

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER 2016**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Maurice Blyde, Noel Birchall, Ian Hogarth, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

Conservation Board Members: Alan Martin

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table.

APOLOGIES: Dave Nicholson

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

Cameron Shanks/Maurice Blyde *CARRIED.*

Absent Wayne Pepper

Annual or One Year Agenda

October annual items requiring the Council's consideration include confirming the dates for the 2017 Council meetings.

Previous Minutes

No discussion occurred on the minutes of the last meeting.

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2016 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Ian Hogarth/Darryl Reardon *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

The Council enquired on the outcome of the IRD letter on taxable income for Fish & Game regions. The NZC representative, Noel Birchall, informed Council that a meeting was held with Inland Revenue and the New Zealand Fish & Game are awaiting their response.

The Underwood Wetland Wildlife Management Plan has been approved and signed off by the Department of Conservation. The access road into the property will commence as soon as ground conditions allow and a boundary fence will be built soon after. The Department of Conservation has agreed to pay for 25% of the fencing costs. The Manager will approach Mr Dave Underwood and his son, Aubrey Underwood for 25% contribution each towards the

Health & Safety Bi-monthly 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.

The Manager has recently purchased a plastic trough with plastic pallets cut down inside to store all the Agrichemical off the floor in the workshop. If any leaks should occur, the agrichemical will be contained in the trough and can be disposed of properly.

It was moved: **That the Health and Safety Report – October 2016 is accepted.**

Mike Newson/Ian Hogarth

CARRIED.

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Birchall attended a one day NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 23rd September 2016. A brief account was written by Councillor Birchall and circulated to the Council. The draft minutes from this meeting had not been received.

Councillor Birchall commented on the following points of interest:

- The Minister has not confirmed the appointments to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust.
- Proposed changes to the Act on ranger's powers. The select committee want to restrict the new powers to DOC rangers only.
- A set of Standing Orders for the NZ Council has been adopted and are now submitted to the Minister for approval. When approval is given, they will become a template for regions to follow.
- A TV programme on fly fishing on Sky Channel 52 has commenced on Monday evenings in association with Red Stag Hunters Club. Fish & Game sponsorship allows us to promote key some national issues.
- Meeting with the IRD on Fish & Game's tax exempt status.
- NZ Professional Guides Ass. The final points in the Guides Licence proposal were discussed and an agreement has been reached to proceed to the Minister for approval.
- Safety to the general public on eating trout after 1080 has been spread from the air over waterways. There is clear evidence of trout taking the 1080 pellets which drop into the water.
- The 2015-16 fish season saw an increase in participants of 6,450 but there was a reduction of licence income. A review of prices will occur prior to the 2017-18 fish season if the same trend appears in the 2016-17 fish season.

At this point, the Office Administrator distributed a spread sheet on the National Fish Licence Sales Year to Date to the 12th October 2016 which showed a comparison of the 2015-16 fish season and 2016-17 fish season. The licence sales for the Northland region are above from the previous year.

Correspondence

Ban of use of Lead Shot

The Chairman asked all Councillors for comments and criticisms on the draft letter to the Chairman of the NZFG Council on the ban of use of lead shot. The Council agreed that no changes to the letter should occur.

It was moved: *Northland Fish & Game Council would not support the ban of lead shot unless the Minister requires a ban on all lead shot over waterways for all types of hunting with shotguns, the ammunition was more affordable, there is a phase in period of five years and there is an exemption for 4/10 and muzzle loaders.*

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game support the review to be brought forward by one year.*

Cameron Shanks/Mike Newson *CARRIED.*

Wildlife Act 1953 Schedule 1 Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck

The Manager corresponded with Michael Gee, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Conservation in regards to a letter sent from NRC, to the Minister of Conservation requesting a change in the status of the Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck in the Northland region. The Manager sent all information on the number of permits issued to landowners out of season, the number of land owners who hired gas guns to disperse game birds, aerial trend count data and the annual harvest of game birds by hunters during the open game bird hunting season. The Manager has not received a reply from the Minister of Conservation on this matter.

Fish Monitoring Plan in the Kai Iwi Lakes

The Manager informed the Council that the Northland Regional Council applied for a grant from Envirolink for a fish monitoring plan in the Kai Iwi Lakes.

The NRC applied for \$20,000 funding to employ scientist, Dr Eleanor Gee, from NIWA to provide a report which includes:

- a review of the literature and all available fish data on the status and ecology of dune lake galaxias in the Kai Iwi Lakes/Taharoa Domain;
- a critical evaluation of the available information on biotic interactions between dune lake galaxias and exotic fish species in the lakes, in particular trout and gambusia; There is some debate as to the impacts of trout/gambusia on dune lake galaxids populations and any impact that trout may/may not have in controlling gambusia numbers.

Recommendations for a suitable long-term fish monitoring plan for the lakes to undertake a literature review of the relationships between the dune lake galaxids population and other native fish populations within the lakes. This grant has been approved.

Property Purchase Proposal

The Council readdressed a property for sale on the outskirts of Whangarei from the previous Council meeting. The Manager had not investigated into the costs of developing the property due to his heavy workload. Councillor Reardon visited the property and believed the property had lots of potential with possibly subdividing part of the property. He considered the price was exorbitant and thought that the Council should wait to see if the property would sell at the current asking price.

At 8.40pm, Alan Martin left the Council meeting.

Resolution to exclude the Public

Time: 8.40pm Friday.

Resolved (Mike Newson/Ian Hogarth)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

a. Lake Taharoa Domain and the future of the Kai Iwi Lakes trout fishery

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Consideration of independent external advice) Good reason to withhold exists) under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

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
	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.
	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.
	Enable a Minister of the Crown or any Department or organisation holding information to carry out without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.	Sec.9(2)(j)	To enable the Council to discuss the information without improper gain or advantage being given to third parties.	Once agreement has been reached or contract signed.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
(b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council."

Time: 9.45pm

Resolved (Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch)

To move out of Public excluded and resume with the open meeting of the Northland Fish & Game Council.

NZFGC Field Trip and Meeting in Whangarei

The next NZ Council meeting will be held in Whangarei on the 25 – 27th November. The Manager is currently organising the field trip for the Saturday. The field trip will involve a visit to the Jack Bisset Wetlands, Greenheart Wetland, lunch at the Kai Iwi Lakes and a visit to the Underwood Wetland property.

The Manager asked the Councillors on who could attend the Council meeting and the field trip. The Chairman suggested that the Councillors should attend the NZ Council meeting so they could discuss an extra staff member for the Northland region. Chris Lynch wished to record his apologies as he will be overseas at the time of the NZFGC field trip.

2017 Council Meeting Dates and Locations

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2017. The Council agreed to the dates and to have all meetings in Whangarei.

The following dates and locations for the 2017 Council meetings are accepted.

Friday 10 th February	Whangarei
Friday 7 th April	Whangarei
Friday 9 th June	Whangarei
Friday 11 th August	Whangarei
Friday 13 th October	Whangarei
Friday 1 st December	Whangarei

It was moved: *That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings are adopted for 2017.*

Chris Lynch/Maurice Blyde **CARRIED.**

Approval of 2015-2016 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/Chris Lynch **CARRIED.**

Financial Report for period ending 31st August 2016

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to 31st August 2016 is adopted.*

Darryl Reardon/Noel Birchall **CARRIED.**

