

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Dave Nicholson & Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Ian Hogarth, Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Mark Williamson

**Conservation  
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

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

Chairman Nicholson welcomed the new Councillors to the Council table and congratulated them for stepping up to take on this new role.

The Chairman asked for any apologies for the meeting. There were no apologies given.

**Previous Minutes**

No discussion occurred on the minutes of the last meeting.

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Kris Batelaan/Maurice Blyde*

*CARRIED.*

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Dissolution of Current Council**

The Chairman acknowledged the services of Councillors Leo Leonard and Mark Williamson who decided not to seek re-election and stand down from the Fish & Game Council. The Manager presented both Councillor Leonard and Williamson with a "*Wetlands of New Zealand*" book, Fish & Game cap and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Councillor Leonard thanked his fellow Councillors, the Manager and staff and said that it was a difficult decision to stand down which was due to personal circumstances.

Chairman Nicholson, who advised the Council that he was not seeking a further term as the Chairman, also thanked his fellow councillors for their help and support over the past three years.

The Manager took over the meeting as the acting Chairman and called for nominations for a new Chairman for the current Council.

## **Appointment of New Council**

### **Election of Chairman**

**It was moved:** *That Phil Durham is nominated as Chairman.*

*Dave Nicholson/Cameron Shanks*

Phil accepted the nomination.

The Manager called for further nominations but none were received.

The Manager declared Phil Durham as the new Chairman of the Northland Fish & Game Council.

### **Election of Northland Fish & Game Appointee to the NZFGC**

Chairman Durham called for nominations for a NZFGC appointee.

**It was moved:** *That Noel Birchall is nominated for the New Zealand Fish & Game Council Appointee.*

*Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan*

Councillor Birchall accepted the nomination.

The Chairman called for further nominations but none were received.

The Chairman declared Noel Birchall as the NZFG Council appointee.

Chairman Durham thanked Councillor Lynch for his service and attending the NZFG Council meetings as the NZ Fish & Game appointee for the past six years.

### **Prosecution Committee**

The past Prosecution committee consisted of Noel Birchall, Dave Nicholson and the Manager. Chairman Durham called for nominations for the 2015-2016 Prosecution Committee.

**It was moved:** *That Dave Nicholson is reappointed on the Prosecution Committee.*

*Noel Birchall/ Wayne Pepper* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *That Noel Birchall is reappointed on the Prosecution Committee.*

*Dave Nicholson/Maurice Blyde* **CARRIED.**

At this point, ex-councillors Leonard and Williamson left the meeting.

The Chairman asked all Councillors to introduce themselves to the newly elected councillors. Councillor's Reardon and Hogarth introduced themselves and gave a brief background account of their involvement with Fish & Game over the past years.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Chairman requested all Councillors to complete their Conflict of Interest forms and return them to the office as soon as possible.

### **Oath of Office**

The NZFG Council had sent out a document to all regional councils discussing whether each newly elected council should adopt an Oath of Office.

**It was moved:** *That the document will lay on the table and a decision will be made at the next Council meeting.*

*Noel Birchall/Dave Nicholson* *CARRIED.*

### **Councillor Induction/Governance Course**

The Council discussed whether an induction/governance course was necessary given that the new Councillors had a wealth of experience and involvement with Fish & Game and the role of Councillors under governance.

**It was moved:** *That the Council will not have an induction/governance course.*

*Wayne Pepper/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

A new Councillor guide and a revised 2015-16 Annual Operational Work Plan was distributed to all Councillors.

### **Manager's Activity Report**

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

#### **1181 Game Bird Dispersal**

The bird scaring guns are being hired out as the chicory crops are growing. The Council has changed their fee structure to a lower fee if the farmer picks up the gun and delivers back to the office. Courier fees are charged if the gun is couriered to the farmer and a higher weekly fee and mileage costs are charged if a staff member has to deliver the gun. The Manager advised the council of the new fees.

#### **1211 Resource Management Act**

The repairs to the dam wall at the Awakino Wetland will commence in December to January period. Northland Regional Council requires ten days written notice of commencement of the repair work.

#### **1221 Jack Bisset Wetland**

The Manager advised the Council of a bee keeper placing his hives within or near the Jack Bisset Wetland. He also advised that an annual rental fee will be charged on a per hive basis and the funds will be allocated back into the property for maintenance and improvements to habitat.

#### **1227 Aupouri Forest**

Summit Forest Ltd has sponsored the entire predator control operations this year. Riders Sports in Kaitaia has supplied bait for the predator control operation at cost. The Manager will need to revise the cost of game bird hunting permits for the Aupouri Forest if the forestry company is prepared to fund the operations again next year.

#### **1243 Underwood Property**

Mr Underwood has signed the Sale and Purchase agreement and the agreement is in Wellington for signing from the Director General of Conservation. When all the agreements are signed and the boundary adjustment is registered with new titles, a deposit will be paid to the Underwoods. DoC will send an invoice to Northland Fish & Game for their contribution of the purchase price. Kaipara District Council has approved the boundary adjustment to the property and all survey work is with LINZ for registration on the titles.

