

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Russell Daniels, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates, Mark Bell, Mike Newson, Noel Birchall, Peter Allen, Kris Batelaan

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

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

**APOLOGIES:** Stefan Seitzer

**It was moved:** *That this apology is accepted.*

*Kris Batelaan/ Cameron Shanks* ***CARRIED.***

The Chairman asked the Council for any late items to be addressed in the agenda. There were no other matters to add to the agenda.

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Russell Daniels/Darryl Reardon* ***CARRIED.***

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Manager's Report**

**1161 Trout Releases**

The manager attended the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee (TDGC) meeting to address the request to release trout into the Kai Iwi Lakes. The TDGC voted against any further releases of trout into the lakes. The council was extremely disappointed and they discussed their options going forward. The manager will write an article in the upcoming 2021 Fish & Game magazine to sadly inform the licence holders of the demise of the best fishery north of Hamilton. Also the manager will update the competitors at the Kai Iwi Lakes fishing competition.

The Chairman may discuss this matter with ACT Member of Parliament, Nicole McKee and he urged all licence holders to write a letter to Kaipara District Council complaining about this world class fishery ending. Cr Russell said that a statement should be put on Facebook to inform all anglers.

The order for the trout fingerlings destined for the Kai Iwi Lakes were released into Northland's east coast reservoirs and the Kaimamaku and Kerikeri Rivers.

#### **1226.01 Underwood Wetland**

The manager had organised a controlled burn off of the Manchurian Rice Grass when the ground conditions are favourable. This has now been postponed to a later date due to the wet conditions. The newly developed ponds are now holding water after the recent rainfall. The water level is now up to the base of the weir and spilling through the culverts.

#### **1315 Kai Iwi Lakes Fishing Competition**

This next fishing competition in July could be the last one for the foreseeable future. The manager enquired about keeping the fishing competition trophies as they have historical value to the competition.

**It was moved:** *That the existing trophies of the Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition are retained by the Council for future use.*

*Peter Allen/Russell Daniels* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *That the Manager's Activity Report is accepted.*

*Cameron Shanks/John Skeates* **CARRIED.**

#### **Field Officer Reports**

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly. The councillors were very impressed on Graham's report. The councillors remarked on the great work by John in the Far North achieving more game bird hunting access.

**It was moved:** *That the Manager and Field Officers' Activity Reports are received.*

*Darryl Reardon/Mike Newson* **CARRIED.**

#### **2021/2022 Anglers Notice**

The manager proposed to remove the Kai Iwi Lakes Taharoa and Waikare from the Anglers Notice 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule. He also proposed to remove the Rose Dam as the aquatic vegetation has restricted any possibility of fishing. The council thought that the Kai Iwi Lakes are left in the 2021/22 Anglers Notice for a further year with a no limit bag and to insert a statement in the regulation booklet; that the Kai Iwi Lakes fishery is not being stocked and there will not be a fishery as from the 31<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

**It was moved:** *That Lakes Taharoa and Waikare at the Kai Iwi Lakes have a no limit daily bag as from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.*

*Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

**It was moved:** *That Rose Dam is removed from the 2021/2022 Anglers Notice.*

*Mark Bell/Kris Batelaan* **CARRIED.**

### **2021/2022 License Fee Recommendations**

The Council discussed the NZ Council licence fee recommendations and were disappointed the proposed licence fees are so undervalued.

**It was moved:** *That Northland Fish and Game agrees to the increase to the 2021/2022 recommended adult whole season fish licence fee of \$137 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$100 inclusive of a \$4 fee for the Game bird Habitat Stamp but are dissatisfied that the proposed licence fees are so undervalued.*

*Darryl Reardon/Mike Newson*

*CARRIED.*

The manager notified the council that all contestable funding applications except the CPI adjustment for salaries will come out of the Council's reserves.

### **NZFGC Updates**

Cr Birchall gave a brief update on the 150<sup>th</sup> NZ Council meeting held in Wellington in April 2021. The discussion focused on the following:

- Fish & Game budgets. All CPI adjustments for salaries will come out of licence fees
- Increase in election costs
- Retaining of the Game Bird Guides Licence Latent Provisions
- Draft policy frame work for the Fish & Game Ranger system
- Policy Review of the F&G manual to be put on hold.

Cr Birchall also attended a zoom meeting for the 151<sup>st</sup> NZC meeting. This meeting concentrated on the New Zealand Fish & Game Ministerial Review and discussions on its recommendations. Chairman Ray Grubb had a conflict of interest so Cr Bill O'Leary chaired the meeting.

### **Submissions on proposals for new Regulations under the Arms Act 1983 (Phase One)**

A submission was made by NZFG Council on behalf of all the Fish & Game regions making several recommendations for the new regulations under the Firearms Act 1983. The submission was included in the agenda for the councillor's information.

### **Flaxmill Wetland Bridge**

Mr Edwards, the adjacent neighbour of the Flaxmill Wetland has received and provided an estimate of \$125,555 plus GST to construct a properly engineered Class 1 bridge, following a geotech survey undertaken by engineers Hawthorne Geddes.

Mr Edwards requested that the Council pay up to a third of the costs to a maximum of \$40,000 plus GST.

The council discussed this request from Mr Edwards and if the council agreed, then an inspection of the bridge between the two parties must be made annually to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the bridge is maintained.

The council also discussed the possibility of acquiring the 2 hectares from Mr Edwards that encroaches on to the Flaxmill Wetland. The manager was instructed by the councillors to price out the costing of boundary changes through Lands & Survey and the price of land.

**It was moved:** *That Northland Fish & Game Council approves the payment of a maximum of \$40,000 plus GST from reserves for the construction of the access bridge at the Flaxmill Wetland.*

*Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell* *CARRIED.*

### **Whangarei Hunting & Fishing Club Bank Funds**

In June 2007, Northland Fish & Game Council acquired funds from Whangarei Hunting and Fishing Club (WHFC) to be held in trust. This bank account has earned and accrued interest over the past 14 years, totalling approximately \$3,132. As an amalgamation with regions may occur in the near future, the councillors decided that the funds should be used for wetland development. The council will need to place a notice in the local newspaper informing the public that the funds for the WHFC will wind up and be disposed.

**It was moved:** *That the Northland Council agrees in principal to dispose of the Whangarei Hunting & Fishing funds and propose to use the funds for wetland development.*

*Kris Bateluan/Darryl Reardon* *CARRIED.*

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Noel Birchall/Russell Daniels* *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.

**It was moved:** *That the Health and Safety Report is received.*

*Cameron Shanks/Mark Bell* *CARRIED.*

### **Financial Reports**

The most recent fish licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the Councillors. The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Cr Reardon enquired on the Eyede licensing system on why a licence holder cannot nominate a region

through purchasing a licence at an agent. The administrator informed them that it was not possible to nominate a region at an agent but is only possible through purchasing a licence through the internet. A licence holder can nominate the region for voting purposes at the licencing agent.

**It was moved:** *That the Financial Report to the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 is adopted.*

*Mike Newson/Kris Batelaan* ***CARRIED.***

**Consultation Document: Change Freeze**

A change freeze document was circulated throughout the Fish & Game regions for discussion. The councillors agreed to operate the Northland region as usual until the recommended changes from the ministerial review have been agreed to and implemented by the government.

**It was moved:** *The Council agrees to run the Northland region as business as usual.*

*Mark Bell/John Skeates* ***CARRIED.***

**Ministers Review of Governance of Fish & Game Councils**

A discussion was held by the council on the Ministerial Review of Fish & Game New Zealand. The councillors found the review very disturbing and unsettling. The councillors made comments and recommendations on the 36 recommendations made by the reviewers. (Refer to separate paper).

**General Business**

The manager advised the Council that the Jobs for Nature application was declined due to being oversubscribed. There were a total of 260 applications requesting more than \$150 million, with only \$16 million available.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.15pm.



***Phil Durham***  
***Chairman***

