

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE**  
**NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**  
**7.00PM FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022**

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**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Darryl Reardon, Peter Allen, Mark Bell, Russell Daniels, Graeme Stevenson, John Skeates

**Staff:** Craig Deal (Manager)  
Fay Stodart (Finance Officer/Administrator)

**Member of  
The Public:** Noel Birchall

The Chairman welcomed the councillors and Noel Birchall as a member of the public to the Council table. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

**APOLOGIES :** Cameron Shanks  
Robert Newport (Northland Conservation Board)  
Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

**It was moved:** *That these apologies are accepted.*  
*Mark Bell/ Russell Daniels* **CARRIED**

**It was moved:** *That the member of the public has speaking rights at the council meeting.*  
*Darryl Reardon/Peter Allen* **CARRIED**

**Previous Minutes**

**It was resolved:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 are confirmed as true and correct.*  
*Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell* **CARRIED**

**Matters Arising**

The council agreed that Rudi's retirement function went very well. The chairman had great discussions with Sue Reed-Thomas (DOC) and Penny Smart (NRC) and believed that it was good relationship building between the organisations.



## 1900 Administration

### Approval of credit card

The manager requested permission to apply for a credit card from the ASB bank for operational purchases for the Northland Fish & Game Council.

**It was moved:** *Council approves the manager to get a credit card for operational purchases with a credit limit of \$5,000 and to cancel the old Visa Credit Card issued to RJ Hoetjes at the ASB Bank.*  
*Peter Allen/Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED**

### Vehicles – Trailers

The manager requested approval from the council to sell both trailers and purchase one fit for purpose trailer. The council needed two trailers in the past to undertake the trout liberations but now the liberations can be done with one trailer.

**It was moved:** *Council approves the manager to spend no more than \$3,000 on top of the sale of both trailers to purchase one fit for purpose trailer.*  
*Graeme Stevenson/Russell Daniels* **CARRIED**

### Field Officers Reports

The Council discussed the following points in the staff reports:

- Swan numbers on Lake Omapere
- Trout releases
- Take A Mate Hunting promotion.

**It was moved:** *That the Managers and Field Officers reports are received.*  
*Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon* **CARRIED**

### NZFGC Update

Councillor Darryl Reardon attended the 157<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NZFG Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 in Wellington. Darryl highlighted the following:

- Edward Ellison who is the chair of the NZ Conservation Authority spoke about Biodiversity Strategy, Conservation Law Reform, Wildlife Act Review and the new Director General of Conservation – Penny Nelson.
- Appointment of Corina Jordan as the new CE of NZ Fish & Game Council. Her position commences on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- Discussion on 2022/23 Licence fee.

### Joint Workshop with NZC, Managers and Chairs

The chairman, Phil Durham, gave a brief account of the joint workshop meeting in Wellington with the NZC, regional managers and regional chairpersons. Phil informed the council of:

- John Macpherson's salary was declined by NZ Council. The council believed that John liaised with Iwi for a total of 30 hours but the chairman informed NZC that John met with Iwi daily. NZ Council agreed that John's salary will come out of Northland's reserves for the 2022-2023 financial year. Northland council will have to apply for another contestable funding application next year. NZC recognised the work that John has achieved in the Far North and had unanimous support from all the regions.
- NZ Fish & Game Review to go out to licence holders for consultation. Councillors agreed that all Northland licence holders should be emailed within this consult period.

- Communication between regions to improve. The chairpersons will meet via zoom meetings monthly to share ideas.
- Bruce Bates, chairman of Hawkes Bay Fish & Game, is running a programme to introduce children to game food, teaching them to hunt and fish etc.
- Bulk Funding Model – 3-year budget planning cycle.
- REM Report by Debbie Oakley – Remuneration review and Strategic pay
- Updating of policies
- Governance Training. More in-depth modules of governance training available to councils.
- The review outcomes need to be completed rapidly as Fish & Game staff needs stability.

### **2022/2023 Licence Fee Recommendations**

The council discussed the NZ Council licence fee recommendations and supported the following:

- a) That the 2022/23 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$145 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$107 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).*
- b) That, additional to the above licence fee increase, the adult whole season non-resident licence fee is increased to \$250 and that the fee for the remaining non-resident licence categories is increased on the same ratio.*
- c) That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a free season endorsement to resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$50.*

Northland Council was also supportive of the \$5 fee for the sea run salmon license endorsement. Additionally, the Northland Fish and Game Council does not intend to recommend any waterways as designated waters in this region.

It was moved: ***That the Northland Fish and Game support the NZ Council licence fee recommendations.***  
***Darryl Reardon/Peter Allen*** ***CARRIED***

### **2022/2023 Anglers Notice**

The manager proposed to delete the Kai Iwi Lakes and the Rose Dam from the Anglers Notice 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule. There is very little, if any trout left in the Kai Iwi Lakes and there is encroaching aquatic vegetation in the Rose Dam making fishing very difficult.

It was moved: ***That the council agrees with the manager's recommendations to the Anglers Notice 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule.***  
***Russell Daniels/Peter Allen*** ***CARRIED***

### **Public Excluded session of the meeting**

The public excluded session of the meeting was for Councillors only without public, or representatives of groups present.

8.53PM Resolved: ***(John Skeates, Darryl Reardon)***  
***That the Council move into a Public Excluded session of the meeting.***

That the public and representatives of groups be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, to discuss:

***To discuss employment matters***

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily relate to a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Sec 9(2)(b)(ii)	Commercial information about a third party would likely prejudice the commercial position of that party if released.	Once the third party to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

**Note** Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

**9.10pm Resolved: (Peter Allen/Graeme Stevenson**

***That the open meeting of the Northland Fish and Game Council resumes.***

**It was moved: That the council offers John Macpherson a one-year contract with the salary component to be drawn from general reserves.**

**Darryl Reardon/Peter Allen**

**CARRIED**



Councillor John Skeates advised the council of a farmer who is possibly leasing his land for shooting rights to hunters. The councillors discussed the matter and instructed John to get an address and let Craig, the regional manager, to deal with the situation.

The manager sought the council's approval to take annual leave as it accrues and take sick leave before the six months of full employment.

The council agreed to allow the manager to take annual leave when accrued and take sick leave before the six months.

The manager inquired whether the Council should make an application to the Game Bird Habitat Trust for further development work at the Underwood Wetlands. The council instructed the manager to liaise with Rudi Hoetjes.

The manager also wanted guidance on how the council will allow hunting in the Underwood Wetland in 2023. The manager and field officer will make some recommendations to the council at the October council meeting for councillor's consideration.

Councillor Peter Allen requested that the manager write a letter to Nicky Atkinson (Freshwater Ecosystems), Department of Conservation and Kaipara District Council to enquire if any scientific research into the survival of the dune lake galaxid has occurred since trout releases have ceased and trout have died off.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm.



**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**

