

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 11th AUGUST 2017.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Mark McGinley, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks

**Conservation
Board Member:** Alan Martin

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table.

APOLOGIES: Kris Batelaan, Chris Lynch

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

Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson **CARRIED.**

Annual or One Year Agenda

August annual items requiring the Council's consideration include the final sign off of the 2017-2018 Operational Work Plan.

Conflicts of Interest Register

At a meeting in May 2017, NZFGC changed in how the conflicts of interest are managed. The change requires councillors to sign the register and identify whether or not there are any topics on the agenda that they perceive as a potential conflict which may arise. A register was circulated for the councillors to sign.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the Northland Fish & Game Council meeting held on the 9th June 2017 are confirmed as a true and correct record.*

Wayne Pepper/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Manager's Report

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

1232 NZGBHT Applications

The manager updated the Council on the number of applications submitted to the NZGBHT before the 30th June 2017. The trustees of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust are meeting on the 24th August to review the applications and to decide which applications are successful. The manager will notify the Council of the outcome.

1228.2 Greenheart Block

The manager advised the Council that another 1,900 plants are due to get planted at the Greenheart Block in the week of 21st August. The manager invited the councillors if available, to help plant.

1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition

The fifth and final round of the Clay Target Competition will be held on the 2nd September at the Whangarei Combined Gun Club. The manager will be out of the country for the final round so he requested any councillors to attend the prize giving to present the medals and prizes.

1421 Communication

The manager received a letter from the NRC, requesting a meeting to discuss the release of sports fish into the Doubtless Bay and Waitangi catchment areas. The manager has not replied to the letter as he has been away on leave.

The manager presented a submission to NRC on the draft navigational bylaws for the Kai Iwi Lakes. In this submission, one of the recommendations that Fish & Game put forward was that the bylaw allowed power boating to remain on Lake Waikare with vessels allowed to travel up to a maximum speed of 5 knots as is the current case. The manager has stated that he wishes to be heard before the Hearing Panel on this submission.

The second meeting for the Kai Iwi Lakes working group met at the Northland Fish & Game office to discuss the strategy monitoring programme. A draft monitoring programme is being prepared for Council's consideration.

The Council discussed the correspondence on the Kai Iwi Lakes Management Plan. The manager reiterated to the Council that KDC has allowed Northland Fish & Game to stock the Lakes with trout in 2018. On the advice of the Council's solicitors, the manager believed that this decision was a good outcome.

It was moved: ***That the Council has received the report on the judicial review for the Kai Iwi Lakes Management Plan and the matter lay on the table.***

Mark McGinley/Wayne Pepper

CARRIED.

1431 Newspaper and Magazine Articles

There have been concerns from staff, councillors and licence holders on the new revamped Fish & Game website. The concerns are mainly searching the webpage for information. The manager advised the councillors that any complaints about the Fish and Game website should be emailed or directed to Don Rood, Communications Manager of NZ Fish & Game Council.

1811 Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan

A monkey survey has been emailed to all licence holders who have provided an email address, asking a series of questions. To date, there have been 130 responses in the past 10 days. The survey will finish on Friday 18th August. Mischa Davis, RMA officer for Fish & Game, has agreed to assist in developing a draft management plan. Mischa will also assist in preparing a submission for the Northland Regional Council Water & Soil Plan later this year.

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

Wayne Pepper/ Maurice Blyde **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.*

Mike Newson/ Darryl Reardon **CARRIED.**

NZFG Council Update

The 127th NZ Council meeting was held in Wellington on the 21st – 23rd July 2017. The unconfirmed minutes had been received and read by all councillors. Councillor Birchall gave a brief account to the Council on the following:

- Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Alana Geddis spoke to NZ Council on the not for profit status of Fish & Game Councils alternative funding opportunities and the legal status of sports fish.
- Lou Sanson, DG for the Department of Conservation, spoke about the growing importance on freshwater issues. Fonterra is going to match DOC freshwater restoration dollar for dollar.
- The 2018 Fish & Game Council elections. Electionz.com was confirmed as the returning officer for the Fish & Game Council elections. Election date is set for Friday 12th October 2018 and will undertake the same format as the previous election.
- NZ Council will develop a formal policy committing Fish & Game to working towards an environmentally friendly solution to plastic e.g. biodegradable wads.
- Anglers Notice and the complexity of the conditions imposed on anglers. NZ Council suggested a template is formed to provide simple and consistent rules that will be applied across all Fish & Game regions.

Councillor Birchall briefly discussed the NZ Fish & Game Council's Chief Executive replacement for the current CEO, Bryce Johnson. An announcement on the new CEO position will be made as soon as contracts are finalised and signed.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and considered by the Council.

Code of Conduct for Sports Fishing

Helen Trotter, staff member of Otago Fish & Game, prepared a draft code of conduct for sports fishing. The Council reviewed and considered the document as a very good construed paper. The Council believed that the Code of Conduct regulations should be made available on the Fish & Game website.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game adopts the Code of Conduct for Sports Fishing and requests this paper to be published in future Fish & Game magazines and on the Fish & Game website.*

Darryl Reardon/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Budget Policy

The National Financial Review Committee revised the Budget/Reserve Policy and has sent it out to all regions for their consideration and consultation. The Council discussed the policy and any restricted reserves that Northland Fish & Game hold in trust. The Manager informed the Council that Northland holds funds in trust for Whangarei Hunting & Fishing Club. The interest accumulated for this entity stays in this bank account and cannot be used in Fish & Game's budget.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game adopt the recommendations made in the Fish & Game New Zealand's national budget policy.*

Darryl Reardon/Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

New Field Staff Member

Recently, the Minister of Conservation approved the increase in the 2017-18 licence fees. This fee increase will allow Northland Fish & Game to employ an additional Field Officer for the Northland region. The manager questioned the Council on the prerequisites that the candidate must have for the new position.

The councillors discussed the strengths and attributes that the applicant should bring to the position and where the position should be based.

The following points discussed were:

- Communication skills. The applicant must be able to communicate with other licence holders, farmers and land owners.
- Resource management and game bird dispersal issues.
- Assisting in field officer duties in the Whangarei region – planting wetlands, annual trout release, annual trend counts etc.
- Predator control
- Liaise with Department of Conservation, Catchment groups and attend their meetings, liaise with regional and district councils.
- Location on where the new position should be based.

Councillors were asked to send any changes or added aspects to the job description to the office administrator to collate for the next meeting in October. The Council will discuss this matter further at the next council meeting.

The Manager requested that the next Council meeting be delayed by two weeks as he will be overseas in Albuquerque on the NZFGC staff development grant. The Council agreed to hold the next Council meeting on Friday, 27th October 2017.

Adoption of the 2017-2018 Operational Work Plan

The budget for the 2017-2018 financial year is \$526,696 which includes all successful contestable applications and a further \$3,000 for trend counts for the mallard research programme, undertaken by Eastern Fish & Game. For more transparency within the budget, Eastern Fish & Game will invoice Northland Fish & Game for this trend count.

The Council adopted the 2017-2018 operational work plan for the Northland region.

It was moved: *That the 2017-2018 Operational Work Plan be adopted and approved.*

Wayne Pepper/ Dave Nicholson **CARRIED.**

9.25pm: At this point of the meeting, Alan Martin left, thanking Fish & Game for sponsoring the EDS conference in Auckland recently.

Manager's Trip to attend Fish & Game US Wildlife Society Conference

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.

9.30pm Resolved: *(Cameron Shanks/ Maurice Blyde)*

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:

The Manager's trip to attend the Fish & Game US Wildlife Conference

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.”

9.50pm Resolved: (Cameron Shanks/ Darryl Reardon)

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

The manager was successful in obtaining a staff scholarship from NZFGC, to attend a wildlife conference in Albuquerque, USA. The Council agreed to meet all work related expenses over the funding received from the staff scholarship grant while visiting the States and approved the travel schedule. The Council instructed the manager that no time in lieu can be accrued whilst attending the conference and visiting various wildlife groups in the States.

It was moved: That the Northland Fish & Game Council approves all work related expenses while attending the Fish & Game US Wildlife Conference.

Cameron Shanks/Wayne Pepper CARRIED.

Review of Fish & Game Wetlands Permit Conditions

The maintenance and enhancement work on Fish & Game wetlands have increased considerably. The Councillors were asked to review all the permit conditions for the Fish & Game owned wetlands and to bring any changes and modifications to the table for the meeting in October. Councillor McGinley requested that the permit review discussion is scheduled early on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was moved: That the review of all permit conditions for Fish & Game owned wetlands lay on the table until the next council meeting in October.

Wayne Pepper/Mark McGinley CARRIED.

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.*

Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks ***CARRIED.***

Executive Limitations Report

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

Mike Newson/ Wayne Pepper ***CARRIED.***

Financial Report

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report.

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

Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde ***CARRIED.***

General Business

The councillors wished the Manager a safe and great trip to the States.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman