

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE**  
**NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**  
**7.00PM FRIDAY 07 October 2022**

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**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Darryl Reardon, Peter Allen, Mark Bell, Cameron Shanks, Russell Daniels

**Staff:** Craig Deal (Manager)  
Fay Stodart (Administrator)

**Member of  
The Public:** N/A

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

**APOLOGIES :** John Skeates  
Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

**It was moved:** *That these apologies are accepted.*  
*Ameron* *CARRIED*

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 are confirmed as true and correct.*  
*Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon* *CARRIED*

**Matters Arising**

The matter of the trailer sale was raised – this has not yet been completed. Darryl queried whether John Macpherson had signed his new contract. Craig stated that John is accepting of the terms from verbal discussion and that he will be signing the contract over the weekend 13-14 August 2022.

**Additions to agenda:**

Nil.

## **Manager's Report**

### **1110 Population Monitoring**

The manager shared his intention to start pheasant crow counts, pukeko road transect counts and trout surveys in the artificial reservoirs (Wilson's Dam, Whau Valley Dam and Lake Manuawai). This was to ensure that Northland Fish and Game Council was collecting data on all species, and to align procedures with other regions to ensure a national effort. The chairman noted that native species should take priority over introduced. There was discussion on the suitability and effectiveness of the proposed methods compared to the information gained from hunter surveys. Road transect counts and crow calls are not considered to be the most robust survey method but are a favourable compromise due to lower effort required than detailed study. Decision for population monitoring in FY 2022-2023 to be captured in the overall Operational Work Plan and Budget agenda item.

### **1316 Secondary School Clay Target**

The manager advised the council that the council still owned the trophies for the Secondary Schools Clay Target Competition and recommended that the trophies be donated to the competition upon Fish and Game's withdrawal from support at the end of the 2022 season.

**It was moved:** *That the council donate the Secondary Schools Clay Target Competition trophies to the competition at the end of the 2022 season.*

*Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell*

*CARRIED*

### **1530 Compliance**

The manager reported discovering offences under the Wildlife Act 1953 whilst conducting hunter surveys. Two hunters had admitted to hunting mallard/grey duck in closed season in July. The manager stated the intended compliance action was to issue formal warning letters to both hunters – the councillors were in agreement that this was a suitable course of action.

### **1810 Management/Strategic Planning**

The concept of amalgamating with Auckland/Waikato region was discussed. There was concern with regard to the challenges in achieving appropriate representation from Māori considering the number of iwi, hapū and local runanga in both Northland and Auckland/Waikato. There are also difficulties foreseen with the proposed new governance structure including:

- Having ministerial appointees on council and licence holder representatives
- Having ministerial appointees paid for their time and licence holder representatives unpaid
- If amalgamation occurs Northland will likely have insufficient representation on the newly formed council (one licence holder representative out of eight cr.)

The chairman also raised some of the potential benefits of amalgamation such as the increasing difficulty in getting a council each election, and cost savings in areas such as accounting.

## **1812 Northland Sports Fish and Game Plan**

The manager raised the issue of the expired sports fish and game management plan. Its renewal had been delayed by the issue of amalgamation with other regions. It was agreed that a plan was required regardless, as amalgamation was not yet confirmed or potentially several years from occurring. Manager is to initiate the process of developing a new sports fish and game management plan.

### **Field Officers Reports**

The Council reviewed the Field Officers reports.

**It was moved:** *That the Managers and Field Officers reports are received.  
Cameron Shanks/Peter Allen* **CARRIED**

### **NZFGC Update**

Councillor Darryl Reardon attended the 158<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NZFG Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in via Zoom. Darryl highlighted the following:

- Despite the general opposition to the renewal of field officer John Macpherson's contract, it had the support of NZFG Council chairman.
- The Chief Financial Officer is still intending to visit Northland to review the Northland Fish and Game Council's finances. This is likely to occur once the 2021-2022 FY is completed.

**It was moved:** *That Cr Reardon's NZFGC report is received.  
Mark Bell/Cameron Shanks* **CARRIED**

### **Correspondence – Status of research into native fish species population**

The council reviewed and discussed the correspondence that had been received from Kaipara District Council, Department of Conservation and Northland Regional Council. Cr Allen shared information that he had collected on kawai (freshwater crayfish) life cycle and the observation of kawai absence and gambusia proliferation in Lake Kai Iwi recently. He is concerned that Gambusia are eating kawai young and are causing population decline. Manager is to request the most recent dune lake galaxiid survey data from Department of Conservation Kauri Coast office.

### **2022-2023 Operational Work Plan and Budget**

The manager presented the proposed Operational Work Plan and Budget for 2022-2023 FY. Changes to the drafts that were presented at the March meeting were highlighted. Some of these changes were significant due to the results of contestable funding bids at the NZFGC meeting in April 2022. Staff salaries were discussed – the councillors advised that it would be prudent to wait for the results of the national remuneration review to be published before committing to raising staff salaries.

**It was moved:** *That the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for FY 2022-2023 is approved  
Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell* **CARRIED**

### **Executive Limitations Report**

It was moved: **That the Executive Limitations Report is received.**  
**Mark Bell/Cameron Shanks** **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

An updated report was circulated to the councillors. There was one incident reported. The manager reported that the Covid Worksafe policy, including leave provisions for illness and household contacts, had been updated and signed by all staff.

It was moved: **That the Health and Safety Report is received.**  
**Darryl Reardon/Peter Allen** **CARRIED**

### **Financial Reports**

The manager gave a summary on the financial report ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The National Fish and Game Bird Licence Sales report YTD to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 was circulated to the councillors. There was some discussion that the lag in Police processing of firearms licences (up to 18 months), as well as the increased restrictions on storage and carriage requirements, was inhibiting uptake of game bird licences.

It was moved: **That the Financial Report to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 is adopted.**  
**Cameron Shanks/Darryl Reardon** **CARRIED**

### **Depreciation Schedule**

The councillors reviewed the depreciation schedule covering the dates 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

It was moved: **That the Depreciation Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 is adopted.**  
**Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon** **CARRIED**

### **Correspondence Schedule**

The councillors reviewed the correspondence schedule covering the dates 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

It was moved: **That the Correspondence Schedule 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 is adopted.**

**General Business**

The NZFGC Communications Strategy 2022 was circulated to the councillors for review and discussion at the next meeting.

The NZFGC Relevance document was circulated to the councillors for review and discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.48pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Durham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**