

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2017.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch, Mark McGinley, Cameron Shanks

Conservation Board Member: Alan Martin

Department of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table.

APOLOGIES: Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon

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

Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Annual or One Year Agenda

October annual items requiring the Council's consideration include confirming the dates for the 2018 Council meetings.

Conflicts of Interest Register

The conflicts of interest register was circulated for councillors to sign. Councillor Mark McGinley declared a conflict of interest when the review of the Fish & Game permit conditions is discussed later in the agenda.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the Northland Fish & Game Council meeting held on the 11th August 2017 are confirmed as a true and correct record.*

Maurice Blyde/Mark McGinley **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Manager's Report

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

1228.2 Greenheart Block

The new plants at the Greenheart wetland are growing well with the wet ground conditions over the past two months. The Field Officer has been very busy clearing around the new plants and spraying when the weather conditions allow.

The Manager discussed the current arrangements with beekeepers on the Jack Bisset and Underwood properties. He will follow up on the operators with the beehives again this year. He will also enquire whether the hives were worthwhile at both of the wetlands. The Fish & Game Council received an income from the placement of the beehives in the wetlands.

1232 Habitat Grants

The Manager told the Council that John Cheyne, trustee of the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust and a wetland specialist, will visit the Underwood Wetland property on the 19th November to provide some advice and input. NZGBHT application was successful in principle but the trustees wanted a more detailed development plan with the respective stages of habitat development. Once this plan is prepared, Northland Fish & Game can resubmit their proposal to the Game Bird Habitat Trust.

1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition

The fifth and final round of the Clay Target Competition was held on the 2nd September at the Whangarei Combined Gun Club. Phil Durham, chairman, and Fay Stodart, office administrator carried out the prize giving and presented the medals and prizes.

1421 Communication

The next meeting for the Kai Iwi Lakes working group will meet on the 2nd November to discuss the strategy monitoring programme. The Manager will attend this meeting and report back to the councillors on the outcome.

The administrator gave a brief account on the hearing on the Navigational Bylaw for the Kai Iwi Lakes. There were several groups and individuals who spoke and had some valid points. The friends of the Kai Iwi Lakes made a very comprehensive presentation.

Councillor Batelaan, the field officer and the administrator attended the deliberations for the Navigational Bylaw held at the NRC office in Whangarei. The changes to the navigational bylaw were passed by the hearing panel. The panel will survey the campers over the summer months on changing the 200 metres from shore line maritime rule to 100-150 metres.

The Manager has received an excellent draft submission for the Northland Regional Water and Soil Plan, written and compiled by Mischa Davies, the environmental officer for Northland and Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game. The Manager will send the draft copy out to all councillors for their information and for any comments they may wish to make. Mischa Davies will meet with the Manager later in the week to go through the submission to make any changes.

The Manager informed all the councillors that they can make a private submission to the regional plan if they wished.

- The Governors Forum was discussed and could be held in Wellington in July 2018. All regional Chairpersons are invited to attend.

Correspondence

The correspondence received during the period was considered by the Council.

Review of Fish & Game Wetlands Permit Conditions

The Manager recommended that because some of the Fish & Game councillors were absent, that this discussion on the Fish & Game permit conditions should be deferred to another council 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.*

Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

2018 Council Meeting Dates and Locations

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2018. The Council agreed to the dates and to have all meetings in Whangarei.

The following dates and locations for the 2018 Council meetings are accepted.

Friday 9 th February 2018	Whangarei
Friday 6 th April 2018	Whangarei
Friday 8 th June 2018	Whangarei
Friday 10 th August 2018	Whangarei
Friday 12 th October 2018	Whangarei
Friday 7 th December 2018	Whangarei

It was moved: *That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings are adopted for 2018.*

Chris Lynch/Mark McGinley *CARRIED.*

New Field Staff Member

The Council has the approved funding to employ another field officer for the Northland region. This vacancy will be advertised in local papers and on the website in November. The Manager will short list the candidates and then interviews will take place in December. The newly appointed candidate would hopefully commence their work in January 2018.

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

The Council agreed on the following:

- That the newly appointed field officer will be based in the Far North area
- Able to communicate with farmers, land owners, Iwi and other licence holders
- Able to deal with resource management and game bird dispersal issues.
- Assist in planting wetlands, annual trout release, annual trend counts etc.
- Understand the Maori culture and be comfortable on a marae
- Liaise with Department of Conservation, Catchment groups and attend their meetings, liaise with regional and district councils.
- Able to work independently with a high integrity

The candidate will need to go through a police check so he/she can hold a warrant for ranging duties.

The Manager will attend a Conservation Board meeting in Kaitaia in November and inform DoC and Iwi of the new position within Fish & Game. At the same time, he will enquire on a shared arrangement for an office in the Kaitaia area.

Approval of 2016-2017 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.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks **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.*

Kris Batelaan/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Noel Birchall/Mark McGinley **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 31st August 2017 is accepted.*

Mark McGinley/Chris Lynch **CARRIED.**

A report on the national fish and game licence sales YTD to 31 August 2017 was received and conveyed to the Council.

General Business

The Chairman thanked Fay for keeping the office going while Rudi was away in the States.

Ross Atkinson had nothing to report from DOC but did put an apology in for Sue Reed-Thomas for not attending a Fish & Game Council meeting this year.

Alan Martin, Northland Conservation Board member also did not have anything to report from the Conservation Board and advised that the December meeting would be his last as he was leaving the region.

The Manager enquired on the use of a N3 card for the councillor's use. The N3 card is a discount card that can be used at various retail outlets. The Council requested the manager apply to N3 on behalf of the councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman