

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 17th OCTOBER 2014.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Noel Birchall (*Appointed*)

Councillors: Maurice Blyde, Phil Durham, Mason Elliott, Cameron Shanks, Wayne Pepper

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Office Administrator)
Corina Jordan (Environmental Manager, Wellington Fish & Game Council)

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.*

Wayne Pepper/ Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and extended a special acknowledgement to Corina Jordan. The Chairman called the meeting to order and distributed a revised agenda around the table.

APOLOGIES: Kris Batelaan, Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Mark Williamson.

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

Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th August 2014 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Cameron Shanks /Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Manager's Operational Report

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

1112 Shoveler Count

The Manager received a comprehensive report on the day of the meeting. This report will be sent out to all councillors for their information.

1115 Pheasant Banding

The Manager recounted the trip to Napier to pick up the pheasants to release in Northland. All orders for pheasants have been invoiced and all invoices except two have been reimbursed back to the Council. The Manager voiced his concerns on the cost to the Council for staff time and vehicle running to pick up and release the pheasants.

1211 Resource Management Act

The Manager, Field Officer Burkepile and Corina Jordan attended two workshops on water quality and water quantity in the past week, which was held by the Northland Regional Council. The Manager asked Corina to attend these workshops so she could assist with the water and soil plan within the region.

The Manager updated the Council on the predator control programme within the wetlands and forests in Northland. The Manager informed the Council of the new kill traps which the Council has recently purchased and provided to Grant Shaw to run the trapping operation within the Aupouri Forest.

The Council discussed the predator control programme on an all year basis within the Flaxmill Wetland and whether the cost of permits for the Flaxmill should rise to accommodate extra funds for predator control. The Manager will contact all stand holders at the Flaxmill Wetland to gauge their reaction to an increase in cost per permit.

1228 Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve

The Manager advised the Council that the contractor will commence work in the Wairua Wildlife Reserve in early November. The contractor will remove a derelict fence, carry out some follow-up spraying and mulch back the tracks which was done earlier in the year.

1231 Advice Property Owners on Habitat

Three out of four applications to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust was successful for the Northland Region. An application to install a control structure and repairs to a dam wall within the Awakino DoC Reserve was successful and the Manager is currently completing a resource consents for work to commence this summer.

1241 Purchasing Properties

The Manager recently met with the Underwoods to discuss the purchase of their Dargaville property. The Manager has obtained a copy of a government valuation and rates demand for the property which will accompany the application to the Nature Heritage Fund. DoC staff and the Council's Manager will complete this application to the Nature Heritage Fund by the end of October. If this application is successful, the Nature Heritage Fund will then negotiate a price with the Underwoods, taking in account of costs to renew boundary fences and undertake helicopter spraying for weed control.

1317 Junior Hunter Programme

The Council sponsored a clothing pack for a school assignment called Project Possum run by some students from Ruawai College to carry out a possum cull within their area.

Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to lack of support and the prize will be returned.

The Council also sponsored a prize for a Clay Shoot run by the Far North Sport Shooting Club. The prize was a 2 man blind and a case of steel shot sponsoring the Veterans 70 plus section.

1411 Conservation Liaison

The Manager met with Chris Jenkins, Director Conservation Services Northern North Island to discuss the Section 54 of the Wildlife Act authority. This authority has been renewed for a further 12 months.

Darren Jones, DoC's representative at Fish & Game meetings has resigned and no other representative has been appointed. The Manager was instructed by the Council to write to the Department of Conservation inviting them to attend the Fish & Game meetings.

1421 Communication

Nathan attended a fresh water workshop at Jordan Valley Road run by the Whitebait Connection Group. This workshop was very well supported and was attended by various politicians and groups.

Nathan has organised Tom Biebighauser, a wetland specialist from USA to visit New Zealand and teach a series of two day wetland restoration workshops in February 2015. There will be two confirmed workshops being held in the Northland region and one in the Eastern Fish & Game region. Another workshop is also planned in Oamaru, South Island being organised by Central South Island Fish & Game.

1610 Licensing

All 2013 – 2014 licence books for the Northland region have been returned and accounted for to Eyede Ltd. There are, however, many fish licence books that have not been returned in other regions which makes incorrect statistics for these regions. Eyede will not complete their audit until all licence books are returned.

1812 Northland Fish & Game Sports Management Plan

Due to work commitments, the Manager has not completed a draft document to the point where the Council's working party can meet to discuss any changes.

1822 Annual Report and Financial Statements

The accountant has completed a draft set of accounts for 2013-2014 financial year for Northland Fish & Game Council and The Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust. The auditors will commence their audit around the 20th October.

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

Maurice Blyde/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Council Performance Evaluation Review

Under the Governance Policy 11.3.2 states that "*The Council shall every six months carry out a review of its performance*"

The Chairman suggested that this Council performance evaluation review should be changed to once a year.

It was moved: *That the Council Performance Evaluation Review is deferred for six months and that the policy will be considered at the next Council meeting with the intention to change the Review to once a year.*

Mason Elliott/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Staff Report by Nathan Burkepile

The Council discussed the Field Officer's report on the Wetland Restoration Practicum held outside of New York, USA. The Council requested that Nathan Burkepile attend the next Council meeting to discuss his two day course on Wetland Restoration in the States, the upcoming workshops to be held in Northland early next year and the Mallard Research Programme which includes Operation Duck Pond that Nathan is managing.

It was moved: ***That the report by Nathan Burkepile is received.***

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

Corina Jordan – Environmental Manager

Corina Jordan, Environmental Manager, gave a brief outline on her new role within Fish & Game New Zealand. Corina provides support and assistance to all Fish & Game regions in RMA policies and planning issues.

Corina gave a power point presentation on River Management within the Wellington region, changes to the current RMA policy and working with various Regional Councils throughout NZ. The Council discussed different aspects of the power point presentation.

The Chairman thanked Corina for her interesting presentation.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFG Council meeting on the 19th September in Wellington. All councillors had received a draft set of minutes of this meeting. Councillor Lynch was absent and no report was received.

2015 Council Meeting Dates and Locations

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2015. The Council agreed to the dates and to have all meetings in Whangarei.

The following dates and locations are accepted.

Friday 30 th January	Whangarei
Friday 10 th April	Whangarei
Friday 5 th June	Whangarei
Friday 14 th August	Whangarei
Friday 16 th October	Whangarei
Friday 11 th December	Whangarei

It was moved: ***That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings are adopted for 2015.***

Phil Durham/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

NZC Coordination and Audit Function

An opinion on the NZ Council role in coordination and audit was sought from Sir Geoffrey Palmer and was circulated to all Fish & Game regions. The New Zealand Council plans to discuss the practical implications arising from the opinion at the NZ Council's workshop in November with all regional chairmen and the regional Chief Executives/ Managers.

The Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust

The Northland Fish & Game Council chairman received a letter from the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust requesting approval from the Council to wind up and dissolve the Trust. The Trustees believe that the Trust is not working as envisaged and over time all of the funds in the Trust will be spent on audit and accountancy fees.

Councillor Shanks abstained from voting as he is a trustee of The Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust. The Council could not vote on this matter as there was not a quorum.

It was moved: That the future of the Northland Habitat Trust lay on the table till the next Council meeting in December.

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Approval of 2013-2014 Annual Accounts

It was moved: That the annual accounts are circulated to individual Councillors prior to the Annual General Meeting and for each Councillor to approve in writing. Councillors are to forward any queries or concerns to the Manager or to the Chairman who will address them and provide a reply accordingly.

Cameron Shanks/Mason Elliott *CARRIED.*

Bi-Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 31st August 2014

As at the end of August, the Council had a surplus of more than \$29,000 but this figure may change once the audit of accounts is completed. The term investment of \$420,923.00 has been invested into a term deposit at a current rate of 4.50% per annum for 6 months with interest being paid on maturity.

It was moved: That the financial report to the 31st August 2014 is accepted.

Mason Elliott/Phil Durham *CARRIED.*

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper *CARRIED.*

Correspondence

Councillor Elliott is dissatisfied with the response from the NZ Council Chairman on the losses incurred by NZ Fish & Game Council from the previous financial year. The Council will address this matter at their next meeting when the NZ Council delegate, Chris Lynch, is present.

General Business

Conservation Board Field Trip

The Manager informed Council that the Northland Conservation Board members have agreed to come on a field trip to visit the Jack Bisset Wetland and the Wairua River Wildlife Reserve. This field trip will illustrate the work that Fish & Game does to the Board members. The Board has agreed to pay 50% of any costs incurred for this field trip. The Manager will organise a date which will be suitable for most Board members and Fish & Game Councillors before the end of the year.

Councillor Resignation

Councillor Elliott sadly informed the Council that he will be retiring as a Councillor of Northland Fish & Game because of health reasons. He has been a councillor for many years and will be sorely missed by his fellow council members and licence holders in the Far North area. The Chairman thanked Councillor Elliott for his services to Northland Fish & Game and wished him well for the future.

Other General Business

Councillor Shanks brought to the Manager's attention of an advertisement in the Kaipara Lifestyler advertising "*if you have a duck problem*". The Manager will follow up on this advertisement.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Noel Birchall
Chairman (Appointed)