# NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING

## HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE

# **NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**

# 7.00PM TUESDAY 25th JANUARY 2022

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Phil Durham

**Councillors:** 

Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Mark Bell, Peter Allen, Russell

Daniels

Staff:

Rudi Hoetjes (Manager),

Fay Stodart (Finance Officer/Administrator)

Member of

The Public:

Graeme Stevenson

The Chairman welcomed the councillors to the Council table and acknowledged Graeme Stevenson, a potential new councillor. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

**APOLOGIES:** 

John Skeates, Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

It was moved:

That these apologies are accepted.

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell

CARRIED

**Previous Minutes** 

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2021 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Peter Allen/Darryl Reardon

**CARRIED** 

# **Matters Arising**

The regional Fish & Game finalised review report will now be completed at the end of March.

# Additions to agenda

The manager wished to speak on the research regarding the interaction between trout and native fish and what this could mean for Fish & Game nationally.

# Manager's Report

#### 1111 Aerial Trend Counts

Ground surveys of the northern harbours with the Fish & Game boat were completed by John and Graham in early January. The aerial survey was completed on the 12-13<sup>th</sup> January. A detailed written report of the annual trend count was circulated to the councillors for their information. The overall number of paradise shelduck was up slightly from 2021. Black swan have increased enormously on Lake Omapere.

# 1225 Flaxmill Bridge

An updated report on the construction of the Flaxmill bridge was circulated to the councillors. The report included some photos of the progress. A third payment towards the bridge was made on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The Council agreed to pay up to \$40,000 plus GST towards the bridge replacement.

#### 1226.1 Underwood Wetland

Northland Fish & Game applied for resource consent to the Northland Regional Council to build a dam wall across the valley floor. The timeline for the consent to be processed should be completed by the end of January.

The ground spraying for the Manchurian Rice Grass will commence at the end of January, weather permitting. Northland Regional Council has agreed to provide the chemical spray.

### 1181 Game Bird Dispersal

An application by email was received, requesting permission to take up to 100 shelduck per day and to use lead shot if closer than 200 metres to any waterway in the Purerua Peninsula near Kerikeri/Waipapa. The councillors considered the request and instructed the manager to email the person with a negative response and an explanation of bag limits and the law on lead shot.

# 1821 Operational Work Plan

The manager wanted some direction from the councillors on developing the operational work plan for the 2022-23 financial year. The 2022-23 draft budget and any contestable fund applications are due to NZ Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. The managers will discuss all budgets at a meeting in Wellington on the 18<sup>th</sup> April.

# **Field Officers Reports**

#### 1313 Permit Fees

Field Officer Graham Gallaghan requested the council to consider two changes to the permit costs for the 2022 game bird season:

- Increase the permit fee for the Kawakawa and Borrowcut Wetlands to \$35.00 to bring it in line with other Fish & Game wetlands.
- To change the purpose and name of the predator control fund so that it can be used for wetland maintenance at the respective wetlands.

The manager thought that the council should seek support from the stand holders before raising the permit fee and changing the purpose of the predator control fund.

The councillors considered the price of the casual permit fee of \$6.00, which has been the same price for the past 20 plus years. Administrative costs have risen over the years.

It was moved:

That the casual permit game bird hunting fee will rise from \$6.00 to

\$10.00 for the 2022 game bird hunting season.

Cameron Shanks/Russell Daniels

**CARRIED** 

The manager met with the representative from Te Reo Hau Reconnecting Northland to show him what environmental activities were occurring at the Jack Bisset Wetland.

It was moved:

That the Managers and Field Officers reports are received.

Mark Bell/Peter Allen

**CARRIED** 

# **Council Vacancy**

Northland Fish & Game Council placed a Public Notice in the local papers advising the public of a councillor vacancy on the Northland Fish & Game Council. The Minister of Conservation was notified of the resignation of Hira Kaire from the council. The council received one application to stand for the Northland Fish & Game Council.

Mr Graeme Stevenson introduced himself to the council and gave a brief outline of his working and hunting/fishing life.

It was moved:

That the Northland Fish & Game Council appoints Graeme

Stevenson to the Northland Fish & Game Council.

Cameron Shanks/Mark Bell

**CARRIED** 

# **NZFGC Update**

No meeting has convened since the last meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The next NZC meeting will occur by Zoom on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. The Governors meeting has been postponed until the 29<sup>th</sup> April, a week before the game bird hunting season.

# **Auditors Management Letter**

BDO Auditors thanked the staff for their assistance during the course of the 2021 audit. Councillor Reardon congratulated the staff on an excellent report.

It was moved:

The Auditors management letter and report is received.

Russell Daniels/Darryl Reardon

**CARRIED** 

# **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

There were no incidents that needed reporting. The Health & Safety Plan was amended for the traffic light system. Staff were instructed to stay and work from home if staff contract the new Omicron variant Covid-19.

It was moved:

That the Health and Safety Report is received.

Cameron Shanks/Mark Bell

CARRIED

# **Executive Limitations Report**

It was moved:

That the Executive Limitations Report is received.

Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks

**CARRIED** 

# Financial Reports

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Licence sales are well under from the previous year due to Covid-19 lock downs, closure of New Zealand borders and the loss of the fisheries at Kai Iwi Lakes. The administrator informed the council that all the term deposits are due to mature in mid-February. The council will reinvest two of the term deposits and transfer the funds of \$100,000 into the Savings on Call bank account for operational costs.

It was moved:

That the Financial Report to the 31st December 2021 is adopted.

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell

**CARRIED** 

# **Governance Councillor Performance Review Evaluations Forms**

Governance Policy 11.3.2 states that "The Council shall every 12 months carry out a review of its performance" The Council's Performance Evaluation Review is on an annual basis which will be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.

Personal evaluations forms were collected by the Chairman. The Chairman will contact any councillors who had not returned their forms. He will collate all of the results and convey them at the next council meeting.

# **General Business**

# Regional Manager Vacancy

The manager is due to retire at the end of March 2022. A job vacancy notice was advertised in the local newspaper, on line Seek for Jobs and Trade Me Jobs. The closing date for all applications is the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022. All Fish & Game staff and Regional Chairpersons have been notified of the vacancy.

The manager will sort all applications for the Chairman to review after the closing date.

#### Fisheries Research

Understanding divergent perspectives on introduced trout into Aotearoa: relational values approach. This research into indigenous fish and the interaction trout and the native fish will commence is being undertaken by the Cawthron Research Institute and is being funded by the Fish Futures MBIE Endeavour Programme. Fish & Game, as a collective, has been asked for their input and to be involved with the project. There will be three areas in New Zealand where this research will be undertaken – Rotorua Lakes, Nelson/Marlborough and Canterbury areas.

The outcome of this research may have a detrimental effect on Fish & Game nationally.

The manager will forward some of the research findings to date out to the councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Phalul

Phil Durham Chairman