

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM THURSDAY 9 June 2023

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Peter Allen, Cameron Shanks, John McEntee, John Skeates

Staff: Craig Deal (Manager)
Rachael Quin (Finance Officer / Administrator)

**Member of
The Public:** Noel Birchall

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

APOLOGIES: Mark Bell, Russell Daniels, Darryl Reardon (attending NZF&G meeting, Wellington)

It was moved: *That the apologies are accepted.*

Cameron Shanks / Peter Allen **CARRIED**

Previous Minutes

Cr. Allen corrected his name to Cr. Reardon regarding NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Nomination Form (page 3).

It was resolved: *That the amended minutes of the meeting held on the 27th April 2023 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Cameron Shanks / John McEntee **CARRIED**

Matters Arising

1421 District and Regional Councils, Iwi

The manager reported that a tailgate form has been drafted for botulism clean up contamination procedure.

1530 Compliance

The manager spoke with firearms officer regarding handling of seized firearms and it was advised to store seized firearms and report seizure to police for further advice. It was recommended the gun storage be verified as suitable. The officer also offered compliance assistance.

Smith Family

The Chairman advised that a letter was not written as the ex-manager Rudi attended Eddie Smiths funeral and offered condolences on behalf of Northland Fish & Game Council.

Operational Work Plan 2023-24

The Manager advised amendment to 1531 Prosecutions from \$1500 to \$3000.

Sensitive Expenditure Policy

Updated.

Vehicle Industry Advice

Action: Manager to check warranty dates and get industry advice on when to sell vehicles.

Governance Review

Chairman reported the issue of limited communication from licence holders as a barrier to secure better representation on councils. Also reported that governance training is delayed.

Managers' Report

1221 Jack Bisset Wetland

Due to damage caused to landowners' paddocks and failure of stand holders to mitigate, locking the gate to limit traffic will be looked into.

1225 Flaxmill Wetland

The Manager advised that the shared fencing repair cost with neighbouring property can be paid due to funds being available due to works not done owing to weather events creating an underspend.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

Stage 2 has been signed off. The kiwi aversion training held by DOC at the wetland is a positive outcome.

1510 Ranging

Further explanation to landowners may be necessary to clarify occupier rights.

1821 Annual OWP/Budget 2022/23

It was moved: To move \$6000 from reserves for spray unit.

Cameron Shanks / John Skeates **CARRIED**

It was moved: To defer \$5000 allocated to Jack Bisset Wetland culvert repair in account for spending in the 2023/2024 financial year.

John McEntee / Peter Allen **CARRIED**

1900 Administration

The Manager explained the current financial implications from the office rent increase.

It was moved: *To defer remaining \$2000 rent owing to next financial year budget.*

Cameron Shanks / John Skeates **CARRIED**

Other options of where Fish & Game can operate from were discussed.

Action: Draft options before next rental renewal date in August 2024.

It was moved: *The \$2328 income received for Wairua track mulching this year be deferred to next financial year.*

Peter Allen / John McEntee **CARRIED**

Other

Kai Iwi Lakes application to release trout

The manager elaborated on the recent meeting and withdrawal of the application, strongly advising against release of trout without support of iwi.

The Chairman apologised for being unable to attend the meeting and praised the Managers conduct in the face of a difficult situation, stating the Manager had taken the correct course of action. The Chairman suggested the council take no further action on the trout release application for now and set it aside to focus on the Dwarf Inanga population and ecology of the Kai Iwi lakes.

The Manager advised his intention to involve Fish & Game in two collaborative workstreams – a focus group regarding the health of the Kai Iwi lakes (Te Roroa, Te Kuihi, Northland Regional Council, Department of Conservation), and a group to monitor the success of the Dune Lake Galaxiid translocation to lake Riu near Waipoua Forest ((Te Roroa, Te Kuihi, Department of Conservation). Cr. Allen suggested galaxiid be translocated to other lakes and dams to see if they could become viable populations with trout present.

It was moved: *That the Managers report be accepted.*

Cameron Shanks / John Skeates **CARRIED**

Field Officers Reports

Discussions around the trout condition at Lake Manuwai and reduced numbers released this year, Whau Valley slip update and Lake Omapere.

It was moved: *That the Field Officer reports be accepted.*

John McEntee / John Skeates **CARRIED**

NZFGC Update

No update due to Cr. Reardon absent. NZC Meeting/CEO Update document circulated to councillors.

Anglers Notice

The Manager suggested bag limits of one trout in river fisheries be increased to two for consistency and simplicity across the region and the inclusion of a clause in part three of the second schedule that all waterways not mentioned have the same regulations and restrictions as all other river fisheries.

It was moved: *That the Draft Anglers Notice as amended be accepted.*

Peter Allen / Cameron Shanks *CARRIED*

Policy Documents for Consultation

Licence Fee Recommendation

Cr. Skeates queried the \$5 resident fee in the Designated Waters Scheme in that it may be a deterrent, and a different fee for different regions is complicating and unnecessary. The council did not want to see a policy treat anglers from outside regions differently. Feedback results:

- Agree to \$153 Fish licence
- Agree to \$113 Game licence
- Support sea run salmon \$5 licence fee
- Do not support the \$5 charge to NZ residents fishing in Designated Waters outside their "home" region
- Agree to \$40/day charge to non-resident anglers fishing designated waters

It was moved: *To approve licence fee and establishment of designated waters licence.*

Peter Allen / John Skeates *CARRIED*

Draft Remuneration Policy

Northland Fish & Game Council supports the draft Remuneration Policy.

Draft National Reserves Policy

Northland Fish & Game Council supports the draft National Reserves Policy.

Resident / Non-Resident Definition

Northland Fish & Game Council supports standardisation of Resident / Non-resident definitions in line with DOC policy and Immigration NZ.

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 / John McEntee

CARRIED

Executive Limitations Report

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

John Skeates / Cameron Shanks

CARRIED

The Chairman thanked the manager for taking a national approach to issues faced recently.

Financial Reports

The financial report ending 30 April 2023 was circulated to the councillors.

It was moved: **That the Financial Report to the 30 April 2023 is adopted.**

Cameron Shanks / John McEntee

CARRIED

General Business

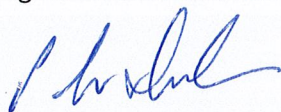
Noel Birchall queried the availability of NZ Council minutes.

Action: The Manager will ask New Zealand Fish and Game Council for recent NZC minutes and distribute to those interested.

Chairman discussed amalgamation issues.

John Skeates suggested councillors should indicate their intention to attend meetings to the administrator rather than their apologies.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.33pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman

