

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 31st January 2014**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Noel Birchall (Appointed)

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde, Phillip Durham, Chris Lynch,
Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks.

Conservation

Board Member: Richard Robbins

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

The Manager asked for nominations to appoint a Chairman for the Council meeting as Chairman Dave Nicholson was absent from the meeting.

It was moved: *That Noel Birchall is duly appointed as Chairman for the meeting.*

Mike Newson/ Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

APOLOGIES: Mason Elliott, Leo Leonard, Dave Nicholson,
Mark Williamson
Darren Jones (Department of Conservation)

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

Mike Newson/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December 2013 are confirmed as true and correct, subject to adding the adoption of the 2012-2013 Annual Accounts.*

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

NZFG Council News/Update

As requested at the last meeting, Councillor Lynch made enquiries on the Proposed Guide Licence. He reported that there is no intention to include Game Bird Hunting Guiding in the current Guides Licence proposal, but there is provision within the Wildlife Act for game bird hunting guides to operate. He explained that nothing

under section 23 (4 a &b) of the Act does not prohibit the provision of game hunting guide services by a game hunting guide in accordance with the Act i.e. complies with the game season regulations or the charging of fees in respect of such services; nor does it prevent the Minister granting to a game hunting guide any concession.

Councillor Lynch believed that any potential game bird hunting guide licence would presumably be restricted to game bird preserves and also would have to be supported by the NZFGC. It would then have to go through the normal consultative process with regions and be presented to the Minister for his approval.

Potential Land Purchase

The Manager had notified the owner of the property in Kaimaumau in the Far North District that the Council was not interested in purchasing this land.

New Zealand Black Hooks Sponsorship

Karl Pereira sent an email to the Manager explaining some new developments such as the squad size may change from 15 to possibly 20, the location of the various members are throughout New Zealand and also the squad is wanting to fish for Perch and other similar species. Given these changes and developments, the NZ Black Hooks are now looking to obtain authority at a higher level. Karl thanked the Council for their willingness to assist in any sponsorship.

Managers Activity Report

The Council considered the Operational report on a page-by-page exception basis with discussion or further clarification occurring on some items.

1111 Aerial Trend Counts

The Manager informed Council that the aerial trend counts were completed and this report was late due to the second flight taking place on Friday 24th January. Councillor Lynch enquired on the cost to transport mallards from the South Island to parts of the North Island. The Manager believed that there would be no real benefits given the cost of trapping the birds are most likely they would fly back to where they were captured.

1316 Northland Secondary Schools Clay Target Competition

The Manager distributed the current Northland Clay Target Club Programme 2014-2015 to Councillors who were interested. The Manager is organising prizes for the 2014 clay target competition commencing on the 15th March at Kaeo.

1900 Administration

The Manager informed Council that Nathan and he had attended and passed the Power Boat Level 2 refresher course in Auckland on the 30th January. These certificates will be sent out to Nathan and Rudi at a later date. The Manager informed the Council that they are intending to use the boat on opening weekend for the game bird season.

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

Wayne Pepper/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

The Councillors decided that there were two options for the future of the Trust:

- Option 1: To wind up the Trust completely OR
- Option 2: To make the Habitat Trust completely independent from Northland Fish & Game Council and have all administration handled by the trustees.

The Council asked the Manager to obtain all information and correspondence from the OAG and the Auditors and to obtain further clarification on how the Habitat Trust could disassociate from the Northland Fish & Game Council.

The Council agreed to wait upon the Trustees to have their meeting in February and to make a decision on the future of the Trust afterwards.

It was moved: *That the future of the Habitat Trust lay on the table till after the Trustee meeting and further information has been obtained from the Auditors and OAG. This matter will be readdressed at the next Council meeting.*

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

Governance Policy: Council Performance Review

The Manager included two formats of the Governance Performance Review within the agenda. Councillors were asked to consider both layouts and all of the questions within the review.

It was moved: *That the Council proceed with the Northland Fish & Game Council Performance Evaluation which had been used in the past.*

Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper

CARRIED.

The Council requested the Manager add an extra column in the ratings so if Councillors could not provide a ranking; an X can be marked within this column. The Council agreed that the review is undertaken in March and September. The review will be sent out to all Councillors with these unconfirmed minutes requesting them to be returned within two weeks. The Council Performance review will be entered into the annual work plan for six monthly reviews as stated in the Northland Governance Policy 11.3.2.

New Licence Categories and Pricing

Regional Fish and Game Councils were asked to consider the revised recommended licence categories and pricing structure and to provide a response back to New Zealand Council with the aim of the categories/pricing being confirmed at the NZ Council meeting in March 2014. The new licence categories are aimed at the Fish Licences only, which may be introduced into the 2014 Fish season.

The Council had viewed a power point presentation on the new licence categories in the June Council meeting last year and had agreed in principle with the research.

The Council discussed the various categories and queried the following:

- The firm cost of implementing the new categories within the licence database (Eyede)
- Upgrade or endorsement for the Local Area Licence, i.e., can the Local Area Licence be transferred to a different area if the licence holder moves residence within the season.
- Super Gold Card Restriction in the Loyal Senior licence. The Super Gold Card holder should be removed as this licence is for senior licence holders who have held a licence for 5 years or more continuously and are over 65 years of age.
- Remove the Community Service Card restriction in the Local Area Licence category. The Community Service Card means that it is based on financial circumstances.

It was moved: *That the above recommendations are sent to NZFG Council.*

Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson *CARRIED.*

Draft Prosecution Policy including reparations

The Council considered the draft prosecution policy.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council endorses the draft prosecution policy and agrees to it being adopted as a national policy by the NZ Council.*

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Proposed Transition to the use of non-toxic shot in sub gauge shotguns

NZFG Council asked all regional councils to consider the proposed transition process to phase out the use of lead shot in sub gauge shotguns with possible exemptions and timeframes and to provide a response back to the NZ Council.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council unequivocally rejects any proposal to ban lead shot being used in sub gauge shotguns for waterfowl hunting. The Council further notes that the use of sub gauge shotguns for waterfowl hunting has not yet reached the thresh hold of 10%, set by NZFG Council at which time, a review of their use would be considered and secondly, a ban would be detrimental to our licence holders wishes and could discourage youth and women shooters from participating in our sport.*

Chris Lynch/Phil Durham *CARRIED.*

Complaints Policy

The Complaints Policy was missed in the review of all Governance policies at the last Governance meeting held in October last year. The Council requested the Manager to readjust the policy to include Northland Fish & Game and to bring the amended copy back to the next Council meeting to be adopted.

Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence from A/WFGC Manager on the regional staffing levels based on licence sales and also OFGC Councillors paper on licence sale trends in the North and South Islands.

Manager's Financial Report for period ending 31st December 2014

It was moved: *That the Manager's Financial Report is adopted.*

Kris Batelaan/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Executive Limitations Report

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

Kris Batelaan/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Other Business

Sporting Clay Shooting

Councillor Lynch reported to the Council on the successful three day event the Marua Sporting Clay Club hosted in November last year at Te Kopuru with shooters from other countries, most notably Australia and New Caledonia competing in the North Island and NZ Sporting Compak Champs competition.

Photos

The Manager asked all Councillors, on behalf of the Field Officer, for any game bird hunting photos they may have to use in the magazine and newsletter or can be downloaded on to the Fish & Game website.

Jack Bisset Wetland Permits

The Jack Bisset Wetland Committee proposed to increase the permit fee to enter the Jack Bisset Wetlands from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for the next game bird hunting season. This increase of \$5.00 would go directly into the predator control programme within the Wetland. In order to increase this fee, the Committee needed approval from the Fish & Game Council.

The Council voted on this motion resulting in four approved and three against.

It was moved: *That the Council supports the increase in permit fee from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for the Jack Bisset Wetland.*

Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson *CARRIED.*

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Into Committee

Resolved: *Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson* *CARRIED.*

Reason: The reason the public is excluded is to protect the privacy of a living person.

Grounds: The grounds for excluding the public are that the public conduct of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would likely result in disclosure of information, where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of living persons.

Out of Committee.

Resolved: Mike Newson/ Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Dave Nicholson
Chairman
4th April 2014