

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2019**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Kris Batelaan, Russell Daniels, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.

Department of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the DOC representative, Ross Atkinson to the Council table.

APOLOGIES: Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, John Skeates

Darryl Reardon /Cameron Shanks *CARRIED*

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 26th July 2019 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Russell Daniels / Darryl Reardon *CARRIED*

Matters Arising

1211 Resource Management Act

The recently appointed Environmental Officer Vanessa Fenemor from NorthPower has met with the manager to discuss NorthPower's application to renew the resource consents for operating the Wairua River Hydroelectric Power Station. This application will go to the Environment Court.

The manager has invited Vanessa to visit some of the Councils wetland properties.

Manager's Report

A newspaper article was circulated to the council on a public meeting held in Whangarei concerning the government's direction on action for healthy waterways. The staff and chairman attended this meeting. The chairman made some comments on the meeting.

Proposed Regional Plan

Peter Wilson and the manager attended mediation discussions with Northland Regional Council on the proposed regional plan. After three days, they were both very pleased with the proposed mediated outcomes relating to fish and game management and water quality within the Northland region. Further mediation on other matters will be heard on wetlands and is planned for November. The manager congratulated Peter Wilson on a job well done.

The chairman mentioned the federated farmer's representatives were very complimentary of the manager and his team when he met with them at the Action for healthy waterways road tour by MFE.

1225 Flaxmill Wetland

The manager informed council that three predator traps have been stolen from the Flaxmill Wetland.

1710 Council Election

A Public Notice was placed in the Northern Advocate advising licence holders of the vacancy and whether an election should be held. Three candidates have put their names forward to become a councillor on the Northland Fish & Game Council and no election is required. The councillors discussed the three candidates and sought to meet them at the next council meeting.

It was moved: *That the three candidates are invited to the next Council meeting in December and for each candidate to address the council on why they want to become a councillor.*

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon **CARRIED.**

After the meeting the councillors will elect a candidate for the vacancy.

1822 Annual Report

The annual report and annual audit is underway.

1842 National MOSS

Maritime NZ has notified the manager that his Maritime qualification (Local Launch masters Licence) has been ring-fenced for a further two years.

It was moved: *That the Managers report is received.*

Darryl Reardon / Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

Office Lease Renewal

The lease for the office building expired on the 1st August 2019. The council discussed the terms of the new lease agreement and whether the council should investigate purchasing an office building as current interest rates are very low.

The Council agreed that the lease was fair and the fixed cost for CPI increases.

It was moved: *That the council will accept the lease renewal proposal and the manager will sign the new lease on behalf of the Council.*

Noel Birchall / Wayne Pepper **CARRIED.**

The Councillors agreed to include this ruling.

New Rule

*** If a stand is vacated and needs structural repair or rubbish removal a \$500 fee will be charged to the **vacating** stand holder.**

The Councillors agreed to include this ruling.

New Rule, Specific for Jack Bisset Wetland:

***Only the purpose built concrete **designated** offal hole/holes are to be used. All other offal holes/drums are not to be used and to be removed.**

The council discussed the offal holes and considered one offal hole was perhaps not big enough.

New Rule, Specific for all Forestry access permits

***Shotgun cases are to be picked up where practical**

The Councillors agreed to include this ruling in all access permit conditions.

It was moved: That the rule changes to the access permits are implemented for the 2020 game bird season.

Noel Birchall / Wayne Pepper

CARRIED.

Stands available for re-ballot

A list of stands is available for re-ballot within the Jack Bisset and Flaxmill Wetlands. The councillors discussed the various stands and agreed to re-ballot the following stands:

Jack Bisset Wetland:

Stand 33 – will be left vacant for junior shooters

Stand 35 – Plateau Pond (***Re-ballot***)

Stand 31 – North Pond, no maimai. This stand does not shoot well so will not re-ballot

Stand 10 – South Pond (***Re-ballot***)

Flaxmill Wetland

Stand 16 – Maimai present (***Re-ballot***)

Stand 6 – No maimai. This stand does not shoot well so will not re-ballot

Stand 9 – Maimai present (***Re-ballot***)

It was moved: That the agreed stands in the Jack Bisset and Flaxmill Wetlands are re-balloted for the 2020 game bird season.

Noel Birchall / Dave Nicholson

CARRIED.

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 9-10th August 2019. Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Licence Sub Committee recommendations – coordination of the national licence sales system including evaluate and recommend the best provider of a licensing system
- Indigenous Fish Bill
- National freshwater policy

- Firearms Act reform – a survey be undertaken to query the views of licence holders and regions.
- NZ Biodiversity strategy – a visit by a MPI Biosecurity attended one of the meetings and discussed hatchery protocols.
- NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust nominations
- Horizons Regional Council One Plan – Wellington Fish & Game Council to apply for funding from NZ Council
- R3 Marketing strategy – Steve Dougherty
- Non-residents licence revenue report – the strategic finance committee to come up with options for consideration before the next budget round.
- Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Audit

2020 Meeting Dates

The Northland Council considered the proposed meeting schedule for NZ Council and agreed that Northland region will accept those meeting dates and the Northland staff will prepare some meeting dates for council's consideration at the next meeting.

NZ Council will be notified of Northland Council's confirmed dates after the Council meeting in December.

Licence Sales Systems Options

The contract with the incumbent licence system provider is coming up for renewal and expires in August 2020. The Licensing Sub-Committee prepared and evaluated the costings and gave options for the regions to consider.

The two options are:

Option 1 Eyede with their own support staff

Option 2 Eyede with NZC support staff.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council agrees to option 1 and accept Eyede with their own support staff.*

Darryl Reardon / Dave Nicholson

CARRIED.

Strategic Financial Review Committee

NZ Council agreed that the organisation needs a Remuneration Policy in place to give guidance to regional councils in relation to staff's terms and conditions. The subcommittee has focused on job descriptions for regional managers before moving on to other staff categories. The manager has added further comments and key tasks to the job description.

The manager will send the revised job description back to the subcommittee.

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Nominations

Three nominations representing New Zealand Fish & Game Council are being sought for the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. NZ Council is inviting nominations for these three positions from all regions. John Cheyne was a nominated Trust member for the Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Incorporated. He is no longer an executive member of this Ducks Unlimited but would like to seek nomination from NZ Fish & Game. The manager described John as very knowledgeable and has huge experience in restoring and developing wetlands.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game Council nominates John Cheyne as a nominee for the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust*

Cameron Shanks / Noel Birchall

CARRIED.

NRC – Water Storage and Use Project

Councillor Darryl Reardon gave a brief report on the two meetings he attended for the NRC water storage and use project. The first meeting was an introductory meeting giving all the representatives an over view of the project.

Darryl highlighted the following points:

- Project group consists of 50% Iwi and Hapu, representatives from NRC, Far North Council, Kaipara District Council, Fish & Game NZ
- Land conversion to cropping and horticulture.
- Three areas of where water use and storage project have potential. These areas include East Kaikohe, South Kaikohe and the Pouto Peninsula.
- 6,300 hectares of land is being sought.
- Contact farmers and land owners with the interest to change to horticulture.
- Succession planning.
- Prefeasibility Report to be completed by March 2020. When the report is finalised, recommendations will be submitted to central government for their consideration.
- Retention of water

The chairman thanked Councillor Reardon for his report.

9.50pm Councillor Reardon left the meeting

Firearms Act Review

The second stage of the proposed firearms law changes have been announced by the government and are now calling for submissions. NZ Council is preparing a submission and is seeking views from managers, staff and regional Fish & Game councillors to agree on a position on each of the Bill's policies. A survey consisting of several questions on the proposed changes to the firearms legislation will be sent out to all game bird licence holders. Northland Fish & Game Council agreed that a survey form should be sent to all licenced game bird hunters.

The councillors considered the NZFGC table sent to all regions and the following responses and comments were recorded. Refer to attachment.

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 / Dave Nicholson **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/Dave Nicholson **CARRIED.**

Financial Report

The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 31st August 2019. At present the Council made a surplus of \$11,672 but this figure may be adjusted if any accruals and journals are made by the auditors. The year-end licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the councillors for their information.

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

Noel Birchall / Russell Daniels **CARRIED.**

General Business

Letter from Southland Fish & Game Council

The council addressed the letter received from the Chairman, Southland Fish & Game Council, requesting all regions to consider reducing their budgets by 1% for the 2020-2021 financial year. The council believed that Northland region's budget has no areas where reductions could be made so Northland region cannot reduce their expenditure by 1%.

The chairman advised he will respond to the letter on behalf of council.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.55pm.



Phil Durham
Chairman