

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 10th February 2017.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

**Conservation
Board Members:** Alan Martin

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table.

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

Annual or One Year Agenda

January annual items requiring the Council's consideration include the Manager's Performance Review Report and evaluation of the Council's Governance Review.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 2016 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Maurice Blyde/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

The Chairman apologised to the Manager for not arranging a meeting to discuss the Manager's Annual Performance review. The Chairman will organise a meeting with the Performance Review committee before the next Council meeting in April.

Manager's Report

The Council considered the operational report with discussions on the following items:

1111 Trend counts

The Manager informed Council that the aerial trend counts were completed on the 18th January 2017. Overall numbers for Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan were similar to previous years.

1221 Jack Bisset Wetlands

Digger work has been completed at the Jack Bisset Wetlands clearing weed from the ponds which were balloted out for the upcoming game bird season.

1225 Flaxmill Wetlands

The maintenance digger work at the Flaxmill Wetland has been completed and a mulcher has been arranged to mow the stop banks and access tracks within the next month. The Council questioned the Manager on the hourly price for the mulcher as they believed the price was very excessive. The Manager will investigate other contractors and their hourly rate to do this work.

The Manager stated that the Council needs to review other strategies to maintain these ponds with evasive weed and to input these increasing costs into the 2017-2018 budget.

The Councillors discussed the regulations on the Northland Fish & Game wetland permits and will review the permits regulations at the next Council meeting.

1228.1 Awakino Wetlands

The Manager advised the Council that work within this wetland is due to commence in early March.

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

Kris Batelaan/Chris Lynch **CARRIED.**

Field Officer Report

The Council discussed the Field Officer's Report briefly.

It was moved: *That the Field Officers Activity Report is received.*

Dave Nicholson / Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Councillor Resignation

The Manager circulated an email from Councillor Ian Hogarth stating his resignation from Northland Fish & Game Council. Ian and Jeannie decided to move back to the South Island after Jeannie's retirement and resignation from the Department of Conservation.

The Manager suggested that the Council advertise the vacancy and call for any nominations in the Northland Fish & Game newsletter which will be circulated to all holders of a Northland Fish or Game licence in March.

It was moved: *That the Council accepts Ian Hogarth's resignation with regret.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Kai Iwi Lakes Update

The Manager attended a Taharoa Governance Committee meeting on Thursday 9th February. The Manager recounted the meeting to the Council, informing that a group called the "Friends of Kai Iwi Lakes" also attended where they voiced their concerns on the new boating regulations. The Manager advised the Taharoa Governance Committee that Fish & Game is currently having their lawyers draw up papers for a judicial review of the Kai Iwi Lakes Management Plan. The Council's lawyers will lay these papers with the High Court in Auckland within the next month.

Health & Safety Bi-monthly Report

Northland Fish & Game is required to give a Health & Safety report at each Council meeting detailing:

- The implementation and adherence to Health & Safety policy/manual
- Any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed.
- Progress with any ongoing issues.
- Outcomes of audits and reviews required in the Health & Safety manual.
- Any near misses or injuries.

It was moved: ***That the Health and Safety Report is received.***

Chris Lynch/ Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

World Wetlands Day

An official invitation and programme was circulated to all Councillors inviting them to the official opening of the Underwood Wetlands. The invitation has been sent to all licence holders in the Northland region, DOC, NRC and KDC staff members, Iwi and many other interested parties. The Manager confirmed that the Associate Minister of Conservation is attending this opening.

NZFGC Update

There has been no New Zealand Fish & Game Council meeting since November last year.

The Manager distributed the “Standing Orders for Rules for the Conduct of Meetings” to all Councillors. The Council decided that this document is an agenda item for the next Council meeting in April so NZFGC can discuss and adopt these rules for their own Council meetings.

Governance Councillor Performance Review

Governance Policy 11.3.2 states that “*The Council shall every 12 months carry out a review of its performance*” *The Council’s Performance Evaluation Review is on an annual basis which will be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.*

All reports from all Councillors were collected by the Chairman. The Chairman will collate all of the results and convey them at the next Council meeting.

Auditors Management Letter

It was moved: ***That the Auditor’s Management letter is received and acknowledged by the Northland Fish & Game Council and the Auditor’s comments were duly noted.***

Wayne Pepper/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

Managers Financial Report

It was moved: ***That the Financial Report to the 31st December 2016 is adopted.***

Darryl Reardon / Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

The Manager distributed an analysis of the expenses to the Underwood Wetlands. To date the expenses are well under budget. The Manager asked the Council on whether a 2-3 bay shed could be constructed close by to the wetlands for shelter and storage.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Wayne Pepper/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

General Business

The Manager tabled and explained the licence sales spreadsheet. The Northland region sales are up 2.3% from this time last year.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

A handwritten signature, appearing to be 'Wayne Pepper', written in black ink. The signature is somewhat stylized and overlaps the text below.

Chairman
7th April 2017