Alexander and requested the Manager to write a letter to the Councillors in appreciation of their service and support to Fish & Game over the years.

The Manager was also asked to purchase a small gift in our appreciation.

The Manager advised and invited the Councillors that as this was the last meeting of the year for 2012 and also to farewell past Councillors and welcome new Councillors, and to promote the Christmas - New Year season he had arranged for some refreshments at the close of the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.50 p.m.



**Dave Nicholson**  
**Chairman**  
**1<sup>st</sup> February 2013**

