NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI 7.00 PM FRIDAY 29th OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Russell Daniels, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Mark Bell, Noel

Birchall, Peter Allen, Kris Batelaan, John Skeates, Hira Kaire

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Finance Administrator), Rachael

Quin (Administrator), Graham Gallaghan and John Macpherson (Field

Officers)

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table and acknowledged the outgoing Councillors. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

APOLOGIES: Mike Newson,

It was moved: <u>That these apologies are accepted.</u>

Peter Allen/Noel Birchall CARRIED.

It was announced that previous Councillor Maurice Blyde had recently passed away.

The Chairman asked the Council for any general business. There were no general business items.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th August 2021 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Russell Daniels/Mark Bell CARRIED.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Presentation to outgoing Councillors

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Councillors on behalf of licence holders and acknowledged their dedication and service over the many years. Gifts and service medals were presented. Noel Birchall responded with recollections and observations from the past with Fish & Game and lamented that enough licence holders are not willing to speak up for their sport's future. Kris Batelaan wished the council and new councillor well. Noel will deliver Mike Newson's gift and medal passing on the council's appreciation.

Chair Election

The Manager explained the election process and called for nominations for Chairperson. Darryl Reardon nominated Phil Durham. Cameron Shanks seconded. Noel Birchall commented on Phil's quality reporting.

There were no further nominations received.

Phil Durham was then appointed as the Chairperson.

The Chairperson sought nominations for the role of NZ Council appointee stating that the role requires the support from other Councillors because the work load can be very demanding.

Phil Durham suggested Darryl Reardon. There were no other nominations received.

It was moved: That Darryl Reardon is appointed NZ Council appointee with the

support of Councillors.

Cameron Shanks/John Skeates CARRIED.

Councillor Role

The Manager acknowledged Noel Birchall, Mike Newson and Kris Batelaan's contributions and friendship. Hira Kaire was welcomed as a new councillor. Hira introduced himself to the Council. Rudi handed out Councillor Guide folders and explained the conflicts of interest register and reimbursement process. The Manager suggested a governance meeting would be worthwhile in updating and reviewing roles.

The Chairperson praised Fish & Game staff.

It was moved: That Northland Fish & Game staff members are recognised for their

service.

Darryl Reardon/John Skeates CARRIED.

Manager's Report

1232 NZGBT Habitat Grants

Darryl Reardon queried the Underwood Wetland grant shortfall of \$50,000 in relation to the full cost of the project. The Manager handed out an expenses breakdown and explained what is needed to complete stage 2. Councillors acknowledged there was still \$50K of unspent funds that is allocated to the development of the Underwood Wetland project and that the shortfall for stage 2 is to come from the dedicated reserve.

Darryl Reardon proposed a visit to the outstanding wetland project for all councillors.

It was moved: <u>That the Managers Activity Report is received.</u>

Mark Bell/Peter Allen CARRIED.

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly. The Chairperson recommended attending planting days as a good experience. John Macpherson was asked to report on progress with the Kaitaia Wastewater treatment plant. He explained that his notes are with Mischa Davis, RMA officer, to prepare a submission. John described the history and pond system problems. The Manager will enquire from and if necessary write a letter to Northland Regional Council requiring disclosure actions taken to enforce compliance with the discharge of waste water into the river.

Council discussed the increasing numbers of black swan and the potential problems at Lake Omapere along with any access issues. The Council discussed ways to promote organised swan drives in February 2022.

The Council also considered the option of a closed game area to protect people and birds in a small bay in front of the Houhora Tavern. F/O Macpherson distributed a map of the Houhora Harbour highlighting the location of the affected bay. The Manager explained and recommended a Wildlife Refuge status was likely to be the best option.

It was moved: That the Manager applies for Wildlife Refuge status through the

Department of Conservation and if that is unsuccessful then applies for

a Closed Game Area.

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell CARRIED.

It was moved: <u>That the Field Officers' Activity Reports are received.</u>

Cameron Shanks/Peter Allen CARRIED.

NZFGC Updates

Cr Birchall gave a brief update on the 154th NZ Council meeting held by Zoom on the 27th & 28th August 2021. The discussion focused on the following:

- Minister of Conservation Kiri Allen meeting with NZFGC and her willingness to listen
- Concerns with different views to recommendations
- Re-establish remuneration committee
- Pheasant Preserves legality and advice Minister to decide

It was moved: <u>That the NZFGC minutes are received.</u>

Russell Daniels/ Hira Kaire CARRIED.

Structure Review Team Zoom Meeting

The Structure Review Team has requested a zoom meeting with councillors and staff in early November. Councillors discussed what should be the focus to put forward and that all councillors should read and add to the Manager and Chairpersons recommendations so bullet points can be prepared for the meeting. Proposed dates were agreed as Tuesday 16th November 2021 (7-10pm) or Thursday 11th November 2021. The Manager will communicate the dates to

the review team. The manager will also invite Chris Jenkins, Ben Paraha and Noel Birchall as guests of the council to this zoom meeting.

Financial Reports

The most recent licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the Councillors. The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report year ending 31st August 2021 and explained that NZ Fish & Game were unwilling to pay a double grant due as it would break their term deposit. NZFGC were emailed and reminded of their obligations.

It was moved: That the Financial Report to the 31st August 2021 is adopted.

Cameron Shanks/Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Fish Season Date

Eastern Fish & Game has proposed the opening of the fishing season commences on the first Saturday in October rather than the 1st October to encourage more participants. Discussions were held surrounding its merit. It was resolved that the opening of the season date needs to be consistent across New Zealand.

Council Meeting Dates for 2022

Councillors set dates for the 2022 meetings and all agreed on the following:

25 January 2022 (Tuesday)

11 March 2022 (Friday)

10 June 2022 (Friday)

5 August 2022 (Friday)

7 October 2022 (Friday)

9 December 2022 (Friday)

Health and Safety 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.

Cameron Shanks/Mark Bell

CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: <u>That the Executive Limitations Report is received.</u>

Peter Allen/Darryl Reardon

CARRIED.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

