

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Cameron Shanks, Mark Bell, John Skeates, Darryl Reardon, John McEntee, Kelvin Ellis, Russell Daniels

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

Members of the public: Noel Birchall, Barry Barnes, Lloyd Altham

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: Penny Smart (Northland Conservation Board representative)

It was moved: *The apologies are accepted.*

Cameron Shanks / Russell Daniels **CARRIED**

It was moved: *The member of the public is given speaking rights.*

Mark Bell / Cameron Shanks **CARRIED**

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the amended minutes;*

“\$500 transferred from 1954 Equipment Insurance to 1981 Field Equipment purchases”

of the previous meeting held on the 26th July 2024 are confirmed as true and correct.

Russell Daniels / Darryl Reardon **CARRIED**

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported he had raised concerns to NZ Council regarding the diversion and reparation issue.

The policies file is up to date and signed.

The manager advised the Wairua issue is ongoing.

The Chairman requested the reserves classification description to be added to the next agenda.

Action: Rachael to add future agenda item

The Chairman requested the competencies for a small region manager be emailed to him.

Action: Manager to email competencies to the Chairman.

Managers' Report

1210 Resource Management Act

The manager reported a favourable response regarding the Kaitaia wastewater treatment plant.

1228 Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve

The manager requested clarification of the position of Northland Fish & Game Council's involvement with the Wairua Reserve. Levels of involvement were discussed including the need to create open areas of communication, predator control and maintenance enabling hunter access.

It was moved: *That the Manager contact Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori with a view to establish a working relationship at the Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve.*

Kelvin Ellis / John McEntee

CARRIED

1531 Prosecutions

The manager advised on the progress of prosecutions and potential diversion funds donated to Game Bird Habitat Trust. Barry Barnes spoke on behalf of NZ Council stating a diversion scheme proposed is progressing. Cr. Daniels suggested those prosecuted for not having a game bird licence should be made to purchase one. The Manager will investigate this as a possibility. Cr. Skeates enquired about making public the outcome of prosecutions as a deterrent. The manager intends to.

Councillors discussed problem birds and improving connection with landowners. Lloyd Altham suggested an interest article in farming magazines prior to the game bird season.

Action: Rachael to enable a website form for landowners to register problem birds issue.

1840 National Liaison

The manager commented that the upcoming wetland visit will be a good advocacy opportunity. The chairman suggested involving Mana Whenua in the official welcome.

1315 Fish Tuition Day

The manager updated council with preparations for the Fish Tuition Day. Cr. Daniels and Cr. Ellis offered to attend, and Cr. Ellis offered his fishing gear for the day. Cr. Bell suggested information emailed to local schools and posters given to fishing retailers.

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

Darryl Reardon / Kelvin Ellis **CARRIED**

Field Officers Reports

The chairman praised the professional reporting by Field Officer Graham Gallagher.

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

Mark Bell / John Skeates **CARRIED**

Budget Confirmation

Barry Barnes shared the reasoning for zero budgeting and advised that the template and information will be coming out soon.

The final budget for 2024/25 is less the contestable funding bid amount.

It was moved: **The final budget for 2024/25 of \$592,081 is approved.**

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon **CARRIED**

Action: The manager to check Carmel received notification of the approved budget.

Meeting Schedule 2025

The manager tabled Council meeting date memorandum. The options were explained by the manager. The second option was voted to be preferred with the amendment of Friday 23rd May changed to Thursday 22nd May 2025.

NZFGC Update

Cr. Reardon advised that he intends to step down as regional representative for the NZ Council. Cr. Reardon described the risk register and the need to continually update.

Action: Manager to create and manage a risk register.

Cr. Reardon relayed the reach of the ReWild campaign and NZ Council recent review of Standing Orders, adopting an amended version. The Chairman suggested we adopt the same policies.

Action: Manager to amend Northland Fish and Game's Standing Orders once the NZ Council Standing Orders document is received.

Consultation Documents

The NZ Council guidance on 10 Year Sports Management Plan development was discussed. The Chairman proposed that the aim is to build relationships. The manager spoke in support. The council agreed that engagement is fundamentally important.

Action: The manager is to draft a process and tracker for Mana Whenua engagement to refer to.

It was moved: That the Northland Fish and Game Council supports the national draft Sports Fish & Game Management plan development policy being implemented as policy. The Northland Fish and Game Council supports the Mana Whenua engagement guidelines being implemented as guidelines.

Kelvin Ellis / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

The council discussed NZ Council meeting dates proposed. The council supports the dates. No changes are recommended.

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.

John McEntee / John Skeates

CARRIED

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks / Kelvin Ellis

CARRIED

Financial Report

Financial report ending 31 July 2024.

The council discussed adding handling fee to gas gun sales as a legitimate cost recovery.

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

Kelvin Ellis / Mark Bell

CARRIED

General Business

Noel Birchall commented that contestable funding is a divisive system for the organisation.

Cr. Daniels thanked Cr. Reardon for his efforts as the regional representative.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.46pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman



