

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 5th JUNE 2015.**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Dave Nicholson

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Maurice Blyde, Phil Durham, Leo Leonard, Chris Lynch, Mike Newson, Wayne Pepper, Cameron Shanks, Mark Williamson.

Conservation Board Member: Richard Robbins

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the table. The Chairman asked for any apologies.

APOLOGIES: Kris Batelaan.

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

Cameron Shanks/Mark Williamson **CARRIED.**

Annual or One Year Agenda

June annual items include consideration for the budget and licence fee recommendations for 2015/16 fish season and the Anglers Notice – issues requiring NZC consideration.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th April 2015 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Chris Lynch/ Phil Durham **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

Non-Resident Fishing Licence Revenue

A letter was sent to NZ Council expressing concerns on how the extra funds from the non-resident licence sales will be held. Councillor Lynch reported that NZ Council had discussed the letter and the conclusion was to retain all extra funds from the sale of non-resident licences as a dedicated fund and be spent on a back water fishery within the region. A back country fishery is taken to mean any New Zealand freshwater (river and/or lake) that provide some truly spectacular angling experiences, are popular with non-resident anglers and are inherently sensitive and need careful management. All regions have to define such places within their regions.

It was moved: *For the purpose of back country fisheries in the Northland region, the following rivers are designated: Kerikeri River, Mangakahia Catchment, Kaihu River, Waipapa River, Waitangi River, Puketotara River.*

Chris Lynch/Phil Durham

CARRIED.

Resource Consent Application for Awakino Wetlands

The Manager updated the Council on the resource consent application for the Awakino Wetland. Corina Jordan wrote a letter to NRC stating that the conditions proposed by them were unreasonable and any monitoring of mudfish would have an ongoing cost to the Council for many years. To date, the Council had not received any official notification from NRC.

Manager's Activity Report

The Council considered the operational report on a page by page basis with discussion on some items:

1161 Fish Releases

The fish liberations took place at the end of May 2015. The Manager is planning to release further trout into the Kerikeri and Kaihu Rivers due to drought conditions through the last two summers. The Manager also asked Council their views on making the Wilsons Dam a mixed fishery of Rainbows and Brown trout. The Council would release 300 Rainbow trout into the fishery every other year, alternating with Brown trout. The Council agreed that having a mixed fishery at Wilsons Dam would give a greater opportunity for anglers to catch fish.

It was moved: *That the extra monies from the sale of the Non-resident licences are used to purchase trout fingerlings and release in the Bay of Islands Mangakahia and Kaihu catchments.*

Phil Durham/Maurice Blyde

CARRIED.

1228 Wairua River Wildlife Management Reserve

The Whangarei District Council has agreed to allow Northland Fish & Game to manage one of the oxbows in the Wairua River Wildlife Reserve. Some funding from the WDC will be required for fencing the oxbows.

1242 Northland Habitat Trust

The trustees for the Northland Fish & Game Habitat Trust met for the second time to formally wind up the Trust. The trustees reconfirmed their decision made at a meeting on the 28th April 2015. The trustees agreed that the remaining funds are transferred back to Northland Fish & Game and are designated for habitat development projects within the Northland region. The Manager and Administrator will commence winding up the Trust in the coming week.

1315 2015 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition

The tickets for the 2015 fishing competition are on sale and the Manager asked any Councillors for their assistance on the Sunday of the competition. Nathan will not be attending the event and Fay will be helping on the Sunday. Some of the councillors agreed to help at the competition. A kayak has been kindly donated by Viking Kayak for a lucky draw in the competition.

1521 Ranger Training

Councillor Blyde commented on the ranger training day he attended in April. The training course concentrated on the Search and Surveillance Act and the increasing responsibilities held by the Rangers and the Council. There was a good attendance by the rangers.

1812 Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan

The Manager submitted a contestable funding bid in the 2015-16 draft budget to employ a professional planner to assist in the preparation of the Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan. The Manager's group approved \$5,000.00 funding from the licence fee. Otago Fish & Game region has recently completed their Sports Plan, and the Otago Manager has offered assistance by allowing one of his staff members to work with Northland on their Sports Plan. The Manager plans to commence the first draft in July/August.

It was moved: *That the Manager's Activity Report is accepted.*

Leo Leonard/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

NZFG Council Update

Councillor Lynch attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 22nd May 2015. The unconfirmed minutes were received and distributed amongst the Councillors. Councillor Lynch highlighted the following points from the unconfirmed minutes:

- Professional Fishing Guides Association. A joint letter from the NZFGC and Professional Fishing Guides Ass. will be sent to the Minister of Conservation restating the need for a guide licence.
- RM/Legal Update Report. The legal funding is now on a spreadsheet which can be easily read and understood.
- Self-Appraisal Provision. Responses to the Self-appraisal forms completed by the NZFG Councillors have been collated. They will be considered at the next Council meeting in July.
- Review Financial Management of NZ Fish & Game. Matthew Hall reported on a Financial Review which is being carried out by a Financial Review Committee on developing the New Accounting Standards that will meet External Reporting Board requirements.
- 2015/16 Fish & Game NZ Budget and Licence Fee. The NZFGC recommended a \$1.00 increase in the 2015-16 Fish and 2016 Game bird licence fee. A discussion was held on an increase of \$1.00 to the Game Bird Habitat Stamp, from \$2.00 to \$3.00, as there had been no increase for many years for the habitat stamp. No increase in the habitat stamp will occur for the 2016 game bird season.

Fish & Game Election

The election timetable was circulated to all Councillors. It was noted that the nominations to stand for Fish & Game Council closes on the 27th August 2015 and official results will be known on the 13th October 2015. The Northland Fish & Game Council meeting is scheduled for the 16th October and Councillors thought that this meeting should be changed to a later date to give the new Councillors some notification of their first Council meeting.

It was moved: *That the Council meeting scheduled for 16th October be changed to 6th November 2015.*

Chris Lynch/Noel Birchall **CARRIED.**

2015-2016 Licence Fee Recommendations

The Council briefly discussed the proposed increases for the 2015/2016 financial year.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game Council support the NZFGC recommendation for the 2015/2016 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$124 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$92 (inclusive of a \$2 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.*

Noel Birchall/Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Anglers Notice 2015/2016

The Manager provided the Council with a recommendation that no changes be made to the 2nd Schedule of the region's Angler Notice.

It was moved: *That the 2015-2016 Anglers Notice remain unchanged from the 2014-2015 Angler Notice.*

Phil Durham/Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Tenkara Fishing

All Fish & Game regions were asked to consider whether Tenkara Fishing be allowed by anglers in New Zealand. The Manager explained the method in Tenkara fishing to Council. The Council noted Councillor Batelaan's suggestions and agreed that Tenkara fishing would have little impact on Northland's fishery and slight changes to the wording in the First Schedule of the Fishing Regulations would accommodate the method.

It was moved: *That the Northland Fish & Game region supports the Tenkara method of fly fishing by changing the wording in the First Schedule and that the Tenkara fishing method be deemed permissible in those regions which allow the method under their Second Schedule.*

Leo Leonard/Noel Birchall

Vote was 8 for/2 against.

Motion CARRIED.

Jack Bisset Wetlands Incident

Northland Fish & Game Council received a complaint from a stand holder of the Jack Bisset Wetland where he was fired upon by another shooter by mistake. Chairman Dave Nicholson and Councillor Leo Leonard were asked to comment as they were both at the wetlands on this particular day. They both, declared a conflict of interest.

Councillor Leonard recounted the event to Council. The Council discussed how safety practices could be improved. The Council requested that either the Manager and/or the Field Officer liaise with the stand holders of the two maimais concerned and to look at the distance between the two maimais and whether a safety barrier can be erected to stop any person firing upon each other.

The Council instructed the Manager to review all stand holders maimais within the wetlands and possibly re-site some maimais which are too close.

It was moved: **That a meeting between Fish & Game staff and all stand holders at the Jack Bisset Wetland is convened to review safety conditions and maimai sites.**

Noel Birchall/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

Discussion on the Dargaville Property

The Manager received a letter from the Nature Heritage Fund outlining the outcome of the application to purchase a property in Dargaville. The Manager asked the Council to keep all correspondence and discussions of this property confidential.

The Manager has arranged a land surveyor to visit the property to survey the property and obtain an independent land valuation. Councillor Lynch recently visited the property with the Manager and he commented that the property was outstanding and well worth a visit. He supported the purchase but had concerns on the staff work load and ongoing maintenance costs in years to come to develop the wetlands.

Councillors were advised that they should visit the property to assess if Fish & Game should subdivide and purchase the wetlands or contribute to NHF.

The Councillors decided to visit the property on the 20th June, meeting at the Fish & Game office at 10.00am. On their return from the property, a special Council meeting will be held at the Fish & Game office, to decide whether to contribute funds to the Nature Heritage Fund to acquire this property or to subdivide and purchase the wetlands outright on the property.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Chris Lynch/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

Financial Report for period ending 30th April 2015

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

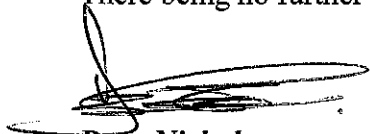
Cameron Shanks/Phil Durham

CARRIED.

Other Business

The Chairman reminded all Councillors of the Fish & Game elections in October and urged everyone to lobby new licence holders who could be interested in becoming a Fish & Game Council member.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.40pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Nicholson', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Dave Nicholson
Chairman