

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 8th February 2019**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Russel Daniels, Chris Lynch, Mark McGinley, Mike Newson, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates.

Department of Conservation: Sue Reed-Thomas, Ross Atkinson

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table and made a special welcome to Sue Reed-Thomas, Director of Northland Department of Conservation.

APOLOGIES: No apologies received.

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

Sue Reed-Thomas gave a brief description of her background and her job description. She believed in building and strengthening the relationship between the Department of Conservation and Fish & Game as both organisations have common goals. Sue acknowledged the huge amount of work by Fish & Game and especially, Rudi, the manager in the Wairua Wildlife Management Reserve. She thought that signing a ten year agreement was a real milestone.

The manager informed the Council that a past life member of the Northland Fish & Game Council, Mr Snow Cochrane, had passed away the previous week. Mr Cochrane was instrumental in purchasing the Draffin Farm which is now known as the Jack Bisset Wetlands.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2018 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Fish & Game New Zealand Bequests Policy

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has sought feedback on establishing a uniform policy relating to the acceptance and utilisation of bequests. Councillor Birchall gave a brief summary of the importance of having a policy in place.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council supports the recommended Fish & Game New Zealand Bequests Policy.*

Mark McGinley/ Chris Lynch *CARRIED.*

Setting National Policy

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has sought feedback on seeking an agreement on the process for setting national policy. The council discussed the recommendations and thought that a clause 9 should be added. Northland Fish & Game region recommended the following clause:

9. All new policies are to be reviewed after two year period.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game Council supports the recommendations of New Zealand Fish & Game Council of setting national policy subject to an additional clause 9 being a review after 2 years.*

Chris Lynch/ Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Game Preserves

The New Zealand Council has sought comments and feedback on the upland game preserves from all Fish & Game regions. The NZFGC provided regional councils with five questions to provide comments and vote on.

The Chair asked each individual councillor to express their views and opinions on game preserves.

The following questions were discussed and voted upon:

1. Does your Council support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee?

Northland Fish & Game Council does NOT support the operation of upland game properties with special conditions for the principle purpose of providing a guaranteed hunting opportunity for a fee.

Northland Fish & Game voted 9 against. 2 support the motion

*Cr John Skeates is recorded as supporting the operation of upland game properties.
Cr Darryl Reardon abstained from voting.*

2. Is there support for non-commercial (i.e. where hunting is not provided for a fee) upland game properties operated by families, private syndicates or friends to provide an immediate and guaranteed hunting opportunity with special conditions?

Northland Fish & Game voted 9 for and 3 against.

They voted adding "with special conditions" to the question.

3. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions for a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other game birds on that property for a fee?

Northland Fish & Game voted against unanimously.

4. If F&G allows pheasant/quail/partridge hunting on upland game properties with special conditions without a fee, should it also allow hunting of mallards or other game birds on that property without a fee?

Northland Fish & Game voted against unanimously.

5. Would you support legislation being changed to allow the sale of hunting rights on upland game properties with special conditions? ~~but maintain the prohibition on the sale of hunting rights in all other hunting situations?~~

The Northland Fish & Game Council amended the question and voted against. They believed that it was illegal to charge for hunting rights.

The recommendation from the Northland Fish & Game Council on Game Preserves is that the Northland Council does not support game preserves.

9.15pm: Sue Reed-Thomas left the council meeting. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

Employsure

A proposal from Employsure was received, specifying their services and a pricing schedule. The councillors believed that the proposal was very expensive and thought that the New Zealand Council should have insurance for all regions for any personal grievances.

10.00pm: Ross Atkinson left the Council meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance.

Auditors Management Letter

The Auditor's Management letter was received in January thanking the staff for their help and cooperation with the audit. The auditors found no untoward concerns. The Councillors accepted the auditor's management letter and congratulated the Manager and the staff on an excellent report.

It was moved: *That the Auditors Management letter is received.*

Darryl Reardon/Dave Nicholson

CARRIED.

Manager's Annual Performance Review

The Chairman asked the Review committee to meet after the council meeting to arrange a date and time for the Manager's review.

