

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 7th JUNE 2013.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Phil Durham, Leo Leonard, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks, Mark Williamson.

**Conservation
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

**Department of
Conservation:** Darrin Jones

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

APOLOGIES: Maurice Blyde, Mason Elliott, Chris Lynch.

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

Cameron Shanks/ Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th April 2013 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Leo Leonard/ Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

Governance Training Day

The governance review/training day was postponed again due to the Manager being very ill. The Council agreed to review a date for this training day at the next Council meeting in August.

Fire Safety Standards within the office

The Manager explained to the Council the difficulties of getting a code of compliance for the work which has been completed within the office. Fire Security Services has recently changed ownership and because of this, the work which they had to complete was delayed. They have now completed an inspection and the Council is waiting for an independent certificate of completion for the installation of the fire alarm system. Once this statement is received, all necessary documentation will be given to the Whangarei District Council so the final Code of Compliance can be issued.

Manager's Annual Performance Review

The Chairman notified the Council that the Review was delayed due to The Manager being away on sick leave. The Review Committee will meet in the next fortnight to discuss and finalise the Manager's annual performance. As the next Council meeting is two months away, the Council agreed with the Chairman that the Manager has waited a long time for a decision on his review. The Chairman will circulate all options to all Councillors and they can approve in writing to the Chairman.

Past Fish & Game Councillors Acknowledgement

The Manager has delivered the Habitat Print to past Councillor Trevor Osbaldiston. The Manager will deliver the other print to past Councillor Kevin Alexander when he goes to Kaikohe for the Secondary School Clay Target Shoot.

Lease Agreement of Greenheart Land

The Manager has received a draft lease from Greenheart Forests. At a quick glance, the Manager informed Council that the lease is not what Fish & Game and Greenheart had discussed. The Manager will go through the draft lease thoroughly and make changes where necessary. The Manager will contact Greenheart and discuss these changes and hopefully will have a proposed lease agreement for Councillors to read at the next Council meeting.

Liaison

The Manager contacted Chris Jenkins on his return to work. Chris informed the Manager that he is no longer the Northland Conservancy but now the Operations Managers from Hamilton North. Darrin Jones informed the Council that he has been reconfirmed and that other staff members within DoC have to reapply for their jobs. The new restructuring of DoC will go live from the 1st September 2013.

Negotiation

The Manager informed Council that three different hunting parties visited Te Paki over the Queen's Birthday weekend. All three parties informed the office that many birds were shot and everyone had a great weekend. No organised shoot has been arranged as the Manager has been away on sick leave and feels it may not be necessary now.

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Nomination

It was resolved: *That Ian Hogarth will be nominated to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust on behalf of Northland Fish & Game.*

Noel Birchall/ Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

The Manager will write to Robert Sowman, NZ Fish & Game Council notifying him of Ian's nomination.

General Business – Members of Parliament

As the Manager has been away on sick leave, no appointments have been made to visit the local Members of Parliament to discuss the proposed environmental changes to the RMA. The Manager received an email from Bryce Johnson, CEO of NZFGC, on comments in the media about the RMA.

The Council decided that the Chairman will write a letter to the Members of Parliament in Northland on the proposed RMA changes and advise the MPs of Northland Fish & Game's views of these proposed changes. This will be followed up with a meeting with the MP's.

Managers Activity Report

The Council considered the operational report on a page by page basis.

1181 Game Bird Dispersal

The Council has recently purchased two new gas guns. These two new guns will replace the older guns held in the Far North which have been failing on occasions.

1228 Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve

The Manager updated the Council on an email received from three angry hunters who hunted in the Wairua River Wildlife Reserve on opening weekend. They were not happy because other hunters had parked their vehicles too close to the Reserve and disrupted the shooting within the Reserve. The Manager felt that he had limited powers in regards to the parking of vehicles on private property, but he will alter the permit for the next hunting season in 2014, so that parking of vehicles must be at least 300 metres from the Reserve. The Manager will reply to these hunters, informing them of these changes in the permit rules.

1242 Northland Habitat Trust

Advice from the Manager was given to a licence holder on wanting to bequeath a donation to Fish and Game for the creation of a habitat within the Whangarei area. The Manager advised the licence holder that conditions should be specified with the bequest and would need to nominate that such funds were held in a dedicated account such as The Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust.

1511 Compliance

Ten offenders were apprehended over the opening weekend for a range of offences. All of the ranger's reports and the Manager's recommendations have been sent to the Prosecution's Committee for their consideration. Once the Committee has decided on each case, letters will be written to all of the offenders notifying them of the outcome.

A letter of thanks has been sent to all rangers thanking them for their efforts over the opening weekend and also notifying them of a CERT's refresher course on 10th August 2013.

1821 Draft Budget

The Manager attended a Manager's meeting in Wellington to discuss the 2013/14 draft budget. Northland Fish & Game was successful in attaining two out of three funding bids. The region was unsuccessful in obtaining funds to employ an additional field officer in the Far North.

Bryce Johnson, CEO of NZFGC, and Jay Graybill from Central South Island Fish & Game are willing to come up to Northland to discuss future staffing needs within the region with the Council. The Manager will try to organise it so they would visit Northland and the Far North and also attend a Council meeting in October.

NZFG has raised the topic that it is required to audit various Fish & Game regions on an array of matters which are undertaken under the region's Sports Fish and Game Bird

The Council voted on each suggestion and was unanimous in all decisions:

- Lower threshold for election to more than 9 candidates **NO**
- To utilise reminder prompts and methods to make it easier and quicker to vote in future F&G elections. **YES**
- Set 1st September as the deadline for current or preceding season eligible licence holders to have their name added to the electoral roll. **YES**
- Adopt a set date (say 1 September) as the deadline for enrolment. **YES**
- Allow for licence holders to change regional preference for voting up to 1 September of election year. **YES**
- Make provision to accept postal voting up to four days after voting closes on Election Day. **YES**
- Prompt licence holders to record their email address. **YES**
- Provide for text and email prompt messages prior to Election Day. **YES**
- Require electronic registration of candidate profiles with a photograph. **NO**
- Require candidates to acknowledge possible conflicts of interests in their profiles. **YES**
- Include candidate profiles on website and in special regional election newsletters. **YES**
- Adopt a new Election Day early-to-mid October of the third year. **NO**
- Allow for first meetings of a new council to be held prior to the final week of November. **NO**

2013-14 Licence Fee Recommendations

The Council briefly discussed the proposed increases for the 2013/2014 financial year.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council support the NZFGC recommendation for the 2013/2014 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$121 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$91 (inclusive of a \$2 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.*

Cameron Shanks/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Anglers Notice 2013-14

The Manager provided the Council with a recommendation that no changes be made to the region's angler notice.

It was moved: *That the 2013-2014 Anglers Notice remain unchanged from the 2012-2013 Angler Notice.*

Kris Batelaan/Mark Williamson **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/Leo Leonard **CARRIED.**

