# NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI 7.00 PM FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Trevor Osbaldiston

Councillors:

Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Mason Elliott, Chris Lynch, Dave

Nicholson, Cameron Shanks.

Conservation

**Board Member:** 

Richard Robbins

Staff:

Rudi Hoetjes (Manager), Fay Stodart (Office Administrator)

**APOLOGIES:** 

Kevin Alexander, Mike Newson, Leo Leonard, Ian Hogarth, Chris

**Jenkins** 

It was moved:

That those apologies are accepted.

Dave Nicholson/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

**Previous Minutes** 

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th August 2012 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Mason Elliott/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

### **Matters Arising**

### Fire Safety Standards within the Office

The Manager updated the Council on the progress concerning the fire safety issues within the Fish & Game office. The Manager contacted the Whangarei District Council about lowering the weight restrictions for the storage room upstairs as discussed in the previous meeting. The District Council did not allow this so Mr Peter Geddes from Hawthorne Geddes has visited the office and has drawn up plans for the Council to comply with the fire safety requirements. The Manager has emailed the landlord to obtain his permission to go ahead with the work. Councillor Kris Batelaan is assisting the Manager to apply for a building consent.

A builder has looked at the job and is preparing an estimate and has been asked to apportion the estimate to the landlord and to the Fish & Game Council. The Council agreed that the landlord should pay for the work to the existing office and the Fish & Game Council should pay for the extension to the storage room and workspace area in the workshop.

### Wetland Field Trip

The wetland field trip to the Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve and the Jack Bisset Wetland in September was a great success.

Councillor Lynch suggested that the Council should suggest to the NRC that landowners and community groups receive rebates for environmental enhancement projects which require resource consents. The Manager is intending to meet the CEO of the Northland Regional Council, Malcolm Nicholson to address these problems and suggestions especially regarding wetland management and restoration.

### Greenheart Group MOU

The Manager has emailed the Greenheart Group on several occasions with queries on the Memorandum of Understanding. No replies or clarification have been received to date so the Manager will not obtain a valuation until these queries have been answered.

### **Managers Report**

# 1115 Pheasant Banding

75 pheasants were obtained from Guy Ralph, south of Auckland and were liberated into the Aupouri Forest by Field Officer Nathan Burkepile. An account will be sent to Juken New Zealand for the costs associated with the release of the pheasants as part of the sponsorship programme agreed between JNL and Fish & Game.

#### 1121 Kai Iwi Lakes

The Council noted the 4.0kg trout recently caught by Warren Ruddell out of the Kai Iwi Lakes. The Manager informed the Council that Warren had also caught two other trout which were of a similar size.

There have not been any fishing reports available since these fish were caught indicating that the fishery had quietened down which is normal for this time of year.

#### 1161 Liberations

The Manager is in the process of acquiring a 750 litre plastic water tank for liberations which will be used to replace the heavy stainless steel tank. The weight reduction in not using the steel tank will allow for a larger tank to be transported for a similar axle weight and will be useful for liberating the extra 600 rainbow fingerlings in the Bay of Islands streams and Kaihu River next year.

### 1211 Resource Management Act

The Council discussed the outcome of the Environmental Court case in regard to the Horizons Regional Council One Plan. The Council queried whether NZFG Council can sustain funding the various water quality issues in the different regions and whether a long term strategy is in place for these water quality matters. The Council agrees with the principle of funding these resource consent matters but they recognise that it can be very costly and should be handled very carefully.

It was moved:

To write to NZFG Council on their plans in terms of water related issues and should our current focus and national policies not work, what is the fall back plan?

Mason Elliott/Trevor Osbaldiston

CARRIED.

#### 1242 Northland Habitat Trust

The Manager informed the Council that the invoice owing to Starters & Strategies for \$830.00 was paid directly from the Fish & Game bank account. The Councillors had agreed to fund the short fall from the reparation bank account held by Northland Fish & Game.

### 1316 Secondary School Clay Target Competition

The national secondary schools clay target competition was held in Christchurch over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> October. Four teams from the Northland region competed in the competition and a team of five were successful in winning the regional shield. Overall the Northland students shot very well gaining many placings in this competition.

# 1511 Rangers

The Manager informed the council that three rangers stood down and did not renew their warrants. They were Ben Haig, Noel Birchall and Craig Stevens. They were sent a letter thanking them for their services. The Council has re-appointed 12 rangers and appointed three rangers who have completed their probationary period.

### 1900 Administration

## **Liability Insurance**

The Council debated whether the council needs Councillor and Employer's liability insurance cover. The Council asked the Manager to see what the other regions have elected and ask the other managers at the next Manager's meeting.

It was moved:

That the Manager's report is received.

Kris Batelaan/Chris Lynch

CARRIED.

### **NZFG** Council update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. He briefed the Councillors on the resolutions made at this meeting and discussed the length of time in public excluded sessions from the previous meeting.

A confidential report was sent to the staff of the Northland Fish & Game Council. This report was unauthorised to be sent out to all regions. The Chairman asked the Councillors whether anyone else had received this report. No Councillors indicated they had received this report. The Chairman advised that due to the documents not being officially released by the NZFGC the matter would not be discussed.

## **Desired Outcomes Achievable 2025**

Councillors were asked by the NZFGC to evaluate the desired outcomes which would be achievable by 2025. The Manager recorded the Councillor's responses on a spread sheet and collated all their marks and took an average of the total. The Council agreed that the Manager send the results to NZFG Council.

# **Water Conservation Order**

The Council discussed Councillors Chris Lynch's suggestion of the possibility of undertaking an application for a Water Conservation Order.

The Council recognises the value of the Conservation Order but felt that the water quality and scenic values on the rivers in Northland would not qualify for such a legal process to be under taken. It was felt that a Water Conservation order could in fact limit the NRC abilities to undertake re-habitation of some of the rivers which have very poor water quality.

## **2013 Council Meeting Dates**

The Manager provided the Council with the recommended meeting schedule for 2013. The Council agreed to the dates and discussed the rotation of meetings held around the region. It was decided not to rotate meetings at this stage but this could be decided and factored in after the formation of the new Council.

The following dates and locations are accepted.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February Whangarei
Friday 5th April Whangarei
Friday 7th June Whangarei
Friday 16th August Whangarei
Friday 18th October Whangarei
Friday 6th December Whangarei

It was moved:

That the dates for the Northland Fish & Game meetings be adopted

for 2013.

Trevor Osbaldiston/Mason Elliott

CARRIED.

### **Approval of Annual Accounts**

It was moved:

That the annual accounts are circulated to individual Councillors prior to the Annual General Meeting and for each Councillor to approve in writing. Councillors are to forward any queries or concerns to the Manager or to the Chairman who will address them and provide a reply accordingly.

Cameron Shanks/Daye Nicholson

CARRIED.

### **Northland Habitat Trust**

It was moved:

That the Council approved the payment of \$830.00 from the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Reparations to assist the Northland Habitat Trust to fund publishing of the Value of Wetlands in the educational magazine Starters and Strategies.

Trevor Osbaldiston/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

# **Managers Financial Report**

It was moved:

That the Manager's Financial Report is deferred to the next Council

meeting in December.

Trevor Osbaldiston/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

# **Executive Limitations Report**

It was moved:

That the Executive Limitations Report is received.

Trevor Osbaldiston/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

### **General Business**

In the absence of Department of Conservation officer Ian Hogarth the Northland Fish & Game Council wished to acknowledge and thank Ian Hogarth for his contribution over the many years to management of both game birds and sports fish.

Ian's involvement spans more than 50 years which includes working alongside the various Acclimatisation Societies. Over the years he has helped secure, create, develop and enhance numerous wetlands which are recognised today as significant habitats under various plans throughout New Zealand.

Each of the Councillors signed a card expressing their appreciation and agreed to present a gift of appreciation to Ian in recognition of his many years of service.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

David Nicholson

Chairman

7<sup>th</sup> December 2012

