

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 15th AUGUST 2014.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Noel Birchall (Appointed)

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde, Phil Durham, Mason Elliott, Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Cameron Shanks, Mark Williamson.

**Conservation
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

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

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

It was moved: *That Phil Durham is appointed as Chairman for the Council meeting.*

Mason Elliott/Cameron Shanks

It was moved: *That Noel Birchall is appointed as Chairman for the Council meeting.*

Leo Leonard/Kris Batelaan

The Council voted on the nominations:

Councillor Phil Durham 3 votes

Councillor Noel Birchall 5 votes

The Manager declared Noel Birchall the Chairman for the Council meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table and called the meeting to order.

APOLOGIES: Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darren Jones (Dept. of Conservation)

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

Leo Leonard/Chris Lynch **CARRIED.**

Previous Minutes

No discussion occurred on the minutes of the last meeting.

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2014 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Maurice Blyde/Chris Lynch **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust

The Manager contacted the Office of the Auditor General regarding the status of the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust. The OAG emailed the Manager informing him that no other information had been provided to change their original view. The Manager notified Chairman Peter Geddes of this email. No official reply has been received to date and the Habitat Trust will be required to be audited again for this current financial year.

The Manager will arrange a meeting with all the Trustees at the end of this month to discuss the future of the Habitat Trust.

Manager's Activity Report

The Council considered the operational report on a page by page basis with discussion on the following items.

1115 Pheasant Banding

The Manager informed the Council the Summit Forests NZ will sponsor \$1000.00 for release of pheasants into the Aupouri Forest.

Summit Forests NZ also advised the Manager that there will be no cash donation for the predator control operation in the Aupouri Forest for this coming financial year but instead will provide a vehicle and cover the wages component for the trapper. When all the permit monies sold for the Aupouri Forest has been calculated at the end of this financial year, the Manager will purchase some kill traps and some bait. The Manager explained to the Council that these kill traps will not need checking on a daily basis.

1116 Mallard Research

The Manager circulated a report which summarises the harvest of mallard and grey duck from 1992 to the present year. This report was for the Councillor's information.

1211 Resource Management Act

The Manager attended a meeting for the Pouto Peninsula Group as part of the NRC Catchment Group on the 4th August. The NRC has agreed to fund a riparian planting project around the upper Lake Rototuna, near Pouto. This planting day will be confirmed by the NRC at a later date.

1231 Advice on Habitat

There were four applications submitted to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust to develop and enhance habitat for game bird species. All applications were being considered and no reply had been received on who was successful at the time of the Council meeting.

Wetland Workshop

Field Officer, Nathan Burkepile, attended a two day course on wetland restoration/creation presented by Tom Biebighauser whilst on annual leave in the United States. This course was a hands-on outdoor course and he felt that it was very worthwhile. The Field Officer will supply a report of the course at the next Council meeting. The Manager informed the Council that the course fees were reimbursed back to Nathan.

1241 Purchasing Habitat Property

The Manager received an ecological report from the Department of Conservation on the Underwood property and this report was sent out to all Councillors. The Manager informed

the Council that he was still waiting for confirmation from DOC on whether they had any interest in this property or whether to apply to the Nature Heritage Fund.

The Manager sort advice from Fish & Game CEO, Bryce Johnson, on this matter and he recommended to contact the Nature Heritage Fund directly. The Manager spoke to the Nature Heritage Fund and they felt that an application was worthwhile and would have a lot of merit. The Manager will contact Mr Underwood to keep him up to date with our intentions and whether he has a recent valuation of the property.

1312 Angler Hunter Signs

The Manager advised the Council that the sign at the Wairua River Wildlife Reserve was damaged from the recent flooding which occurred last month and will be repaired after the game bird season closes.

1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition

The Manager thanked all the Councillors who attended the competition for their assistance. The Manager told the Council that the fishing competition was very successful and the trout caught this year was in very good condition. Councillor Batelaan who entered the competition also commented on the challenging conditions on the Saturday and congratulated the Manager on a well-run competition.

1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition

The final round of the Secondary School Clay Target competition is at the Whangarei Combined Gun Club on the 6th September and the Manager invited all Councillors to attend the prize giving.

The Manager spoke about the pleasing results on the Northland schools who attended the NZ Fish & Game North Island Secondary School Clay Target Championships held at the Waikato Clay Target Club on the 5th July 2014.

1411 DOC Liaison

The Manager will be attending a meeting of the Northland Conservation Board in Dargaville on the 22nd August to address the role of Fish & Game. He will also invite the Board members on a field trip to show them the work that has been completed on some of our wetland properties. The Manager invited all councillors to attend this field trip and will also invite key staff members from DOC.

1841 National Liaison

The Manager met with Maritime NZ whilst in Wellington. The Part 35 training certificate of compliance audit process for the Fish & Game boats has changed to a more strict process. Maritime NZ requires a copy of a driver's licence of everyone who is operating a boat.

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

Mason Elliott/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Chris Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 18th July 2014. All councillors had received a copy of the unconfirmed minutes and Councillor Lynch discussed the following points from the unconfirmed minutes:

- Meeting with the Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith. Councillor Lynch commented on the Minister's speech which was followed by a discussion by the Councillors.
- National Licence Sales Report. NZFGC agreed to ask all regions on the reasons behind the highs and lows in licence sales within their region and that NZFGC office will include these in the report for future meetings.
- RM/Legal Update Report. NZFGC agreed that a two monthly updated spreadsheet indicating legal funding cost control is included at future meetings.
- Role of Coordination. Sir Geoffrey Palmer spoke to the Council on the recent National Policy Statement for freshwater management and the role of coordination by NZ Fish & Game Council.
- Meeting with Council Chairmen, Managers and NZFGC representatives. NZFGC agreed that all Council Chairmen and Regional Managers are invited to attend on the 22nd November NZC meeting. This invite will also be extended to Sir Geoffrey Palmer.
- Ballance Farm Environmental Awards. The CEO, Bryce Johnson, suggested that Fish & Game should have a presence in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.
- Cultural Health Assessment relevance to Fish & Game values. It was agreed that the Regional Managers be invited to consider the merit of the paper on Cultural Health Assessment.
- Adoption of National Policy on Prosecutions. Otago Fish & Game Council proposed some minor changes to the policy. The NZC agreed to adopt the National Policy on Prosecutions subject to these minor changes.
- Specific Letters to Chairman considered. Councillor Durham queried on if there had been a response from NZFGC on the letter sent by Chairman Nicholson with concerns and queries of the reduction in the national reserves of NZFGC.

Councillor Governance Assessment

The Council considered the overall results of the performance review which was completed by all Councillors in April. The general consensus was that the Council is meeting their obligations and is satisfactory with the way everything is handled. The next performance review is due to be completed in October.

It was moved: ***That the performance review is accepted.***

Phil Durham/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Correspondence

The Council noted and discussed the relevant correspondence.

1. Rod Cullinane from North Canterbury Fish & Game on NZFGC Reserves
2. Steel Shot Fiasco from Neil Hayes. The Council directed the Manager to write back to Mr Neil Hayes and thank him for his letter.

It was moved: ***That the correspondence is received by the Council.***

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

Adoption of 2014-2015 Operational Work Plan

The Manager highlighted the different areas in the operational plan where savings had been made in the past financial year and was redistributed to other areas of the work plan. The budget for the 2014-2015 financial year is \$392,785.00. The Council adopted the operational work plan for the Northland region.

It was moved: *That the 2014-2015 Operational Work Plan be adopted and approved.*

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Bi-Monthly Financial Report

It was moved: *That the financial report to the 30th June 2014 be accepted.*

Mason Elliott/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/Leo Leonard **CARRIED.**

Other Business

It was moved: *That the future of the Northland Habitat Trust lay on the table until the next Council meeting.*

Phil Durham/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan

The Manager distributed the suggested Northland Sports F&G Management Plan timetable, Goals and Objectives, and the proposed layout of the Plan to the Councillors. He explained that the current Sports Fish & Game Management Plan is overdue for renewal and needs to be updated. The Sports F&G Management Plan should be in line with the objectives and have the same output classes as in the annual operational work plan. This would link the two documents together.

The timetable to update this document will take over a year to complete and the Council needed to decide on the draft layout for the Plan. The Manager believed that the Council should elect a working party to spend a day going through the existing Sports F&G Management Plan to update policy and direct the Manager where necessary. The Council elected the working party.

It was moved: *That Chris Lynch, Kris Batelaan, Phil Durham, Leo Leonard and Dave Nicholson are the Working Party for the Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan.*

Cameron Shanks/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