The Manager will be at the property on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 with a registered surveyor from Lands and Survey to survey off the wetland area that will be vested to Fish & Game as a Local Purpose Reserve (Wildlife Management.)

Councillor Hogarth thanked the Manager for the huge amount of work that has gone into obtaining this property.

#### **1311 Access**

The Manager has some concerns when the Treaty Settlements become official and some Crown lands in the Far North will become private land. Licence holders may have limited or no access for game bird hunting when the Treaty Settlements go through. The Manager informed Council that the Manager of the Aupouri Forest, Summit Forest Ltd, finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> December and the Council will likely need to renegotiate access into the Aupouri Forest next year for the game bird season.

#### **1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Fishing Competition**

The Manager will contact Kaipara District Council about a letter received from the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee requesting Northland Fish & Game to obtain permission to hold the annual Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing competition.

#### **1531 Prosecution**

The Manager updated the Council on the current court case where a hunter is charged with hunting without a current game bird licence and knowingly giving false information to rangers. The alleged offender has pleaded not guilty and will reappear in the Dargaville District Court on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

#### **1842 National MOSS**

The Manager has prepared and coordinated the National Maritime Operators Safety Systems document for all Fish & Game regions which will be finalised and sent off to Maritime NZ next week. The Manager applied for an extension to Maritime NZ for an authority to operate a boat. Maritime NZ agreed and approved the extension for five months.

#### **1843 Mallard Research**

Councillor Shanks enquired whether the national mallard research citizen science project was continuing as he had not received any information or forms to complete on his pond study. The Manager will investigate and get the information out to him.

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

*Kris Batelaan/Dave Nicholson*

*CARRIED.*

#### **Black Swan**

The Manager updated the Council on the Black Swan situation with the NRC and that the Council endorsed the Manager and Field officer's handling of the situation and offered support if required. The Field Officer will attend a meeting in the Far North in late November with concerned parties.

#### **NZFG Council Update**

Councillor Chris Lynch attended a NZFG Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September and he highlighted the following points from the unconfirmed minutes:

- Land & Water Forum. NZ Fish & Game have formally resigned from the Land & Water Forum because of changes to the forum's rules around membership and restrictions on the ability to speak out about environmental issues.
- Environmental Scan.
- Licence Categories. The new licence categories have been well received by licence holders.
- RM/Legal Update Report. NZ Council agreed that it is timely for the research strategy is reviewed by all Fish & Game regions and the regions should respond with any changes.
- Research Projects Update. The NZ Council has requested an update report on the results from the Mallard Research project.

- Fishing and Hunting Regulations. The NZ Council will encourage Managers to simplify and minimize the fishing and hunting regulations.
- Elections. NZ Council will review the Fish and Game election regulations.
- Department of Conservation. Lou Sanson, DG Conservation spoke to the Council on various topics. Mr Sanson is very supportive of Fish & Game NZ.
- Reparation Policy. It was agreed that the revised reparation policy document is circulated to all regions before adopting it as a national policy.
- Treatment of the Non-Resident Licence Revenue. The majority of regions favoured to retain the revenue at regional level for specific management to improve back country fisheries.
- Review of Governance Policies.
- NZ Professional Fishing Guides Ass. Two representatives from the Guide Association went through their draft MOU with the Council discussing all six points. A copy of the revised MOU will be sent to NZ Council on completion.

Councillor Lynch thanked the Council for their support and trust over the past six years as the Northland Fish & Game appointee. He found the experience very rewarding.

### **2016 Council Meeting Dates and Locations**

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2016. The Council agreed to the dates and to have all meetings in Whangarei.

The following dates and locations are accepted.

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Whangarei
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Whangarei
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Whangarei
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Whangarei
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Whangarei
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Whangarei

It was moved: *That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings are adopted for 2016.*

*Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde* *CARRIED.*

### **Approval of 2014-2015 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.*

*Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

### **Financial Report for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015**

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

*Mike Newson/Wayne Pepper* *CARRIED.*

As at the end of August, the Council had a surplus of more than \$9,259 but this figure may change once the audit of accounts is completed.

The Financial Officer provided two financial reports which covered two financial years.

**Financial Report for period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

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

*Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan* ***CARRIED.***

**Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Kris Batelaan/Wayne Pepper* ***CARRIED.***

**General Business**

The Manager informed Council that the NZ Council will hold a NZC meeting in Northland in November next year. The Manager is hoping to take all NZ Councillors on a field trip, to visit the Greenheart Property and the Underwood property in Dargaville.

The Manager advised Council that the auditors have commenced auditing the 2014-15 annual accounts and the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust does not require an audit as the Trust is wound up. The auditors require a set of accounts for the Trust to be included in the Northland Fish & Game accounts.

The Manager updated the Council on the sale of the Santa Fe. The Manager received an enquiry on the car at the Council meeting and the Council agreed to sell the Santa Fe at the lower price that was advertised. The Manager arranged to meet a potential buyer for the car.

The Chairman asked the Council table for any other business. Richard Robbins updated the Council on the Fonterra/Doc partnership.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28pm.



***Phil Durham***  
***Chairman***  
***10<sup>th</sup> December 2015***