NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI 7.00 PM FRIDAY 31st JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Chairman:	Phil Durham
Councillors:	Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Russel Daniels, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks.
Staff:	Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Administrator)
NZC Staff:	Steve Doughty (Business Development Manager)

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and made a special welcome to Mr Doughty to the Council table.

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

APOLOGIES:	John Skeates, Mark Bell, Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)
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It was moved: <u>That those apologies are accepted.</u>

Chris Lynch, Wayne Pepper CARRIED.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved:	That the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 th December 2019 are
	confirmed as true and correct.

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks CARRIED.

Matters Arising

The management report was received from the BDO Auditors. The councillors were asked to bring any questions to the table regarding the 2019 Annual Performance Report. There were no concerns that needed to be addressed.

Northland Regional Plan

The manager has had no further meetings with the Northland Regional Council. The Department of Conservation will appeal the regional plan and intend to go to the environmental court on water quality related issues.

Game Bird Season Recommendations

Councillor Lynch wished to make the Council aware of their responsibilities on the removal of Area A from the Schedule. The chairman stated that the council had discussed this matter and a motion was passed at the last council meeting.

Council Meeting Dates

The manager requested that the council meeting on the 16th October 2020 be changed to 2nd October 2020. The council agreed to change this date.

By election and appointment of Councillor

Northland Fish & Game Council placed a Public Notice in the local papers advising the public of a vacancy on the Northland Fish & Game Council. The Manager also notified the Minister of Conservation of the resignation of Dave Nicholson from the council. There was no request for a by election. The Council received one nomination from a licence holder.

It was moved: <u>That the Northland Fish & Game Council appoints Stefan Seitzer to the</u> <u>council.</u>

Cameron Shanks/Darryl Reardon CARRIED.

The Manager will notify Mr Seitzer of his new appointment.

The Manager discussed a gift idea with the councillors for Dave Nicholson in recognition of his dedicated years and service to Northland Fish & Game Council.

It was moved: <u>That the Council provides a gift to Dave Nicholson in recognition of</u> the years of service he gave to the council.

Wayne Pepper/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

Permit Fees

A permit fees summary was circulated to the council for discussion. The Jack Bisset Committee wished to have their permit fee increased to \$35.00, increasing the predator control fee of the permit to \$29.00. The Council discussed the other Fish & Game wetlands permit fees, reducing the Flaxmill wetland permit to \$35.00 to be more in line with the Jack Bisset Wetland. The council agreed to change the permit fee.

This year, the Te Hiku Forest in the Far North does not require Public Liability insurance for hunters to hunt within this forest. This permit fee will now be reduced to \$30.00 per permit. An increase to the predator control fee will change to \$24.00 plus \$6.00 for administration fees.

The council queried whether the casual hunters should have to pay the same amount of money as the stand holders within the Fish & Game Wetland properties. The stand holders were considered to get the full benefit from hunting the full season and the advantages of the predator control taking place at the wetlands. They also discussed making the permit more affordable and better value to increase participation by making a one permit fee to cover all Fish & Game wetlands for the casual hunters.

The chairman decided to defer this decision till after the R3 presentation from Steve Doughty.

Auditors Management Letter

The Auditor's Management letter was received in January thanking the staff for their assistance extended to BDO Northland during the course of the audit. The auditors found no concerns. The Councillors accepted the auditor's management letter and congratulated the Manager and the staff on an excellent report.

It was moved:	That the Auditors Management letter is received.		
	Chris Lynch/Darryl Reardon	CARRIED.	
It was moved:	<u>That the staff is commended for an excellent re</u> outcome.	eport and a positive	
	Chris Lynch/Russell Daniels	CARRIED.	

Appointment of Managers Annual Performance Review Committee

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

It was moved: <u>That Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Noel Birchall and the</u> <u>chairman, Phil Durham is nominated to the Manager's Performance</u> <u>Review Committee.</u>

Wayne Pepper/Mike Newson CARRIED.

Councillors Reardon, Shanks and Birchall accepted the nominations.

The committee consists of the Chairman, Phil Durham, Councillors Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Noel Birchall and Councillor Chris Lynch as a reserve.

The Chairman asked the Review committee to meet after the council meeting to arrange a date and time for the Manager's review.

Manager's Report

1111 Aerial Trend Counts

Drought conditions were seen in many parts of Northland when the aerial trend counts were flown in January. These dry conditions may affect the game bird hunting season if this weather continues. Botulism is very prevalent in the Far North and other parts of Northland. An updated spread sheet with the trend counts was attached with the agenda for the councillor's information. The Manager gave a brief explanation on the overall numbers of birds counted which had

The Manager gave a brief explanation on the overall numbers of birds counted which had increased from the previous year.

The council confirmed the bag limits and dates as proposed at the previous meeting and the extended dates for the Special Paradise Shelduck Week in 2021.

1211 District Regional Plans

National Policy Statement on the Indigenous Biodiversity

The manager informed the council on the direct impact on future management of all wetland properties if this document and policy is passed by the government. The Federated Farmers are expressing similar concerns. The manager will raise this matter with NZFGC and the regional managers. He has asked Peter Wilson to evaluate the documents and to give his opinion.

The Council has received two resource consent applications from NRC regarding water takes, one from the Puketotara Stream for Kerikeri Township and a second application regarding the water take from the Awanui River for pasture and horticulture in Kaitaia.

Northland Fish & Game will object on both applications, stating that the applicants and NRC need to look for alternative sources and water take. Any water should be undertaken during peak flows rather than in the summer months when the rivers and the flows are very low. The

development of water storage facilities to provide reliable water sources for growing townships and horticulture are becoming more and more important.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The construction of pond 1 is nearing completion and the development on the second pond has commenced. The manager will arrange a time to visit the wetland with any councillors who wish to view the development.

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly and the access for hunting opportunities on the Te Werahi wetlands in the Far North. John Macpherson is currently discussing these prospects with the current Farm Manager at Te Paki Station.

It was moved:

That the Manager and Field Officers' Activity Reports are received.

Darryl Reardon/Wayne Pepper CARRIED.

NZFG Updates

There have been no NZFG Council meetings since November last year. Councillor Birchall reported that the licence contract with Eyede will be finalised very soon. The next NZ Council meeting is on 14th February 2020 in Wellington.

R3 Presentation

Steve Doughty, Business Development Manager from NZ Fish & Game Council gave a presentation on R3. He explained what the R3 roadmap is – retain-reactivation-recruitment.

The whole objective for this roadmap is to enhance participation through customer satisfaction. The council discussed different ideas for R3 and how the R3 could be implemented in the Northland region. The Northland region does not have a lot of freshwater fishing opportunities compared to other regions but our game bird hunting possibilities are greater. An email from Councillor John Skeates was circulated to the councillors, on promoting game bird hunting in the Northland region.

The chairman thanked Mr Doughty for a very good presentation.

Permit Fees

The council returned to their discussion on the structure of permit fees for the Northland Fish & Game wetlands for casual hunters and stand holders.

It was moved:	That the casual hunters are charged \$6.00 per Fish & Game Wetland after the ten day period commencement for game bird hunting.		
	Darryl Reardon/Chris Lynch	CARRIED.	
It was moved:	<u>That all casual juniors and child hunters who permit are free of charge.</u>	o apply for a hunting	
	Chris Lynch/Darryl Reardon	CARRIED.	

Governance Councillor Performance Review Evaluations Forms

Governance Policy 11.3.2 states that "The Council shall every 12 months carry out a review of its performance" The Council's Performance Evaluation Review is on an annual basis which will be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.

Personal evaluations forms were collected by the Chairman. The Chairman will contact any councillors who had not returned their forms. He will collate all of the results and convey them at the next council meeting.

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.

Staff met on Thursday 30th January 2020 to discuss any health and safety issues. Rachael Quin, the Health and Safety officer updated all staff with the job safety analysis booklet, toolbox forms and the Health & Safety folder which has recently been reorganised.

It was moved: <u>That the Health and Safety Report is received.</u>

Darryl Reardon/Cameron Shanks CARRIED.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Kris Batelaan/Mike Newson CARRIED.

Financial Reports

The most recent fish licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the councillors. The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report ending 31st December 2019. There was a query on the salaries/kiwi saver employer contribution and superannuation tax. Fay explained that from November 2019, Northland Fish & Game had changed to Xero Payroll. All transactions are automatically transferred into Xero and a mistake in the coding was detected. The administrator has now corrected the codes.

It was moved: <u>That the Financial Report to the 31st December 2019 is adopted.</u>

Noel Birchall/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

<u>General Business</u> The Chairman thanked Steve Doughty for his presentation and for travelling to the Northland region.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.25pm.

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Phil Durham Chairman