

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Dave Nicholson (Appointed)

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks.

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

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

**It was moved:** *That Dave Nicholson is duly appointed as Chairman for the meeting.*

*Maurice Blyde/ Wayne Pepper* **CARRIED.**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table.

**APOLOGIES:** Darryl Reardon, Phil Durham,  
Alan Martin (Northland Conservation Board)

**Annual or One Year Agenda**

For the April meeting annual items requiring the Council's consideration includes a review of governance policies and the approval of the 2017-18 Draft Budget and contestable funding applications.

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 are confirmed as true and correct.*

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

**Matters Arising**

**Councillor Resignation**

The applications for the Councillor resignation close on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The Manager informed the Council that one nomination has been received to date. The Council is to consider all nominations after the close off period if no election is called by licence holders.

**Kai Iwi Lakes Update**

The Manager updated the Council on the application for the judicial review of the Kai Iwi Lakes Management Plan. The papers for the judicial review have been sent to Kaipara District Council and are now with KDC's lawyers. Chairman Andrew Wade of the Taharoa

Governance Committee contacted Northland Fish & Game seeking to arrange a meeting to discuss this legal action. There has been no date confirmed for this meeting.

The Council received another invoice from K3 Consulting Accounting Legal firm which included work completed by the lawyers up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### **Manager's Report**

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

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

The Manager commented on the results on an autopsy of a couple of Paradise shelducks found dead in the Maungaturoto area. The Manager did not believe that the cause of death of these birds were Avian Botulism, as the birds found dead were only shelducks and no other avian wildlife species.

#### **1228.1 Awakino Wetland**

Digger work has been postponed until the weather improves and conditions allow for this work to commence.

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

The Manager received approval from Kaipara District Council to allow the 2017 trout fishing competition to go ahead subject to an environmental risk plan being provided to KDC's satisfaction. Licence holders will be notified accordingly of the date for the competition.

#### **1410 Liaison**

The Manager is seeking formal approval from DOC to issue game bird hunting permits to hunt on conservation land. At present, the Fish & Game office is issuing these permits to the licence holders.

The Manager informed the Council that the Whitehills Forest in the Kerikeri area may be available for hunting access this year. The Manager will meet with the new owners of this forest to negotiate possible access for this game bird hunting season.

The Manager acknowledged and thanked the staff, the Chairman and his partner Tracey, Chris Jenkins and his partner Madeline for their help and support at the Underwood Wetland opening. The Manager received a congratulatory email from the Minister's office on such a well organised day.

#### **1811 Sports Fish & Game Management Plan**

Peter Wilson, Senior Environmental Planner contacted the Manager on the review of the Northland Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan. Mischa Davies (Environmental officer) for the Northland & Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game regions will also help coordinate the review. Mr Wilson suggested that the process to review the plan will follow the successful process used by Otago Fish & Game. The proposal was distributed to the Council.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Fish & Game Council will proceed with the proposal to review the Northland Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan.*

*Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks*

*CARRIED.*

#### **1840 National Liaison**

The Manager brought to the Council's attention of the change in regulations made by the Auckland/Waikato and Eastern regions on the use of Australasian Harriers to take game birds. The Wildlife Act 1953 S18 clearly states: *that no person shall trap game in any manner whatever or take any game by means of traps or by any means other than by shooting with a shotgun.*

**It was moved:** *That the Manager writes to NZFG Council expressing our concerns and the legality on changing the game bird regulations on the use of Australasian Harriers, without consulting other neighbouring regions.*

*Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper* **CARRIED.**

The Manager circulated a letter from the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Maggie Barry, acknowledging the resignation of Councillor Ian Hogarth from the Northland Fish & Game Council.

The Minister thanked Ian for his extensive service to conservation and wildlife management and acknowledged his involvement with the Northland region in attending the Northland Federation of Acclimatisation Societies meetings as well as his service as the Director-General's appointee to the Northland Fish & Game Council.

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

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

#### **Field Officer Report**

The Council discussed the Field Officer's Report briefly.

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

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

#### **NZFG Council Update**

Councillor Birchall attended two half day meetings, one in Christchurch on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and the other in Timaru on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Councillor Birchall gave a brief account to the Council:

- The NZC one-day meeting scheduled for May is to become a two-day meeting.
- Matters referred to the NZ Council by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) involving CSI are back with the OAG who is to visit CSI.
- North Canterbury made a presentation to the NZ Council on the importance of its hatchery and need to use reserves to complete its new headquarters. It was asked to provide further information on the one and an exceptional funding application on the other to be processed by email.
- The Financial Review Committee recommendations were adopted seeking information about youth programmes, setting up for donations and providing policy on reserves. New reserves policy is proposed to replace existing national policy with

consultation of regions to follow. Funding for further work by the Committee was also approved.

