# 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> OCTOBER 2013.

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Dave Nicholson

Councillors:

Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Phil Durham,

Mason Elliott, Chris Lynch, Cameron Shanks, Mark

Williamson.

Conservation

**Board Member:** 

Richard Robbins

Staff:

Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Office Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

**APOLOGIES:** 

Leo Leonard, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper

Darren Jones (Department of Conservation)

It was moved:

That those apologies are accepted.

Cameron Shanks/ Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

#### **Previous Minutes**

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th August 2013

are confirmed as true and correct, subject to changes as

discussed by the Council.

Chris Lynch/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

## **Matters Arising**

### **Governance Policy Review Day**

The Council discussed the Governance Policy Review day which was scheduled for the following morning on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013. There was concern at the number of Councillors who could not attend the review day, but Council decided that the meeting should still go ahead as scheduled.

# Fire Safety Standards within the office

The Manager met with the landlord recently as he disputed his share of the costs towards the alterations within the office. After going through each invoice and some negotiation, the landlord and the Manager came to an agreement that the landlord will pay \$5,000 plus GST towards the cost. The landlord also agreed to no increase in the rent for 12 months and will write a letter stating what they had agreed upon within this meeting.

It was moved:

That the Council will accept the Landlord's offer of settlement towards the cost of alterations to bring the office up to Fire Safety standard, subject to no increase in rent for 12 months.

Phillip Durham/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

## Rationale:

Northland Fish & Game requested a storage area which was built above the office when they first occupied and leased the building. It was suggested by the carpenters that entry should go through into the storage room via the Council Board room rather than a set of stairs from the workshop. Unbeknown at the time, this act compromised the fire safety rating. After a few months, this storage area was enlarged and enclosed with no extra permits. Because of this action, the Landlord felt that most of the cost to the alterations to bring the building back up to fire safety laid mostly on Northland Fish & Game and he was only prepared to pay \$5,000.00 plus GST towards the work.

The Council recognises and accepts that the work and alterations undertaken are for the benefit and operations of Fish and Game.

## **Greenheart Group Ltd Lease**

The Chairman and the Manager has signed the lease agreement on behalf of the Northland Fish & Game Council for the property adjacent to the Jack Bisset Wetland. The Manager will apply to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust for funds next year to develop the wetland.

## **Into Committee Minutes**

Councillor Lynch enquired on the true and proper procedure of making a resolution to exclude the public, as the Council went Into Committee at the previous meeting. Councillor Lynch also queried on whether there should be an introductory statement and a resolved statement at the end of the "into committee" meeting and whether minutes should be taken and written up after the meeting. The Council requested the Manager to get instruction from the Auditors on "into committee" procedure.

### Manager's Activity Report

The Council considered the operational report on a page by page basis.

#### 1211 Resource Management Act

The Manager attended a meeting with the Minister of Conservation appointed review committee to discuss the future of Conservation Boards in the Northland region. The Manager gave his views on the current Conservation Board, conveying that there has always been a good representation around the Fish & Game table and communications between the two organisations have been very good. The restructuring of DoC has seen a lot of good people retired or lost and the new boundary for Northland extends to Hamilton. The Manager has been asked to complete a questionnaire by the review panel.

#### 1221 Jack Bisset Wetland

The gate entering the Jack Bisset Wetland is now permanently locked till such time when the keys are re-cut to fit another padlock and are reissued to stand holders. Peter Worsfold, owner of the farm entering the Wetland has the only key at present.

### 1313 Ballots and Permits

The Manager informed Council that a high level of public liability insurance is now required to enter a number of forests in Northland for game bird hunting. The Council has now negotiated and has obtained this insurance for the 2014 hunting season which also includes the insurance cover required for the Greenheart lease block.

## 1316 Secondary Schools Clay Target Competition

The North Island and NZ Secondary Schools Clay Target competition was held in Hamilton over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September. The Northland shooters shot exceptionally well but unfortunately were unsuccessful to win either of the regional shields.

#### 1454 Outdoor Education

The Council remarked on the tuition day which Nathan organised at Lake Manuwai on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. The Manager acknowledged the help of Councillors Batelaan and Birchall on the actual day.

#### 1841 National Liaison

The Manager commented on the Manager's meeting in Wellington at the beginning of September. At this meeting, the Managers discussed the progress on how to undertake an evaluation on the requirements of regional staffing. A draft spread sheet had been devised but not all regions have contributed to providing the information. It has been suggested that this subject be discussed at the November NZFGC and where both the regional Chairman's and Managers have also been invited to attend.

The NZFGC has also requested that a remuneration and performance evaluation be undertaken through the Director by an independent Human resources company. This evaluation will be for all staff including the positions of regional Managers.

It was moved:

That the Manager's report is received.

Kris Batelaan/Mark Williamson

CARRIED.

## **NZFGC** Update

A NZFG Council meeting was held in Wellington on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Councillor Lynch put his apologies into the meeting because of ill health. However, Councillor Lynch provided an update on some important matters raised in the NZFGC agenda:

- RMA Changes
- Ruataniwha Dam needing more resources from the legal fund
- National Finance will prioritise situations over the legal fund
- Audit functions within regions
- Steel/Lead shot issue

## 2014 Council Meeting Dates and Locations

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2014. The Council agreed to the dates and to have all meetings in Whangarei.

The following dates and locations are accepted.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Whangarei

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Whangarei

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August

Whangarei

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Whangarei

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Whangarei

It was moved:

That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings are

adopted for 2014.

Mason Elliott/Mark Williamson

CARRIED.

# **Hunter Survey**

The Chairman proposed that the Council undertake a survey prior to setting the 2014 Game Bird season regulations for the Northland Fish & Game region. The survey will be sent out by email to licence holders who have email addresses and a small number will be sent out by mail to licence holders and to Hunting Clubs. The Council discussed the questions which should be included in the survey.

The Manager reiterated that this survey is an opinion survey only and no changes should be made to the regulations in the 1<sup>st</sup> schedule of the game notices as these are generally formed and agreed to under national policy. The Chairman and Councillor Lynch will meet with Nathan to draw up the survey.

It was moved:

That the Council formulate a survey which will go out to Councillors for their input and subject to the agreement of wording and content, the survey will then be emailed to licence holders and hunting clubs, requesting a response back to Council by mid-November.

Dave Nicholson/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.

Noel Birchall/Mason Elliott

CARRIED.

# **Managers Financial Report**

It was moved:

That the Manager's Financial Report is deferred to the next

Council meeting in December.

Chris Lynch/Noel Birchall

CARRIED.

# **Executive Limitations Report**

It was moved:

That the Executive Limitations Report is received.

Mason Elliott/Mark Williamson

CARRIED.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

After the formal meeting, the remaining Councillors watched a power point presentation on "Who are Fish & Game and what do we do" as an introduction to the Governance Policy Review which was held the following day.

Dave Nicholson Chairman