

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM TUESDAY 25th JANUARY 2022

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

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

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager),
Fay Stodart (Finance Officer/Administrator)

**Member of
The Public:** Graeme Stevenson

The Chairman welcomed the councillors to the Council table and acknowledged Graeme Stevenson, a potential new councillor. 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.*

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell ***CARRIED***

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2021 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Peter Allen/Darryl Reardon ***CARRIED***

Matters Arising

The regional Fish & Game finalised review report will now be completed at the end of March.

Additions to agenda

The manager wished to speak on the research regarding the interaction between trout and native fish and what this could mean for Fish & Game nationally.

Manager's Report

1111 Aerial Trend Counts

Ground surveys of the northern harbours with the Fish & Game boat were completed by John and Graham in early January. The aerial survey was completed on the 12-13th January. A detailed written report of the annual trend count was circulated to the councillors for their information. The overall number of paradise shelduck was up slightly from 2021. Black swan have increased enormously on Lake Omapere.

1225 Flaxmill Bridge

An updated report on the construction of the Flaxmill bridge was circulated to the councillors. The report included some photos of the progress. A third payment towards the bridge was made on the 20th January 2022. The Council agreed to pay up to \$40,000 plus GST towards the bridge replacement.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

Northland Fish & Game applied for resource consent to the Northland Regional Council to build a dam wall across the valley floor. The timeline for the consent to be processed should be completed by the end of January.

The ground spraying for the Manchurian Rice Grass will commence at the end of January, weather permitting. Northland Regional Council has agreed to provide the chemical spray.

1181 Game Bird Dispersal

An application by email was received, requesting permission to take up to 100 shelduck per day and to use lead shot if closer than 200 metres to any waterway in the Purerua Peninsula near Kerikeri/Waipapa. The councillors considered the request and instructed the manager to email the person with a negative response and an explanation of bag limits and the law on lead shot.

1821 Operational Work Plan

The manager wanted some direction from the councillors on developing the operational work plan for the 2022-23 financial year. The 2022-23 draft budget and any contestable fund applications are due to NZ Council on the 23rd March 2022. The managers will discuss all budgets at a meeting in Wellington on the 18th April.

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.

General Business

Regional Manager Vacancy

The manager is due to retire at the end of March 2022. A job vacancy notice was advertised in the local newspaper, on line Seek for Jobs and Trade Me Jobs. The closing date for all applications is the 14th February 2022. All Fish & Game staff and Regional Chairpersons have been notified of the vacancy.

The manager will sort all applications for the Chairman to review after the closing date.

Fisheries Research

Understanding divergent perspectives on introduced trout into Aotearoa: relational values approach. This research into indigenous fish and the interaction trout and the native fish will commence is being undertaken by the Cawthron Research Institute and is being funded by the Fish Futures MBIE Endeavour Programme. Fish & Game, as a collective, has been asked for their input and to be involved with the project. There will be three areas in New Zealand where this research will be undertaken – Rotorua Lakes, Nelson/Marlborough and Canterbury areas.

The outcome of this research may have a detrimental effect on Fish & Game nationally.

The manager will forward some of the research findings to date out to the councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman



