

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2020**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Mark Bell, Noel Birchall, Russell Daniels, Mike Newson

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

Dept. of

Conservation: Ross Atkinson

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and made a special welcome back to Ross Atkinson. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

APOLOGIES: Chris Lynch, Wayne Pepper, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, Stefan Seitzer, John Skeates.

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

Mike Newson/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

The manager informed the councillors that Wayne Pepper has formally resigned from the Northland Fish & Game Council due to work commitments. Councillor Chris Lynch is in the process of selling his house and moving away from the Northland region. Mr Lynch will formally resign when he undertakes his relocation which is probably at the end of the year.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th August 2020 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Russell Daniels/ Mark Bell **CARRIED.**

Matters Arising

Fish & Game Review Meeting

The Chairman thanked the councillors for attending the review meeting on the 15th September. All councillors and staff had an opportunity to voice their opinions on Fish & Game matters and structure.

Manager's Report

Flaxmill Wetland

Mr Edwards, the new owner of the adjacent farm, has notified the council that an engineer's report for slips caused by the last floods is required before any repairs to the bridge are made. The total bill for the report is estimated approximately 5-6k and Mr Edwards has requested that Fish & Game pay 50% of the estimate. The councillors discussed their options.

It was moved: *Due to this new information, Northland Fish & Game Council will rescind the motion to pay no more than 50% of the costs to a maximum of \$25,000 for building repairs to the bridge suitable for Fish & Game purposes. Northland Fish & Game agree to commit up to \$3,000 for the engineers report.*

Mark Bell/Mike Newson

CARRIED

Kai Iwi Lakes

The manager wishes to advise the licence holders that the stocking of the lakes was not approved this year by the Taharoa Governance Committee and their reasons. There is a lot of information circulating on the social media about the future of the fishing at the lakes.

Advice received from the KDC is that the Department of Conservation has made a commitment to the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee that they will develop a research and management strategy for the Dune Lakes Galaxid.

The council will also write a letter to the Minister of Conservation after the upcoming general election on the 17th October, requesting the department to look into this matter. The council will approach the media after a response from the Minister is received.

Water Consents

Fish & Game received two water consents applications from NRC seeking comments for the 2 applications for the irrigation reservoirs planned for Dargaville and Kaikohe.

Ranger Compliance

An advertisement was placed on Trade Me regarding the sale of game birds. Ross Atkinson from DOC has dealt with this matter and has also contacted Trade Me about the offence to advertise any sale of game birds. Trade Me withdrew the advert immediately.

It was moved: *That the Manager Activity Report is received.*

Noel Birchall/Kris Batelaan

CARRIED.

Field Officer Reports

The Council considered the Field Officers' reports briefly. The manager reported that Ben Paraha supplied 5,000 plants to Fish & Game for wetland and farm habitats. A lot of these plants were used in the Far North.

It was moved: *That the Field Officers' Activity Reports are received.*

Kris Batelaan/ Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Health and Safety Report

Northland Fish & Game is required to provide a Health & Safety report at each Council meeting. Plans have been put in place as per the government and health professional's recommendations for the Corona Virus pandemic.

It was moved: ***That the Health and Safety Report is received.***

Mark Bell/Mike Newson

CARRIED.

NZFGC Updates

Councillor Birchall has attended the 147th NZC meeting in Wellington. Councillor Birchall gave a brief update on the following:

- The NZFGC Chairman has invited the President of the Federated Farmers to meet and discuss environmental matters.
- Resource Allocation Project has commenced with consultants being appointed and Fish & Game reference group also being appointed. A report may be out for consultation by the end of the year.
- Pheasant Preserves. The Minister of Conservation is seeking Fish & Game's advice on the preferred option. The recommendation sent to the Minister was to remove the sunset time clause which will allow the existing preserves to operate but would require a regulation change for any new preserve to open.
- Reserves Policy. The SFC committee presented a late paper which is now refined and gone out to regions for comment.
- Two motions for the Mallard Research and Non-resident levy were both confirmed.
- Trout Farming.
- Updating National Policies.

The Chairman and Councillors appreciated Councillor Birchall input into the NZ Council and thank him for all the extra work he puts into Fish & Game.

Non-resident levy

NZ Council agreed that all licence and non-resident fishing licences will be treated as income and that all non-resident reserves become general reserves in the regions in which they are currently held. At present the non-resident levy is considered as a dedicated reserve. In the 2019-2020 year end accounts, this levy will be transferred to a General Reserve.

Salmon Proposed Commercial Origin Release Policy

NZ Council is seeking feedback from the regions on a proposed Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy. The policy prevents the release of commercial origin salmon into open systems of water where they may compete with wild fish but does not prevent releases into closed systems of water.

It was moved: ***That Northland Fish & Game supports the management recommendations supplied by Cawthron Institute.***

Kris Batelaan/Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Trout Farming

The council discussed the risks and benefits associated with trout fishing in NZ. The Northland Fish & Game region agreed to the following recommendations made by NZ Council:

1. Agree to reassess Fish & Game's opposition to trout farming based on further independent research establishing the risk profile of different types of trout farming systems
2. Agree to reject and advocate against the importation of trout flesh.
3. Agree to consult with regional Fish & Game councils on the outcome of this paper.

It was moved: *That NFGC agrees with the historical position of NZFGC on the grounds for opposition of the importation and sale of trout products.*

Russell Daniels/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Reserve Policy

A late paper on the draft policy on the accumulation, management and application of reserves within Fish & Game was circulated for regional councils to provide feedback to NZ Council. As the current council meeting had a reduced number of councillors, the chairman decided the following:

It was moved: *That the National Policy for reserves lay on the table for the next meeting in December.*

2021 Meeting Dates NZFGC

The council considered the meeting time table and accepted the report and will develop the NFGC meeting schedule dates for 2021.

Executive Limitations Report

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

Mike Newson/ Mark Bell *CARRIED*

Financial Report for period ending 31 August 2020

The most recent fish licence sales spread sheet was circulated to the councillors. The financial administrator gave a brief summary on the financial report.

It was moved: *That the Financial Report to the 31 August 2020 is adopted.*

Russell Daniels/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

General Business

Ross Atkinson informed the council about the new infringement system that DOC has introduced.

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



Phil Durham
Chairman