NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI 7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 24th May 2019

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Kris Batelaan, Russell Daniels, Mike Newson, Darryl

Reardon, Cameron Shanks

Department of

Conservation: Ross Atkinson

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager),

Fay Stodart & Rachael Quin (Office Administrators)

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table and made a special welcome to Rachael Quin, who is newly employed by Northland Fish & Game to job share in the administration position.

APOLOGIES: Chris Lynch, Mark McGinley, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, John

Skeates

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

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2019 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Russell Daniels / Cameron Shanks CARRIED.

Matters Arising

NZFGC Meeting

Chairman Phil Durham gave a brief summary on the NZFGC meeting in Wellington on 15th February 2019. The issues discussed in the meeting highlighted how well Northland Fish and Game region are doing as a region and thanked the staff.

Manager's Report

The Council considered the operational report with discussions on the following items:

1121 Kai Iwi Lakes Fisheries Survey and Research

The research on trout feeding and gut analysis is being undertaken by North Tec 3rd year student Claire Heyns. The manager commented on the fish size and the condition of the trout

caught for the recent research. The results of the research using isotope analysis will not be known until all samples are sent away after the trout fishing competition in July.

1211 Northland Regional Plan

Peter Wilson and the manager analysed the decision of the Northland Regional Plan and they made the following comments:

- There were no objections on the wetlands
- Improvements on water quality
- Fisheries trout are no longer declared as a pest fish

The manager has instructed Sarah Ongley to lodge the papers to the Environment Court with areas of the Plan to appeal.

Northland Fish and Game was allocated \$78,000 to make a submission of which \$43,249 is still available to use.

Peter Wilson noted that the team who worked on the plan was excellent and well executed leading to achieving most of what Fish and Game was seeking.

It was moved: <u>That Northland Fish and Game Council lodge an appeal to the</u>

Environment Court regarding the Northland Regional Plan.

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon CARRIED.

Kai Iwi Lakes Bylaw

The Kaipara District Council has made a decision on the Kai Iwi Lakes bylaw to restrict motorised craft on Lake Kai Iwi and Waikare. This does not come into effect until DOC signs off on the bylaw.

1226 Kawakawa Wetland

Mr Bernard Goodhue of Kawakawa has advised the office that there will no longer be hunter access through his farm for game bird hunting in the Kawakawa wetlands.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The Manchurian Rice grass has been mulched and spraying of the grass will occur later this year. The main access track into the property has been upgraded and due to ground conditions, will be completed later this year. DOC is likely to agree to contribute 50% of the cost towards the track improvements.

The manager has requested to meet with the local Iwi to seek their support to stop Roberts West Road and allow for the inundation for the creation of the wetlands. Fish and Game will be expected to pay to Iwi for their time and vehicle running expenses.

Stage 1 of the wetland enhancement project is to commence while the weather holds. The manager explained how three large ponds and two smaller ponds will be developed within the wetland. DOC has arranged for a possum trapper to go into the reserve and wetland to trap possums.

1228.02 Greenheart Wetland

The manager advised the council that Ben Paraha has donated 3,500 Manuka plants. The council will organise a planting day in June and the councillors were asked for their help in planting. All license holders will be notified by email of this planting day and asking for volunteers.

1315 Trout Fishing Competition

The sponsors are finalised and the ticket fees have increased to cover costs. Tickets will be on sale in early June from the sports agents in Dargaville, Hunting & Fishing Whangarei and the regional office. The manager also asked for councillor's help for that weekend.

1312 Hunter and Angler Access

A new sign has been made for the Wairua River Wildlife Reserve recognising the co-management agreement with the Department, Ngati Hau Trust Board and Northland Fish and Game.

The manager thanked Ross Atkinson for his help in dealing with a landowner and hunter access issue near Kerikeri.

It was moved: <u>That the Manager's Activity report is received.</u>

Kris Batelaan / Cameron Shanks CARRIED.

Field Officer's Reports

The council discussed ranging on opening weekend and the botulism in the Far North.

It was moved: <u>That the Field Officer's Activity Report is received.</u>

Darryl Reardon / Russell Daniels CARRIED.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 5th and 6th April 2019. The unconfirmed minutes were circulated to all councillors for their information.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Regional budgets and contestable funding applications. Northland's application is to come out of reserves.
- A recommendation for an increase in licence fees.
- Asset Replacement Funding. Other regions are not using the system as they should. Councillor Birchall commented on the Northland region finances operates better than most regions.
- Habitat Stamp art collection. This collection is costing NZ Council to store so other options are being considered.
- Non-resident levy.

2019-2020 License Fee Recommendations

The Council discussed and agreed to support the NZ Council licence fee recommendations subject to the licence fee increase approved by the Minister of Conservation.

It was moved: <u>That Northland Fish and Game support the NZFGC</u>

recommendation for the 2019/2020 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$133 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$98 (inclusive of a \$4 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST

Kris Batelaan / Mike Newson CARRIED.

It was moved: That the Adult non-resident whole season license become

\$180 with all other non-resident license prices staying the same.

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED.

CARRIED.

Northland Fish and Game Council supported both resolutions.

NZFCG Correspondence

New Audit Contract

The Auditor General has proposed to reappoint BDO Northland to carry out the audit for Northland Fish and Game for the next three years. A contract from BDO Northland was received, stating their fees, hours and charges.

It was moved: <u>That Northland Fish and Game Council accept the contract from</u>

BDO Northland.

Noel Birchall / Mike Newson

Conservation Infringement Systems Policy

Anthony Van Dorp (Eastern F&G), Jacob Smyth (Southland F&G) and Robert Sowman has prepared a draft policy document for the Fish & Game regions' consideration. Ross Atkinson commented on the proposed draft policy as a very good sound policy.

It was moved: <u>That Northland Fish & Game Council recommends the</u>

Conservation Infringement Policy be adopted.

Darryl Reardon / Russell Daniels CARRIED.

National Policy on Prosecutions

The national policy on prosecutions was revised by NZ Council which removed reference to reparation, introducing diversion and cross-references with compliance and law enforcement policy required to issue infringement notices.

It was moved: <u>That Northland Fish & Game Council recommends the revised</u>

policy on prosecutions be adopted.

Cameron Shanks / Kris Batelaan CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: <u>That the Executive Limitations Report is received.</u>

Russell Daniels / Darryl Reardon 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.

Kris Batelaan / Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Financial Report

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 30th April 2019. The financial report for this period has a net expenditure of 66%. The most recent spread sheet on the licence sales to 20th May 2019 was circulated to all councillors.

It was moved: That the Financial Report to the 30th April 2019 is adopted.

Darryl Reardon / Mike Newson

CARRIED.

General Business

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

After the formal meeting, the Manager showed some photos of the Manchurian Rice Grass being mulched at the Underwood Wetland.

Phil Durham Chairman

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