

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2023

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

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

Staff: Craig Deal (Manager)
Rachael Quin (Finance Officer / Administrator)

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: Peter Allen

It was moved: *That the apologies are accepted.*

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

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2023 are confirmed as true and correct.*

John Skeates / Cameron Shanks ***CARRIED***

Cr. Reardon abstained from voting as not present at the meeting.

Matters Arising

Vehicle Industry Advice

Action: Manager will look into All Of Government options regarding sale and purchase of vehicles taking into account the 10 year warranties on both Mitsubishi utes.

NZC Minutes

Manager reported on response regarding availability of NZC minutes for interested parties. It was advised that unconfirmed minutes would not be released until confirmed at the next meeting.

Managers' Report

1221 Jack Bisset Wetland

Intense use and poor weather conditions over the season caused issues with the wetland access and created friction between hunters, staff and the holder of the grazing licence. The grazing licence conditions were breached by the grazier which is serious for council and its responsibility to protect QEII covenanted land.

It was moved: *That the lease for grazing in the QEII trust area of Jack Bisset Wetland be terminated.*

Cameron Shanks / Mark Bell

CARRIED

The manager advised the council that a request to fish commercially for eel at the wetland was declined on the grounds that it was strongly opposed by Mana Whenua, namely Mana Whenua ki Whatitiri which is a grouping composed of Te Uriroro, Te Parawhau and Te Māhurehure ki Whatitiri.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The manager advised the council that the plantings for Kaipara Moana Remediation have recently been inspected and signed off.

The council was updated that Stephen Soole from DOC has been in contact with the manager requesting to share the cost to repair the slip damage to the access road. This was approved up to half the value of the \$2500 quote provided. Stephen also stated that track clearance work that he had reported to Kaipara District Council was never reported.

The manager reported on the use of the wetland for Kiwi Aversion Training, advising that the recent training went well with another scheduled for October. The council discussed potential for wildlife disturbance and suggested dogs are not off the leash and nesting areas be fenced off.

Action: Manager to work with DOC representative to ensure that Kiwi Aversion training does not impact the breeding of game birds.

1228 Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve

Cr Shanks queried the consent monitoring charges for the reserve and Underwood wetland. The structures requiring monitoring were explained.

1332 Angler/Fish National Magazine

A copy of the article featuring Kris Batelaan in the recent fish magazine was circulated for councillor interest.

1421 District and Regional Councils, Iwi

The manager has attended a fish passage workshop run by Northland Regional Council. It is anticipated there may be conflict regarding which species are classed as "desirable" and "undesirable", noting that perch and tench (legally classified as sports fish) are classed as pests in the Regional Pest Management Plan. The chairman stated that there is already a legal

classification, so the regional council have a legal obligation to operate within the law. The council's position is that no releases of fish are undertaken into waterways that do not have existing populations.

Action: Manager is to advise the NRC as to the existing classification of tench and perch as sports fish under the existing Acts.

1600 Licensing

Sales report to 25 July 2023 was circulated to the councillors.

1840 National Liaison

The manager highlighted the positive outcomes with NBEA and an upcoming visit from a budgetary advisor.

The council discussed the reality of amalgamation with Auckland/Waikato council and the option to expand the Northland region incorporating the Kaipara watershed as one. It was decided that the preferred position of the Northland council is for the expansion of the region to include the entire Kaipara catchment.

Action: Northland Chair to discuss with Auckland/Waikato chair.

1900 Administration

The manager advised that the Honda car is currently on TradeMe.

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

Darryl Reardon / John Skeates

CARRIED

Field Officers Reports

It was reported that the wetland stand audits have been carried out and the danger of unsafe two storey maimai's.

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

Russell Daniels / John McEntee

CARRIED

Operational Work Plan 2023-2024

The manager advised of the recent minor changes to the document and pointed out the separation of project codes 1411, 1412, 1413 to better quantify effort allocated to Mana Whenua engagement.

Action: Cr. Reardon requested 2023 be changed to 2024 under project 1171.

The manager advised that World Wetland Day invitations will be sent out at the end of 2023. The councillors were advised of the need to build relationships with iwi before a new Sportsfish and Game Management plan (1812) can be drafted. The chairman suggested the manager approach Ngāti Whatua, Ngāti Wai and Ngāti Hine while John Macpherson approach

the Iwi groups in the Far North to gauge interest in engaging with Fish & Game on the creation of a new plan. It is important to be a willing partner and potentially use tracking document to record efforts to engage.

Action: The manager approach Iwi groups to develop relationships and gauge interest in participating in the drafting of a new Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.

It was moved: *The Operational Work Plan 2023-2024 be approved.*

Cameron Shanks / John McEntee **CARRIED**

Budget 2023-2024

The manager tabled changes to the budget and explained the Designated Waters contribution.

It was moved: *The Budget 2023-2024 be approved.*

Cameron Shanks / John Skeates **CARRIED**

NZFGC Update

Cr. Reardon reported the following from the recent NZC meeting to the councillors:

- Insurance presentation and coverage explanations
- Urgent needs within national strategy
- Studies undertaken by 2030
- RM strategy update including risk management and staffing
- Reviews of 35 policies to standardise nationally and regionally
- Draft staff code of conduct to be circulated
- Acknowledge achievements of Corina specifically the NBE bill
- Prospect of contracting a Maori advisor at NZC to provide advice
- Licence sales nationally are good

Cr. Reardon advised the council of his position on the futures project.

Cr. Skeates acknowledged Darryls large workload in his capacity as NZ Council representative.

Draft Performance Management Policy Consultation

The draft Performance Management Policy was discussed by councillors regarding timing and frequency of performance reviews and was found to be without issue.

It was moved: *To support the Draft Performance Management Policy and it be adopted.*

Cameron Shanks / Russell Daniels **CARRIED**

Action: Manager to communicate the policy feedback to NZC.

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 Skeates / Mark Bell

CARRIED

Executive Limitations Report

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

Darryl Reardon / John McEntee

CARRIED

Financial Reports

The financial report ending 31 July 2023 was circulated to the councillors. Land descriptions and equipment with no depreciated value was queried.

Action: Financial controller will investigate writing off zero depreciated assets.

It was moved: **That the Financial Report to the 31 July 2023 is adopted.**

Darryl Reardon / Mark Bell

CARRIED

General Business

Cr. Daniels asked about holding off stocking dams with trout in 2024 to see if fishery can recover. It was advised that the 2024 order has been made but is less than usual. Options were discussed with a possible gap year in 2025.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman