

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 1st February 2013.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

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

**Conservation
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

**Department of
Conservation:** Darren Jones

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Nathan Burkepile (Field Officer),
Fay Stodart (Office Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table and a special welcome to Darren Jones as the new Department of Conservation representative to the Fish & Game meetings.

APOLOGIES: No apologies recorded.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2012 are confirmed as true and correct with one correction noted.*

Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

Matters Arising

Governance Training Day

After some discussion, the Council agreed upon a date which suits most of the Councillors for the Governance Review/Training day. This training day will be held at the office of Northland Fish & Game on the 17th March 2013 commencing at 8.30am. The Manager urged the whole Council to attend this training day as the new Councillors need to learn their obligations and responsibilities under the local government official act.

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 carpenter will commence the alterations on the 7th February and this work will take approximately seven to ten days to complete.

2013 Game Gazette Notice Final Recommendations

Field Officer Nathan Burkepile gave a brief account on the Mallard Research Group meeting he attended in Wellington in December. Nathan continued on and gave a power point presentation explaining the graphs he had put together from previous years game bird harvest surveys.

The Council discussed the Field Officer's recommendations and sought some clarification on the bag limit recommendations for the Grey/Mallard Duck. There was a concern of changes to the season length and the reduced bag limit in the neighbouring F&G region. The Chairman called for a show of hands as to who supported the change and who was opposed. Councillor Birchall referred the Council to the December meeting where a motion was passed that the Council approved the draft recommendation, and as that motion has not been rescinded the Council should only be considering the species that were subject to the trend count, namely swan and paradise ducks.

The Council voted on the draft recommendations made at the December 2012 meeting:

That the Council accepts the draft recommendations made by the Field Officer for the season length and a reduction to the daily bag limit (10) for the Grey/Mallard Duck.

For 6 votes/ Against 6 votes

Status quo prevailed

The daily bag limit for Mallard and Grey ducks remains at 15 birds for the 2013 game season

It was moved: **To accept the recommendations from the Field Officer and Manager in reducing the number of Paradise Shelduck from 25 to 20 and to shorten the season by one week to 28 July 2013.**

Cameron Shanks/Mike Newson

An amendment to the motion was made:

To accept the recommendations from the Field Officer and Manager in reducing the number of Paradise Shelduck from 25 to 20 but to leave the season length at the 4th August 2013.

Noel Birchall/Maurice Blyde

Amendment Lost

The Council then voted on the original motion and was carried.

Lease Agreement of Greenheart Land

The Manager updated the Council on the property adjacent to the Jack Bisset Wetland. The Manager received an email from Greenheart Group with concerns on the high valuation received from Valuers Telfer Young.

Greenheart Group is currently in a position where they cannot sell this land, but has offered Fish & Game a 99 year lease in its place. The Manager asked approval from Council to proceed with this option to lease the land and to have the first right of refusal should this land come available for purchase in the future.

It was moved: *That the Manager proceeds to get a draft lease agreement from Greenheart Group including a right of renewal for a 99 year lease and a first right of refusal if this block of land comes available for sale.*

Mason Elliott/Noel Birchall *CARRIED*

The Council discussed long-term leasing other land as an alternative to purchasing blocks of land for development into wetlands and wildlife habitats.

The Council referred to the three DoC co-management agreements with the Department and requested that the Manager make every attempt to negotiate with the Conservator any other management agreements to put in place opportunities for wetland management and enhancement while providing and securing hunter access.

Audit Fees for 2013 – 2015

The Manager explained to the Council the proposed audit fees for the next three years and the estimated audit hours.

It was moved: *The Council accepts the audit fee proposal from Kennedy Allbon Tane Audit & Assurance*

Noel Birchall/Chris Lynch *CARRIED*

Manager's Financial Report

It was moved: *That the Financial Reports are accepted.*

Chris Lynch/Mason Elliott *CARRIED*

Executive Limitations Report

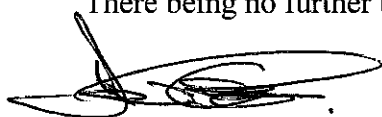
It was moved: *That the Executive Limitations Report be received.*

Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED*

General Business

The Chairman asked that a reminder is sent out to all Councillors about the Governance Training day.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.



Dave Nicholson
Chairman
5th April 2013