- Analysis of licence sales was provided on lapsing, performance of licence categories, backcountry fishery designations and category definitions. Regions are to be consulted on the paper and its recommendations.
- The Chief Executive is to meet with the DG-Conservation to hurry along proposals for the guide licence and uplifting of lead shot exemptions.
- Legal funding for A/W's Healthy Rivers, and CSI's Plan Change 3 & RDR consent hearing were approved.
- A salmon symposium is to be organised for September 2017.
- A Governors' Forum is to be held in July 2018.

Matters involving the OAG, the NZ Council Chief Executive position and NZ Councillors' self-appraisal review were discussed in a public excluded session. Councillor Birchall also commented on the field trip.

### **Licence Sales and Licence Analysis**

At the NZFGC meeting, it was decided to consult all regions on their views of the current fish licence structure and whether any changes should be made. NZFGC is concerned on the decline of licence income and sales and over time, Fish & Game will need to find other ways of growing our participation in the sport.

The following recommendations were made by NZFGC:

1. That the March 2017 licence sales tables and licence system update are received for information.
2. That licence categories and fee ratios remain unchanged for the 2017/2018 financial year but that:
3. Regional Fish & Game Councils be consulted on support for:
  - a. Imposing a limit on the number of consecutive days that a day licence can be issued for, with the propose limit being three days and not renewable for a further five days.

*The Council disagreed to this recommendation as it is too restricted and Fish & Game could be missing out on more licence sales if they impose a limit on multiple day purchases with an added stand down period. The Council discussed the price of a day licence and whether there should be an increase to the day licence. A non-resident day licence should be created with a 30% increase added to the cost as a recommended model.*

- b. Broadening the number of designated fisheries as a useful management tool in the promotion of more whole season (including non-resident) licences.

*The Council agreed but should be on a regional basis.*

- c. Changing the name of the "Adult Whole Season" licence to "Premium" licence with an expiry date of September 30.

*The Council disagreed to the name change and thought the whole season licence should be kept simple.*

- d. Permitting all named people to use the family licence i.e. primary, secondary and named children as a fish alone licence.

*The Council agreed that the family licence should allow all named people to use the family licence to fish alone. At present, the family licence is very restrictive to the licence holder.*

4. That ways to grow participation rates become part of a proposed marketing strategy.  
*The Council agreed. The NZ population is made up of many races and Fish & Game will need to look at producing regulation booklets in other languages.*
5. Change the name from Day or 24 Hour Licence to “**Have a Go**” licence.  
*The Council agreed to the change of name for the Day Licence.*

### **Standing Orders for Rules for Conduct of Meetings**

Pursuant to section 26 A (1) (d) of the Conservation Act 1987, the Minister of Conservation established the standing orders set out in Schedule 1 as:

- a. The rules for conduct of meetings of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and
- b. Model rules for the conduct of regional Fish and Game Council meetings.

The Council discussed the rules for the conduct of meetings and decided that the standing orders of rules complied with the regulations.

**It was resolved:**        **To adopt the standing orders for rules for the conduct of meetings.**

**Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks**

**CARRIED.**

### **2017-2018 Draft Budget & Contestable Funding Applications**

The Manager advised the Council that the budget level of \$395,985 is the Council’s allocation under current budget policy and any amount exceeding budget needed to be considered as contestable funding applications.

The Manager will make six contestable funding applications:

1. Increases in the Manager Salary as negotiated and agreed by the Council last financial year (2016-2017) and back dated to 1 /09/2015.
2. CPI adjustment to staff salaries and allowances.
3. Establishment of a new Field Officer in the Far North. The Council discussed the staffing levels for the Northland region.
4. To rewrite and update 2 Northland Fish & Game fishing brochures.
5. To increase the office hours so the office is manned full time by a staff member.
6. Maintenance and enhancement works on Fish & Game properties.

The Council discussed each contestable funding application and approved each one.

**It was moved:**        **That the Council approves the draft budget and the 6 contestable funding applications.**

### **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.**

**Kris Batelaan/Mike Newson CARRIED.**

**Executive Limitations Report**

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

**Kris Batelaan/ Mike Newson CARRIED.**

**Financial Report**

The financial report for the six months of the financial year attached showed a net expenditure of 54%.

**It was moved: That the Financial Report for the period ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 is accepted.**

**Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde CARRIED.**

An updated report on fish and game licence sales was received and conveyed to the Council. Licence sales are above sales from the previous year for the Northland region.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.40pm.



**Phil Durham  
Chairman  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2017**