

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM FRIDAY 09 December 2022

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Darryl Reardon, Peter Allen, Mark Bell, Russell Daniels, John Skeates

Staff: Craig Deal (Manager)
Fay Stodart (Administrator)

**Member of
The Public:** Noel Birchall, Mike Newson

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

APOLOGIES: Cameron Shanks, Rudi Hoetjes.

It was moved: *That these apologies are accepted.*
Mark Bell/ Darryl Reardon **CARRIED**

It was moved: *That the members of the public have speaking rights at the council meeting.*
Darryl Reardon/ Peter Allen **CARRIED**

Adoption of the Performance Report 2020-2021

It was resolved: *That the Council adopts the Audited Performance Report of the Northland Fish & Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2022.*
Russell Daniels/ Darryl Reardon **CARRIED**

Presentation of the Performance Report

The 2021-2022 Annual Performance Report was finalised by the auditors. The Chairman asked for any queries from the councillors. Noel Birchall praised the staff on another very good year considering the amount of work achieved throughout the year. The administrator explained that the council had a surplus of \$16,697. The auditors capitalised the costs for construction of the access bridge to the Flaxmill Wetland. The development work at the Underwood Wetland was transferred to Work in Progress. Both costs came out of the Profit and Loss Report, hence the surplus.

considered the licence holders would not be served well and resources may be taken out of the Northland region. There would be a lack of representation in the Far North.

It was moved: That Northland Fish & Game Council moves no further forward in terms of amalgamation with the Auckland/Waikato region until further clarity from New Zealand Council.

Darryl Reardon/Russell Daniels

CARRIED

1900 Administration

Both trailers have been sold and a new trailer from Compass Group in Dargaville has been ordered. This trailer will be ready for pick up in late January/early February 2023.

Time: 7.40pm

Resolved: Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to discuss the remuneration of staff.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
XX.	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released.	Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.
	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	Sec 9(2)(g)(ii)	Prejudice or harm is likely to occur making it necessary to withhold the information to prevent that occurring.	Only where the public interest in disclosure of the information, in whole or part, outweighs the need to withhold the information.
	Maintain legal professional privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.

- Remuneration Review. NZC accepted the guidelines completed by the Remuneration Committee and delegated the CE to work with regions to implement the guidelines.
- Draft Organisation Strategy. NZC approved the draft organisation strategy to go out to regions for consultation. The Chairman advised the councillors to read this document thoroughly and to advise the chairman of any feedback. NZC wishes to have all comments back by the 19th January 2023.
- Draft Three Year Business Plan. NZC was presented with a three-year business plan. There are areas of this plan that are intended to implement the organisation strategy and do not sit within NZC's work programme. Staff recommended that these portions of the business plan are consulted on prior to final approval.
- Meeting dates for the NZC meetings were confirmed. A governor's meeting will be held on 11th February 2023.
- Game Bird Habitat Trust Board Nominations. The GBHT Board is seeking nominations from regions for its Board. The Council discussed any possible nominations from the Northland region. Nominations are due by 3rd February 2023.

Action: Councillors to review the draft strategy and email any feedback to the chairman no later than 12 January 2023.

Chairman's Update of Zoom Meetings

The chairman gave a brief update on topics discussed on the zoom meetings with other chairpersons.

- Ray Grubb, the NZC Chairman resigned, and Greg Duley from the Hawkes Bay region has stepped in as the interim chairman until the next council meeting in February 2023.
- Discussion of the Draft Organisation Strategy
- Remuneration for staff is important
- Corina Jordan will report back to Chairpersons of all regions
- Threat to Fish & Game becoming irrelevant in future
- Dysfunction with some regions where not all information is communicated to all councillors

There is one more zoom meeting before the Christmas break.

Game Bird Season Recommendations for 2023 Game Season

A summary of analysis for the Northland region of the NZ Game Bird Harvest Survey for all game bird species taken in the 2022 open game season was written by Field Officer Graham Gallagher for the Council's information. The councillors noted the increase in Black Swan numbers especially in the Lake Omapere area. The councillors discussed surveying the hunters over the Special Paradise Week.

It was moved: That the Council receives the report on the National Hunter Harvest Survey.

Mark Bell/Peter Allen

CARRIED

The council reviewed the draft policy. The councillors discussed the priority system and deemed the process as unfair to all licence holders who live outside the Northland region and to licence holders who do not hold a Northland game bird hunting licence. The councillors agreed on the process for the existing stand holders who wish to change their stand site within the wetland. The ballot procedure, probation of a new stand holder and the stand down period was also agreed upon.

The councillors instructed the manager to make amendments to the policy and to submit the policy at the next meeting in February.

The councillors wished to see a stronger stance on all stand audits within all of the Fish & Game wetlands.

Action: Delete priority system in the draft policy and resubmit to next council meeting.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Peter Allen/Mark Bell

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 near misses, injuries and hazards reported.

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

Russell Daniels/Mark Bell

CARRIED

Financial Reports

The administrator gave a summary on the financial report ending 31 October 2022. The National Fish and Game Bird Licence Sales report YTD to 6 December 2022 was circulated to the councillors. The Northland Fish licence sales are well above the previous year due to an increase of sales in Non-resident licence sales, Family and Adult Whole Season licence sales.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 31 October 2022 is adopted.*

Peter Allen/Mark Bell

CARRIED

That the open meeting of the Northland Fish and Game Council resumes.

The councillors questioned the manager on whether any research data had been received from DOC, Northland Regional Council, or the Kaipara District Council on the native fish species in Lakes Taharoa and Waikare.

The council directed the manager to write a letter to the Kaipara District mayor, formally requesting to release trout into the Lakes in 2023.

The manager will formally request an OIA to DOC and the Northland Regional Council on the research and monitoring of the native fish in the Kai Iwi Lakes.

The Chairman acknowledged the passing of Kris Batelaan, an ex-Northland Fish & Game Councillor. Both Fay and Phil attended the service in the Hope Church on the 2nd November 2022.

10.10pm Councillor Darryl Reardon left the meeting

The chairman recognised that this was Fay's last meeting as she intends to retire early next year. The chairman thanked her for her service and offered his appreciation for the good work she has done over the 20 odd years.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman