

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 9th JUNE 2017.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Darryl Reardon, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks, Mark McGinley (newly appointed Councillor)

Conservation Board Member: Alan Martin

Dept. of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table. The Chairman made a special welcome to the DoC representative, Ross Atkinson. Mr Atkinson gave a brief account of his association with the Acclimatisation Society, working for DOC and assisting Fish & Game with compliance work.

APOLOGIES: Dave Nicholson

It was moved: *That the apology is accepted.*

Chris Lynch/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Annual or One Year Agenda

June annual items include consideration for the budget and licence fee recommendations for 2017/18 fish season and the Anglers Notice – issues requiring NZC consideration.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2017 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Chris Lynch/ Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

Licence Sales and Licence Analysis

Councillor Lynch was concerned on the decline of licence income which may be related to the structure of the fish licensing. NZ Councillor representative, Noel Birchall, reassured the Council that NZFGC will review the structure of the fish licences next year after two full years of data is received. The administrator distributed the national licence sales report year to date to the 7th June with comparisons to the same time in the previous year.

Public Excluded session of the meeting

The public excluded session of the meeting was for Councillors only without public, staff or representatives of groups present.

7.20pm Resolved: (Cameron Shanks/ Darryl Reardon)

That the Council move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting.

That the public, staff and representatives of groups be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

A letter on the Manager's Performance Review

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED | REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER | GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Confirmation of public excluded minutes - council meeting of (date of meeting) Consideration of independent external advice |) Good reason to withhold exists) under section 9 of the Official) Information Act 1982 | Section 48(1)(a)(ii) |

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

| ITEM | REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982 | SECTION | PLAIN ENGLISH REASON | WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Protect the privacy of natural persons. | Sec. 9(2)(a) | Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person. | Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure. |
| | Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information | Sec 9(2)(b)(ii) | Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released. | Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure. |
| | Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied | Sec 9(2)(ba)(i) | Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence. | Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information. |

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

7.30pm Resolved: (Cameron Shanks/ Darryl Reardon)

That the open meeting of the Northland Fish and Game Council resumes.

Appointment of New Councillor

One licence holder candidate submitted an application to fill the Councillor vacancy left by Ian Hogarth who resigned from the Northland Fish and Game Council in January.

There was no indication or response from any licence holder that they wanted to hold an election under the Fish and Game Council election regulations.

It was moved: That the Northland Fish & Game Council appoints Mark McGinley as Councillor with full voting rights.

Cameron Shanks. Maurice Blyde CARRIED.

The Chairman welcomed Mr McGinley to the Council table.

Manager's Report

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

1221 Jack Bisset Wetland

A letter was received from the Kauri Coaster Adventures, requesting to use the Jack Bisset and Greenheart properties for an outdoor orienteering race. Barry Ruddell who is the event's organiser, met with the Manager at the wetlands to discuss the possibility of holding this event in late October. Mr Ruddell ensured the Council that the necessary health and safety, search and rescue and traffic management plans would be in place along with holding public liability insurance for the event. Any profits that are made from holding this event may be donated Fish & Game to purchase more plants for the Greenheart Wetlands. The Council requested that a final draft programme be submitted before final approval is given.

It was moved: That the Manager, subject to the final draft programme submitted by Kauri Coaster Adventures, approves to hold an orienteering event at the Greenheart and Jack Bisset Wetlands.

Maurice Blyde/Wayne Pepper CARRIED.

1232 NZGBHT Applications

The Manager updated the Council on the planned applications to be submitted to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust at the end of this month. The first application will be to develop stage one at the Underwood Wetland. The Manager will meet with the contractors next week to obtain a quote for costs to commence stage one of the developments which will be submitted to the NZFGHT along with the grant application.

The second application will be to develop a shooting pond at the Greenheart Wetlands.

A third application is for a private land owner Mr Bryce Lupton in the Maungaturoto area to develop a wetland.

Andrew Kirk is working on two other applications.

All applications are due to the Habitat Trust by the 30th June 2017.

It was moved: *That the Council authorises the Manager to submit applications to the NZGB Habitat Trust for the Greenheart and Underwood Wetlands.*

Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition

The tickets for the 2017 fishing competition are on sale and the Manager requested if any of the Councillors are available to assist on the Sunday of the competition. A kayak has been kindly donated by Viking Kayak for a lucky draw in the competition.

1411 DOC Liaison

The Manager was annoyed at the inopportune advice from DOC on discovering a pest plant, Gypsywort, in the Far North at Te Paki Reserve. The office was notified a couple of days before game bird opening weekend that parts of Te Paki Reserve were closed to game bird hunters. The DOC representative, Ross Atkinson, said he would follow up on this issue and will notify the Manager of any updates.

1421 NRC, District Council Liaison

The Manager sent a letter to the CEO of the Northland Regional Council stating his concerns on proposing trout as an exotic and pest fish in the Waitangi Catchment Group Plan. The letter advised the CEO that trout has legal protection and to continue on this path may mean that Northland Fish & Game will seek a judicial review.

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

Chris Lynch/Darryl Reardon **CARRIED.**

Field Officer Report

The Council discussed the Field Officer's Report briefly.

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

Wayne Pepper / Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Birchall attended a two day meeting in Wellington on the 19th and 20th May 2017. All councillors had a copy of the unconfirmed minutes. Councillor Birchall gave a brief account to the Council on the following points:

- Use of Lead Shot in Sub Gauge Shotguns. The NZFGC agreed to phase out lead shot over a four year period commencing from 1st September 2017.
- Conflict of Interest register must be signed at each Council meeting by all Councillors.
- Plastic cartridges in the environment. There is a growing concern over the amount of plastic in the environment and informing hunters to recover their shell cases.
- Governors' Forum to be held in July 2018 and the theme of the Forum will be "Future proofing Fish & Game".
- Didymo Programme. NZFGC was asked for support from their anglers to donate money towards this research through a tick box when purchasing a fish licence.
- An update from Lou Sanson on issues faced by DOC.
- Guides Licence Association. The agreement is with DOC.

2017-2018 Licence Fee Recommendations

The Manager described to the Council the contestable funding applications submitted to NZFGC. All of Northland's funding applications were approved subject to the licence fee increase approved by the Minister of Conservation.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council support the NZFGC recommendation for the 2017/18 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$127 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$94 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.*

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

2017- 2018 Anglers Notice

The Manager provided the Council with a recommendation that no changes be made to the 2nd Schedule of the region's Angler Notice.

It was moved: *That there are no changes for the 2017/18 Second Schedule of the Northland Fish & Game Anglers' Notice.*

Kris Batelaan/ Noel Birchall **CARRIED.**

Kai Iwi Lakes Management Plan

The Council considered the correspondence and comments from the lawyers and recommendations made by fisheries scientist David Rowe and the Manager. The Councillors discussed the next stage for the Council to take for the future of the trout fishery at the Kai Iwi Lakes.

The Council agreed that the next step is for the Manager to obtain an agreement from Kaipara District Council, i.e. to reinstate the release of rainbow trout into the Taharoa Domain Recreation Reserve (Kai Iwi Lakes) (Reserves Act) as is currently permitted by the Conservation Act until such time as research shows that the presence of trout is detrimental to the survival of the residence of the Dwarf Inanga population. The Fish & Game Council

agreed that if such agreement is not obtained, then the Council will lodge an application for a judicial review with the High Court.

If this agreement is obtained, then Fish & Game Council are willing to support a research/monitoring plan into the population of Galaxids within the Lakes. The Council is not able to make any commitment for staff, equipment and/or financial resourcing until such time a monitoring plan is developed and submitted for review.

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.*

Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Darryl Reardon/ Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

Financial Report

The financial report for the eight months of the financial year attached showed a net expenditure of 77%. The financial administrator included a summary of the Underwood Wetland expenses and part of these expenses is to come out of Council reserves at year end.

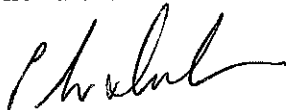
It was moved: *That the Financial Report for the period ending 30th April 2017 is accepted.*

Mike Newson/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

General Business

The Chairman received an email from a debtor/licence holder who was very unhappy on receiving an invoice from Fish & Game to attach a plaque, in memory of his late father, near a stand in the Jack Bisset Wetland. The Council agreed to credit the invoice.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman
11 August 2017