

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Trevor Osbaldiston

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Mason Elliott, Chris Lynch, Dave Nicholson, Cameron Shanks.

**Conservation  
Board Member:** Richard Robbins

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

**APOLOGIES:** Kevin Alexander, Mike Newson, Leo Leonard, Ian Hogarth, Chris Jenkins

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

*Dave Nicholson/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Mason Elliott/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

**Matters Arising**

**Fire Safety Standards within the Office**

The Manager updated the Council on the progress concerning the fire safety issues within the Fish & Game office. The Manager contacted the Whangarei District Council about lowering the weight restrictions for the storage room upstairs as discussed in the previous meeting. The District Council did not allow this so Mr Peter Geddes from Hawthorne Geddes has visited the office and has drawn up plans for the Council to comply with the fire safety requirements. The Manager has emailed the landlord to obtain his permission to go ahead with the work. Councillor Kris Batelaan is assisting the Manager to apply for a building consent.

A builder has looked at the job and is preparing an estimate and has been asked to apportion the estimate to the landlord and to the Fish & Game Council. The Council agreed that the landlord should pay for the work to the existing office and the Fish & Game Council should pay for the extension to the storage room and workspace area in the workshop.

### **Wetland Field Trip**

The wetland field trip to the Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve and the Jack Bisset Wetland in September was a great success.

Councillor Lynch suggested that the Council should suggest to the NRC that landowners and community groups receive rebates for environmental enhancement projects which require resource consents. The Manager is intending to meet the CEO of the Northland Regional Council, Malcolm Nicholson to address these problems and suggestions especially regarding wetland management and restoration.

### **Greenheart Group MOU**

The Manager has emailed the Greenheart Group on several occasions with queries on the Memorandum of Understanding. No replies or clarification have been received to date so the Manager will not obtain a valuation until these queries have been answered.

### **Managers Report**

#### **1115 Pheasant Banding**

75 pheasants were obtained from Guy Ralph, south of Auckland and were liberated into the Aupouri Forest by Field Officer Nathan Burkepile. An account will be sent to Juken New Zealand for the costs associated with the release of the pheasants as part of the sponsorship programme agreed between JNL and Fish & Game.

#### **1121 Kai Iwi Lakes**

The Council noted the 4.0kg trout recently caught by Warren Ruddell out of the Kai Iwi Lakes. The Manager informed the Council that Warren had also caught two other trout which were of a similar size.

There have not been any fishing reports available since these fish were caught indicating that the fishery had quietened down which is normal for this time of year.

#### **1161 Liberations**

The Manager is in the process of acquiring a 750 litre plastic water tank for liberations which will be used to replace the heavy stainless steel tank. The weight reduction in not using the steel tank will allow for a larger tank to be transported for a similar axle weight and will be useful for liberating the extra 600 rainbow fingerlings in the Bay of Islands streams and Kaihu River next year.

#### **1211 Resource Management Act**

The Council discussed the outcome of the Environmental Court case in regard to the Horizons Regional Council One Plan. The Council queried whether NZFG Council can sustain funding the various water quality issues in the different regions and whether a long term strategy is in place for these water quality matters. The Council agrees with the principle of funding these resource consent matters but they recognise that it can be very costly and should be handled very carefully.

It was moved: *To write to NZFG Council on their plans in terms of water related issues and should our current focus and national policies not work, what is the fall back plan?*

*Mason Elliott/Trevor Osbaldiston*

*CARRIED.*



### **Water Conservation Order**

The Council discussed Councillors Chris Lynch's suggestion of the possibility of undertaking an application for a Water Conservation Order.

The Council recognises the value of the Conservation Order but felt that the water quality and scenic values on the rivers in Northland would not qualify for such a legal process to be undertaken. It was felt that a Water Conservation order could in fact limit the NRC abilities to undertake re-habitation of some of the rivers which have very poor water quality.

### **2013 Council Meeting Dates**

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2013. The Council agreed to the dates and discussed the rotation of meetings held around the region. It was decided not to rotate meetings at this stage but this could be decided and factored in after the formation of the new Council.

The following dates and locations are accepted.

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Whangarei
Friday 5th April	Whangarei
Friday 7th June	Whangarei
Friday 16th August	Whangarei
Friday 18th October	Whangarei
Friday 6th December	Whangarei

**It was moved:** *That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings be adopted for 2013.*

*Trevor Osbaldiston/Mason Elliott* *CARRIED.*

### **Approval of 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.*

*Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson* *CARRIED.*

### **Northland Habitat Trust**

**It was moved:** *That the Council approved the payment of \$830.00 from the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Reparations to assist the Northland Habitat Trust to fund publishing of the Value of Wetlands in the educational magazine Starters and Strategies.*

*Trevor Osbaldiston/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

### Managers Financial Report

It was moved: *That the Manager's Financial Report is deferred to the next Council meeting in December.*

*Trevor Osbaldiston/Kris Batelaan* *CARRIED.*

### Executive Limitations Report

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

*Trevor Osbaldiston/Cameron Shanks* *CARRIED.*

### General Business

In the absence of Department of Conservation officer Ian Hogarth the Northland Fish & Game Council wished to acknowledge and thank Ian Hogarth for his contribution over the many years to management of both game birds and sports fish.

Ian's involvement spans more than 50 years which includes working alongside the various Acclimatisation Societies. Over the years he has helped secure, create, develop and enhance numerous wetlands which are recognised today as significant habitats under various plans throughout New Zealand.

Each of the Councillors signed a card expressing their appreciation and agreed to present a gift of appreciation to Ian in recognition of his many years of service.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.



David Nicholson  
Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2012

