

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING  
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE  
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI  
7.00 PM FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

**Staff:** Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Andrew Kirk (Field Officer)

**Members of Public:** N/A

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table.

**APOLOGIES:** Fay Stodart (Office Administrator), Ian Hogarth, Wayne Pepper, Alan Martin

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

*Kris Batelaan / Maurice Blyde* **CARRIED.**

**Adoption of the Performance Report 2015-2016**

**It was resolved:** *That the 2015-2016 Performance Report is adopted.*

*Chris Lynch / Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

**Presentation of the Performance Report**

The Manager highlighted the Statement of Financial Performance for the 2015-2016 financial year which made a surplus of \$54,407. The Manager thanked the staff for an exceptional year given the resignation of our previous field officer midway through the year and for what had been achieved over and above the operational work plan. The Manager thanked Fay Stodart for her contribution into the report.

The Manager discussed the auditor Adelle Allbon from BDO Northland's feedback that Fay had made the process very seamless.

The Manager explained and noted a depreciation definition issue with the audit and the implications for the Council.

The Manager explained after questioning from Chris Lynch that the operating surplus would be moved to reserves that have been depleted in the past.

There was discussion around the potential additional income to be made from allowing beehives on Fish and Game administered properties. The Manager discussed current arrangements with beekeepers on the Jack Bisset and Underwood properties.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the Manager and the staff on an excellent year.

**7:27pm: The Council returned to the normal Fish & Game Council meeting.**

### **Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 are confirmed as true and correct.*

*Chris Lynch / Kris Batelaan*

*CARRIED.*

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Manager's Report**

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

#### **1111 Trend counts**

The Manager updated Council on securing a locally based pilot and aircraft for aerial trend counts.

#### **1181 Game Bird Dispersal**

The Manager explained the seasonal increase in gas gun hire activity and the issuing of permits with the emergence of crops.

#### **1211 Resource Management Act**

The Manager discussed a recent meeting held with NRC and the information provided on Red Finned Perch locations.

#### **1225 Flaxmill Wetlands**

The Manager updated Council on the proposed Flaxmill work programme which will begin as soon as practical. The Manager highlighted that costs would be recovered from interested stand holders in most cases.

#### **1226.1 Underwood wetlands**

The Manager updated Council on the progress of works at the Underwood Wetland and contributions from DoC and the Underwood family towards fencing.

Roading to the property boundary has been completed. An itemised bill from Wilson Contracting was explained with a breakdown of costs to date.

#### **1228 Wairua Wildlife Management Reserve**

The Manager discussed the temporary agreement in place with the Department of Conservation. The Council looked forward to a more formal agreement being developed in the future.

#### **1228.1 Awakino Wetlands**

The Manager updated Council on works progress and additional funding for higher quotes for works would require those funds coming from reserves.



### **Health and Safety Report**

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

***Cameron Shanks / Chris Lynch***

***CARRIED.***

### **Game Bird Harvest Report**

The Council considered the Field Officer's recommendations for the 2017-18 game bird season. Season durations were discussed at length and changes were recommended to maintain consistency and increase hunter opportunity.

The Manager broached the subject of magazine pinning to increase cross boundary consistency currently Northland and Auckland/Waikato have different regulations on this and after some discussion it was agreed to leave the status quo.

Further discussion ensued on the environmental impact of plastic wads, large scale feeding of ponds and hunter ethics. However no resolution was reached on these subjects.

### **Game That May Be Hunted or Killed—Duration of the 2017/2018 Season**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Duration (dates inclusive)</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit</b>	<b>Hunting Area</b>
Grey/mallard duck and any hybrid of that species	6 May to 2 July 2017	12	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 2 July 2017	3	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to 6 August 2017	25	All areas
	24 Feb 2018 to 25 Feb 2018	20	All areas
Black swan	6 May to 6 August 2017	15	All areas
	24 Feb 2018 to 4 Mar 2018	15	All areas
Pukeko	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	12	All areas
	24 Feb 2018 to 4 Mar 2018	12	All areas
California and brown quail	6 May to 6 Aug 2017	10	Area A
	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	10	Rest of region
Cock pheasant	6 May to 6 August 2017	3	Area A
	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	Rest of region

### **Draft Game Season Recommendations for 2017**

It was moved: ***That the Council accepts the daily bag limits as stated in the recommendations subject to the 2017 trend counts.***

***That the Council extend the dates of the season for the Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan so that the season is the same length as previous years.***

***Cameron Shanks / Noel Birchall***

***CARRIED.***

### NZFG Council Meeting

Councillor Birchall, Reardon, Nicholson, Batelaan, Hogarth, NZFGC Chairman Phil Durham and the Manager attended various days of the NZFGC meeting and field trip held in Whangarei on the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Councillor Birchall stated most points were covered in the Managers activity report but updated the Council on the following points:

- **Fish and Game Magazine.** Has been purchased by the NZFGC and they intend to protect and develop the brand.
- **RM/Legal Update.** \$61,000 Funding from the National Legal fund for a judicial review of the Taharoa Domain Management Plan has been approved.
- **Resourcing.** The Chairman presented to NZFGC on the regions resourcing issues and highlighted the difficulties of smaller regions to achieve operational work plan objectives. Feedback on presentation was positive.
- **Licencing.** Analysis of regional licence income and breakdown of trends. Once this season is over there maybe a need to revisit licencing fees and structures.
- **Proposed Sub Gauge Lead Shot Ban.** NZFGC is writing to the Minister accepting that the review process can be bought forward. If implementation was going to go ahead the NZFGC recommends a progressive four year phase in period with a caveat that there is an affordable cartridge replacement available. Hearing feedback from other regions the implementation of this is an inevitable result.

### Hunting Stand Claim Tag

The memorandum received from NZFGC was discussed at length by council. It was stated that we should not have excessive regulation and we cannot police everyone. There should be consistency nationally.

a.	Option a) No one ( <del>outside of Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region</del> ) under the age of 16 is entitled to claim a hunting stand. <del>In the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region no one under the age of 18 can claim a hunting stand.</del>	Yes
b.	Option b) The wording of the Wildlife Regulations 9 b. be added to the information on the tag – <i>no person shall claim more than one stand.</i>	Yes
c.	As an interim step, hunters when completing online licence applications can opt out of receiving plastic licences and plastic stand claim tags, accepting just the receipt or digital licence version.	No
d.	Longer term (in two-three seasons time) make provision for just one tag per licence – the digital tag.	No
e.	A digital hunting claim tag to be made available for printing with hunters encouraged to ‘mark-up’ a stand utilising the printed tag.	No
f.	Make writing the name of the claimant and the number of their licence, as was once the practice, an acceptable peg claim method.	No

It was moved:

*That Council agreed with options a and b subject to slight alterations. All other options the Council did not agree with.*

*Mike Newson / Dave Nicholson*

*CARRIED.*

### **Appointment of Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee**

The Manager's Annual Performance Review Committee was discussed amongst the Council.

**It was moved:** *That Dave Nicholson and Cameron Shanks are nominated to the Manager's Performance Review Committee.*

*Noel Birchall / Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED.**

Councillor Nicholson accepted the nomination.

The committee consists of the Chairman, Phil Durham, Councillors Cameron Shanks and Dave Nicholson.

The Chairman will arrange a suitable meeting date for an end of year performance review with the Manager and the appointed Councillors.

### **Managers Financial Report**

**It was moved:** *That the Financial Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 is adopted.*

*Darryl Reardon / Chris Lynch* **CARRIED.**

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

*Cameron Shanks / Dave Nicholson* **CARRIED.**

### **General Business**

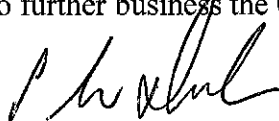
The Manager tabled and explained the licence sales spreadsheet. Sales are up 17.6% from this time last year. The Council discussed funding concerns and wanting to know if the origins of anglers could be identified as additional income is coming from overseas anglers and tourism.

The Manager also presented a letter from Lindsay Lyons the Chairman of the NZFGC expressing his thanks for NFGC hospitality and assistance in hosting the NZFGC meeting in November.

The Manager tabled a letter and photographs from Bryce Johnson to the Environment Minister with attached pictures showing very poor winter feed management practices in the Southland region.

The Chairman wished all Councillors and Staff all the best for the Christmas festive season and a happy new year.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.



**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**  
**10<sup>th</sup> February 2017**