

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE**  
**NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI**  
**7.00PM FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

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**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Phil Durham

**Councillors:** Cameron Shanks, John McEntee, Mark Bell, Russell Daniels, Darryl Reardon, John Skeates (via teleconference)

**Staff:** Craig Deal (Manager)

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:** None

Peter Allen was not present as he had tendered his resignation to Council in September. A discussion was held and Council thanked Peter for his contribution and wished him all the best.

**Previous Minutes**

It was resolved: **That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 are confirmed as true and correct.**

**Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell**

**CARRIED**

**Matters Arising**

**All of Government contracts and purchasing**

Action: Manager to subscribe to the vehicle purchase and fuel All of Government contracts, and to investigate the other contracts available to see whether meaningful savings can be made for Northland.

**Kiwi Aversion Training**

DOC advised the manager that he is planning to run the Kiwi Aversion Training in Hoanga Scenic Reserve rather than in the Underwood Wetland to not disturb breeding game birds and permitted hunting.

**Sports Fish Legal Definitions**

The manager is still to advise Northland Regional Council on legal sports fish definitions. This will be done through the regional Fish Passage Working Group.

## **Amalgamations**

The chair is yet to discuss amalgamation with the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council chair. The chair will make contact and discuss the possibility of Northland taking operational control of the area north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Some of the opportunities and issues were discussed by the council such as:

- Having one region control the entire Kaipara watershed - sensible from a wildlife management unit perspective
- Extra management costs (duck banding, RMA advocacy)
- Extra effort required for field staff (longer driving hours)
- Extra resourcing requirements
- How to obtain extra revenue – would Auckland/Waikato assist with funding?

It was decided that the chair would talk to the Auckland/Waikato chair regarding getting the two councils together to discuss the issue and look at options.

## **Mana Whenua Engagement**

The manager has reached out to Ngāti Hine, Ngātiwai and Ngāti Whātua to gauge if there is interest in engaging with Northland Fish and Game Council (NFGC). Ngāti Hine have responded, and a meeting has been set for 18 October 2023.

## **Feedback to NZFGC**

The manager provided policy feedback to NZFGC on the draft performance management policy.

## **Depreciated Assets**

The assets that had depreciated to trivial values have been written off the ledger as part of the annual accounts.

## **Managers' Report**

### **1110 Species monitoring**

The manager has committed to spending up to \$2000 to get maps based off modelling for all trout habitat and all suitable trout spawning habitat in Northland. This will enable more effective advocacy in RMA and other statutory processes. The money can be drawn from the regional Non-Resident Reserve.

The manager is to look into opportunities to train staff in electro-fishing and drift diving to develop capability in Northland to better understand the trout populations. If training is successful in 2023-2024 then trout population monitoring may be factored into the 2024-2025 OWP.

The condition of trout in the stocked reservoirs was discussed.

Action: The manager will present options for changes to the stocking regime at the December 2023 meeting.

## **1220 Works and Management**

Underwood wetland work will focus around preparation for World Wetlands Day. Councillors would like to see councillors and staff from other regions invited to the event.

Underwood wetland will have stand sites balloted for opening weekends on a one-year rotation only to allow flexibility and to conform with the joint management plan with DOC.

DOC Kauri Coast has not yet forwarded the bill for the Cyclone Gabrielle repairs to the Hoanga Road.

The recent stand audit on Jack Bisset Wetland was discussed. The manager is to inform all stand holders that stands can remain as they are until they are condemned by field staff in an audit. Once condemned the stands may only be rebuilt in accordance with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council Maimai Construction Guidelines.

## **1421 District/Regional Councils/Iwi**

The manager will attend a wānanga on the golden clam on 24 October 2023.

## **1710 Council Elections**

Councillor Peter Allen has resigned from Council.

Action: Manager to advertise the vacancy in the Northern Advocate and via social media and email. Advertisement also to seek interest from potential candidates.

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

**Darryl Reardon / John Skeates** **CARRIED**

## **Field Officers Reports**

Action: Manager to distribute harvest information to Jack Bisset Wetland stand holders with the audit letters.

Council requested that Far North Field Officer have a paragraph specific to Iwi engagement in his reports.

**It was moved:**            **That the Field Officer reports be received.**

**John McEntee / Mark Bell** **CARRIED**

## **NZFGC Update**

There was no NZFGC update as there has not been a meeting since the last meeting of the NZFGC.

### **National Angler Survey**

The results from the National Anglers Survey for 2021-2022 fishing season were discussed along with the management implications for fishery management in the region. Whilst the stocked reservoirs draw the most angling effort in the region it was thought that the change to open the rivers year-round may increase the usage along with some advertising by staff.

### **NZFGC Consultation**

Council considered the NZFGC timetable and meeting schedule for 2024. No issues were raised.

The following NZFGC draft policies were considered:

- Setting National Policy
- Conflict of Interest
- Staff Code of Conduct

NFGC were supportive of all policies and are pleased to see progress being made. Council intends to adopt NZFGC policies as they are published.

Action: Manager to communicate the policy feedback to NZFGC.

Action: Manager to present NZFGC policies to NFGC as they are approved and published, for adoption by NFGC. The Remuneration Policy will be presented at the December meeting.

### **NFGC Annual Agenda 2024**

The manager presented two options for meeting dates in 2024. Council decided on a hybrid of both options.

Action: Manager to promulgate amended 2024 meeting timetable to councillors.

### **NFGC Vehicle Policy**

The manager presented a draft vehicle policy for the region. It incorporates the criteria for private vehicle use that is standardised across the country. Council advised on one amendment and adopted the policy.

**It was moved:**            ***That the NFGC Vehicle Policy with amendment is approved and adopted.***

***Darryl Reardon / Mark Bell***

***CARRIED***

Action: Manager to make the required amendment.

### **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.**

**Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell** **CARRIED**

### **Executive Limitations Report**

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

**Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell** **CARRIED**

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report ending 31 August 2023 with annual accounts from 2022-2023 financial year was circulated to the councillors.

It was moved: **That the Financial Report is adopted.**

**Russell Daniels / Cameron Shanks** **CARRIED**

### **General Business**

The manager advised of the scope of the cost optimisation project being executed by NZC through a contract. Council were supportive of the project and saw it as a positive and healthy step nationally. Council approved of the contractor being given access to NFGC Xero accounting software.

It was moved: **To give the cost optimisation contractor access to NFGC Xero.**

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

Action: Manager is to ensure the agenda for NFGC meetings is also distributed to NZC when it is sent out.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

**Phil Durham**  
**Chairman**



