

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 6th December 2013**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

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

Conservation

Board Member: Richard Robbins (Arrived at 8pm)

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

APOLOGIES: Darren Jones (Department of Conservation)

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

Cameron Shanks/Leo Leonard ***CARRIED.***

Adoption of Annual Report 2012-2013

It was resolved: *That the 2012-2013 Annual Report is adopted.*

Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks ***CARRIED.***

After the public AGM meeting was closed, the Chairman commenced the Council meeting.

At the Governance meeting held in October 2013, one of the Council's practices is to include in the agenda an Annual or One Year Schedule for the approaching year. This schedule included the Council processes, regular agenda items and annual items to be discussed at the bi-monthly Council meetings. This schedule is for the Councillor's information and reference.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October 2013 are confirmed as true and correct, subject to a wording change as discussed by the Council.*

Chris Lynch/Maurice Blyde ***CARRIED.***

Matters Arising

Councillor Blyde queried whether a procedure for the “Into Committee Minutes” was attained. The Manager had not acquired any information from the Auditors but the information was found in the Governance policy under 3.3 “Reasons to exclude the Public”. The Council may, by resolution, exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting. When the Council excludes the public, minutes of the “Into Committee” meeting must be written up separately to the public Council meeting and kept in a separate folder. When the staff is excluded from the Council meeting, the Chairman will elect another person to take the minutes and these minutes will be written at a later date.

Managers Activity Report

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

1181 Game Bird Dispersal

The office has been very busy with deploying gas guns for the dispersal of Paradise Shelduck, having no guns left to hire out for a day. The Manager has bought two more gas guns and has on sold one of these guns to a farmer.

1211 Resource Management Act

The Manager recently gave approval to transfer 2000 Chinook Salmon to NIWA in Bream Bay Aquaculture Park. The Manager asked if any Councillors would be interested in taking a tour of this Aquaculture Park in Ruakaka on the 19th December 2013. A number of Councillors were interested and the Manager will contact them all when the day and time of this tour is finalised.

1223 Seasonal Contractor

Recently the Council has employed a seasonal contractor to undertake some of the maintenance work within the Fish & Game properties. The Manager contacted the Department of Conservation informing them that we had employed a contractor to do some spraying of weeds within the Wairua Wildlife Reserve and whether they could fund for some extra chemical and labour for other parts of the Reserve. DoC agreed to the funding and the Manager will meet with them shortly to discuss the weed control and habitat work plan.

1228.2 Greenheart Wetland Property

Greenheart Forestry Group has amended the lease agreement to allow Northland Fish & Game to manage the grazing of the land to Mr Jonathon Davie. A grazing licence is currently been prepared between Fish & Game and Mr Davie. The Manager would prefer the funds from the grazing, be used to offset the annual rates, insurance costs and possibly build a decent water supply for the stock.

1510 Ranger /Compliance/Prosecution

The Courts have not contacted the Manager to date, on an outstanding fine owed by Mr David Michael Cooper Jnr who was prosecuted through the courts in 2011.

1900 Administration

The Manager is currently working on a national MOSS system for the whole of Fish and Game New Zealand. Robert Sowman, Policy and Planning Manager for NZFGC, has agreed to coordinate and help with the national MOSS system once in place.

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

Leo Leonard/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Governance Policy Review

The Manager had made changes to the Governance Policy as directed by Councillors at the recent Governance Policy meeting.

The Conflict of Interest Appendix 2 was amended.

It was moved: *To adopt the draft policy recording the Conflict of Interest Appendix 2.*

Phil Durham/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

At this point of the meeting, Richard Robbins joined the Council meeting.

There were further changes to the Executive Limitation Policy under Business Continuation (EL 9). The Manager had provided some wording changes within this policy. Councillor Birchall suggested that all the policy was written in the negative sense and provided the Council with alternative wording suggestions.

It was moved: *To adopt the changes to the Business Continuation policy as suggested by Councillor Birchall.*

Kris Batelaan/Noel Birchall *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *To adopt the Governance Policy Guidelines with the adopted changes and subject to amendments.*

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *To adopt the Fish & Game Rules Appendix 1.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

NZFGC Agenda News/Update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 23rd & 24th November 2013. Councillor Lynch highlighted the following points from the unconfirmed minutes:

- Proposed Guide Licence. The Council passed a resolution to write to the Minister to request a meeting to discuss the implementation of a guide licence. Councillor Elliott queried whether a guide licence would include Game Bird Hunting Guides. Councillor Lynch will enquire at the next NZFGC meeting.
- Government Proposed Water Quality Measurements: "National Objectives Framework"
- NZFGC congratulated Otago F&G on successfully securing the Nevis Water Conservation Order.
- Work in progress regarding Maritime NZ and its Certificate of Competency Rules.

- National Licence Sales Report. NZFGC will write to F&G regions seeking in how the regions liaise with their licence agents and managing them to use the Agents on Line system.
- A further \$100,000 is allocated to Hawkes Bay F&G as a contingency to cover legal representation on the Ruataniwha Dam consents/Tukituki plan changes.
- Financial Review. A working party will be established to review the financial management of NZ Fish & Game organisation. This party will report with recommendations to the NZ Council meeting in May 2014.
- Draft Prosecution Policy. NZ Council endorsed the draft prosecution policy for consultation with regions, aiming to have the policy adopted as a national policy in July 2014.
- Licence Categories. A report on different licence categories is progressing well and will be sent out to regions for consultation next month.
- 2012 Fish & Game Elections. Results of consultation with regions were received and discussed.
- Game Notice – Issues requiring NZ Council’s consideration.

Potential Land Purchase

The Manager, Councillors Birchall and Mason inspected a property in Kaimaumuau in the Far North district. This property included 946 hectares, divided into three lots and backs onto the Kaimaumuau Wetlands administered by Department of Conservation. The Manager delivered a power point presentation, using google earth, maps and photos highlighting the property. The Manager believed that the habitat was limited habitat for mallards due to the peat soil which was metre deep and low in PH making this land sour. He also believed that the costs to develop this property would be very high and approval from NZFG Council to use the dedicated habitat investment fund would have to be sought before any offer could be made to purchase the land. Any draw down of the Councils reserves will affect future licence fees.

There are three options for the areas for sale:

- Option 1: Sell 300 hectares to DoC and part of Lot 6 for \$1 million
- Option 2: Offer Fish & Game Lot 5 for \$500,000
- Option 3: Offer Fish & Game the balance of Lot 6 from DoC excluding the resource consented area at a cost of \$1.25m. Adjustments to the boundary would be made.

The Manager had also met earlier in the week with Chris Jenkins, Director Conservation Services Northern North Island, Department of Conservation, to discuss the possible purchase of this property.

Both Councillor Birchall and Mason gave their personal views on the property and endorsed the Managers comments.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game does not progress any further to purchase this property.*

Phil Durham/Leo Leonard

CARRIED.

Correspondence

NZ Black Hooks Fishing Team Sponsorship

A letter addressed to the Chairman was received from Karl Pereira, Team Manager for the New Zealand Black Hooks fishing team who competed in the inaugural China, Australia, New Zealand, (C.A.N) International Kayak fishing challenge. The letter requested the Council to consider a special permit for the team members to be waived freshwater licences or provided complimentary annual licences for the group to fish and train in Northland waters.

The Manager declared a conflict of interest, as he was a team member that attended the fishing challenge in China earlier this year.

It was moved: *That the Chairman replies to the letter to seek further information and ask for an actual proposal on days they would require such permits.*

Mason Elliott/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Game Hunter Survey

The Council commented on the results and graphs which Field Officer Nathan Burkepile had compiled on the game hunter survey. The Council acknowledged and thanked Nathan for organising and coordinating the survey.

2014 Draft Game Season Recommendations

The Council considered the Field Officer's recommendations for the 2014-2015 game bird season and after some consideration and discussion the following resolutions were made:

It was moved: *To keep the bag limit at fifteen for the Grey/Mallard duck and any hybrid of that species.*

Noel Birchall/Mike Newson *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *To keep the bag limit at three for the Shoveler Duck.*

Leo Leonard/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *To keep the mixed bag limits the same as the previous year.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

It was moved: *To accept the recommendation to change the season length for California and Brown quail in Area A to end on the 3rd August 2014 so as to bring it in line with the pheasant season.*

Chris Lynch/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

It was moved: To keep the bag limit to five for pheasants (rest of region).
Noel Birchall/Mike Newson CARRIED.

It was moved: To support the recommendations for the reduced time in shooting hours to 8.00pm for the Special Weekend for Paradise Shelduck on the 21st and 22nd February 2015.
Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde CARRIED.

It was moved: To support the recommendations for the reduced time in shooting hours to 8.00pm for the hunting of Pukeko from the 21st February to 1st March 2015.
Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde CARRIED.

It was moved: That the Council accepts all other draft recommendations made by the Field Officer, for the season lengths and daily bag limits subject to the 2014 aerial trend counts.
Wayne Pepper/Cameron Shanks CARRIED.

Managers Financial Report

It was moved: That the Financial Reports be received.
Leo Leonard/Phil Durham CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: That the Executive Limitations Report be received.
Cameron Shanks/Mason Elliott CARRIED.

Appointment of Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee

The Chairman advised the Council that the Manager's performance review was due and that a committee was required.

It was moved: That the committee stay the same as the previous year which was made up of Dave Nicholson, Noel Birchall and Chris Lynch.
Mason Elliott/Kris Batelaan CARRIED.

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

General Business

The Chairman thanked Rudi, Nathan and Fay for their support and dedication over the year and wished all Councillors a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.45pm.

Noel Birchall
Elected Chairman
31st January 2014