

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM THURSDAY 17th MAY 2024

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Cameron Shanks, Mark Bell, John Skeates Darryl Reardon, John McEntee

Staff: Craig Deal (Manager), Rachael Quin (Administrator)

Member of the public: Noel Birchall

Conservation Board: Penny Smart (via teleconference)

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

APOLOGIES: Russell Daniels, Kelvin Ellis

It was moved: *That apologies are accepted.*

Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell *CARRIED*

Previous Minutes

Cr. Bell corrected his statement regarding spend to focus on licence sales (page 4).

It was resolved: *That the amended minutes of the meeting held on the 8th March 2024 are confirmed as true and correct.*

John McEntee / Cameron Shanks *CARRIED*

Matters Arising

None.

Managers' Report

1411 Conservation Board Liaison

No response from DOC Kauri Coast regarding taking over the resource consent for Awakino wetland weir. The management agreement expires 2028.

1500 Compliance

The manager commented on disappointing level of compliance over opening weekend and resulting offence notices to process. A letter has been sent to police expressing appreciation for their support of Fish & Game rangers and an invitation to attend future ranging.

1800 Budget

The manager stated that the submitted draft budget will not be altered by NZ Council. A discussion was held on the lower than forecast licence sales and the effect that non-compliance is having on our budget. The council is in agreement with the manager that the cost of prosecution cannot influence decisions to bring offenders before the court. The results of prosecutions will be as widely publicised as possible.

Action: The manager will consult "in house" regarding legal advice and the Chairman will write to NZ Council outlaying our concerns regarding the level of non-compliance and the cost of prosecutions.

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

Mark Bell / John McEntee

CARRIED

Field Officers Reports

The recent botulism outbreak has highlighted the lack of awareness by Whangarei District Council of their responsibility and obligation to report these to Fish & Game.

Action: The manager to find a Whangarei District Council contact involved with botulism outbreaks.

Noel Birchall attended the duck night at the Kerikeri Hunting & Fishing store and spoke on behalf of Fish & Game. The Chairman attended the duck night at Whangārei Hunting and Fishing.

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

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

NZFGC Update

Cr. Reardon attended the recent National Council meeting #168 and tabled the Summary report, Future Finance Purpose document and the Future Structure Working Group Recommendations to NZFGC.

Action: Councillors are to read the recommendations and if necessary, a special meeting will be called. Manager is to distribute these reports via email after the meeting.

The draft Compliance Policy was circulated to regions. Feedback is due in July.

Action: The manager is to circulate the policy and obtain compliance feedback from the rangers.

A discussion was held on the response to the Minister's letter to Fish and Game Councils. It was noted as a positive step that NZ Council now have direct access and communication with the Minister.

The Chairman read out his letter of response to Minister McLay sent on behalf of Northland Fish and Game Council.

Action: Manager to forward Chairmans letter to councillors for comment.

Election

Noel Birchall suggested the public are emailed prior to the election outlining the role and its importance along with a nomination form. The manager stated that there will be a national campaign along those lines.

The Chairman proposed that confirmed minutes and upcoming meeting agendas are emailed to current and lapsed Northland licence holders.

It was moved: **That recent confirmed minutes and agenda are emailed to current and lapsed Northland licence holders.**

Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell

CARRIED

Anglers Notice Confirmation

The manager stated there are no proposed changes to the draft Northland region anglers' notice.

It was moved: **That the Anglers Notice be approved.**

Darryl Reardon / Cameron Shanks

CARRIED

Action: Manager to send the Anglers Notice to NZC for publishing in the gazette.

Licence Fee Recommendation 2024-25

The manager suggested it be on record that no increase to the licence fee has a greater impact on smaller regions with less reserves. It was agreed that the Chairmans letter to Minister

McLay spoke to this. Councillors discussed rising costs and that the licence fee should be increased at least by CPI.

It was moved: The Northland Fish and Game council proposes that the licence fees be raised by at least the CPI to at least keep pace with rising costs.

John McEntee /Cameron Shanks CARRIED

LEQ Feedback

Forecasted LEQ licence sales figures were anticipated to be slightly higher than what might be sold considering the decline in sales over the most recent seasons.

It was moved: That the forecasted licence sales figures are accepted.

Darryl Reardon / Mark Bell CARRIED

Cr. Reardon left the meeting at 9.27pm.

Draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) 2024-25

The manager referred to the Banding Program memorandum and outlined the benefits, requesting permission from council to assess feasibility. Its scientific value was discussed. Cr. Skeates requested models and results from other studies.

Action: Manager will provide information on how banding data is used to inform regulations in other regions, to assist in deciding on banding proposal before final approval of OWP 2024-25 at next meeting.

It was moved: That the manager has approval to scope out feasibility of commencing a Northland banding program.

Cameron Shanks / John McEntee CARRIED

The manager pointed out the changes to draft OWP regarding works and management, media, and prosecutions.

It was moved: The Annual Operational Work Plan 2024-25 be accepted.

Mark Bell / John McEntee 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

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.**

Mark Bell / John Skeates

CARRIED

Financial Reports

Financial report ending 31 March 2024. Licence sales YTD circulated to the councillors.

Action: The manager is to analyse the overall cost of conducting a field officers vehicle replacement to report to the chair.

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

John McEntee / John Skeates

CARRIED

General Business

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman



