

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM THURSDAY 11th December 2020**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Kris Batelaan, Noel Birchall, Russell Daniels, Mike Newson, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks, John Skeates, Mark Bell.

Dept. of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

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

Members of Public: Paul Ogle

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the member of the public to the Council table.

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

APOLOGIES: Stefan Seitzer

It was moved: *That the apology is accepted.*

Darryl Reardon/ Mike Newson ***CARRIED.***

Adoption of the Performance Report 2019-2020

It was resolved: *That the Council adopts the Audited Performance Report of the Northland Fish & Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.*

Noel Birchall/ Darryl Reardon ***CARRIED.***

Presentation of the Performance Report

The unconfirmed 2019-2020 Annual Performance Report was circulated at the meeting as the report was finalised by the auditors the previous day before the meeting. The manager gave a brief presentation on the Statement of Financial Performance for the 2019-2020 financial year. 2020 was a very difficult year for Fish & Game as an organisation from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately Northland Fish & Game made a surplus of \$52,846 for the financial year through some projects not being completed. Councillor Birchall commended the Chairman for a very well written Chairman's Report.

The Chairman suggested that if there are any issues raised in the 2020 Annual Performance Report, that these issues are addressed at the next Council meeting in January.

On behalf of the council, the Chairman congratulated the manager and the staff on an excellent year. The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors and Ross Atkinson for their support during the year.

7:15pm: The Council returned to the normal Fish & Game Council meeting.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd October 2020 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Mark Bell/Russell Daniels

CARRIED.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Manager's Report

1121 Kai Iwi Lakes

The manager updated the council on the future of trout releases in the Kai Iwi Lakes. A report on a meeting held by the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee was received and included in the agenda for the councillor's information.

DOC agreed to establish a Dune Lakes Galaxias Recovery Group to undertake further research on the DLG and to take over from the existing Working Group formed in 2017. All information will be handed over to the Recovery Group on its completion. The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee will hold a meeting in February 2021 to discuss the recommendations from the Recovery Group on the release of trout in the Kai Iwi Lakes.

The councillors discussed their approach and decided to wait for the outcome of the meeting in February 2021.

1211 Resource Management Act

The council considered the latest freshwater policy NES-FW and the impact of this policy on maintenance, construction of maimais and restoration works within wetlands by Fish & Game and its licence holders. NZ Council is to prepare a submission on behalf of all regional Fish & Game Councils to ease some of the rules such as requiring resource consent for construction of maimais.

Councillor Mark Bell agreed to prepare a paper on wetland management on behalf of the Northland Fish & Game Council which will be sent to the NZ Council once received and approved by NFGC.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The manager met with the Northland Regional Council staff to discuss the control and the regrowth of the Manchurian Rice Grass. NRC has agreed to supply agrichemical to spray the rice grass.

Northland Fish & Game is to develop a spray plan for the aerial application of the chemical.

It was moved: *That the Council invites the public to participate in the meeting discussions.*

Mark Bell/ Cameron Shanks

CARRIED

Northland Secondary Schools Clay Target Competition

The following dates have been changed and confirmed for the 2021 Clay Target competition:

Dates		Club Venue
April 10 th	Saturday	Whangarei
May 12 th	Wednesday	Kaitaia
June 2 nd	Wednesday	Kaikohe
August 4 th	Wednesday	Dargaville
August 28 th	Saturday	Whangarei

1421 Communication

The Chairman commented on the Kaipara Moana Remediation, signing of the MOU between the Crown and Te Uri o Hau parties.

1812 Northland Sports Fish & Game Management Plan

The manager has been working on the Management Plan and asked the councillors to consider the following and bring their ideas back to the council table:

- How Northland Fish & Game can work with Iwi throughout Northland.
- How to resource it
- How to fund working with Iwi
- Who to liaise with.

Ross Atkinson recommended contacting the Liaison Manager in DOC for his advice.

1841 National MOSS

Maritime NZ has completed the report for the audit of the MTOC which was carried out in August. Maritime NZ was very satisfied with the audit.

Administration

John Macpherson's work vehicle has been replaced by the insurance company with no extra cost to Northland Fish & Game. John has the vehicle in Kaitaia now.

Field Officer Reports

The Council discussed the Field Officers' reports briefly. The manager notified the council that the farm adjacent to the Jack Bisset wetland has gone on conditional offer and the purchase should be completed before Christmas.

It was moved: *That the Staffs Activity Reports are received.*

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan *CARRIED.*

Flaxmill Wetland Bridge

The chairman and the manager inspected the right of way bridge at the Flaxmill Wetland. Mr Edwards has not received the formal engineers report to date but have met with them on site. The council agreed that they will address the engineers report when received and what the council is prepared to commit.

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater

It was moved: *That the Council writes to NZ Council supporting their review of the impacts of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.*

John Skeates/Russell Daniels *CARRIED.*

NZFG Council Meeting – 21 November 2020

The 148th NZ Council meeting was held in Wellington. The appointee Councillor Birchall gave a brief summary of the items discussed:

- New appointees to the NZ Council from Eastern and North Canterbury Fish & Game Councils.
- Access concerns on the fish resources. Farmers are closing access to the public and licence holders.
- Pheasant Preserves. The recommendation to the Minister is for the status quo to be retained but the conclusion date be extended to 2025.
- Trout Farming. NZFGC oppose trout farming and will write to the Minister of Conservation, MPI and Iwi regarding the potential risks to the wild trout fishery.
- Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management Strategy.
- Communications Policy
- Black Powder Submission for exemption for game shooting. The Council agreed to promote the availability of Bismuth ammunition to hunters.
- Customs Import prohibition for trout. Council agreed to advise DOC that Fish & Game supports the continued prohibition on the importation of trout and trout products.
- National Angler Survey – going with NIWA
- NZ Council has a new Chairman – Paul Shortis resigned and Ray Grubb was elected.
- Fish & Game Resource Allocation Project. This report was prepared for NZ Fish & Game by Concept Consulting. This report and the findings of the current review will be discussed at the NZC meeting on the 5-6th March 2021.
- The findings of the Ministers F & G review will be released to Fish & Game in February 2021.

Councillor Birchall asked the council about whether the emails from Mr Taylor “This week in Wellington” was useful. The council agreed that they were kept well informed.

MOU on Licence Database Use

All regional councils were asked to consider and adopt the MOU developed by the Licence Management Group. The council needed more clarification on the following:

- Who owns the data – regions or NZ Council
- Can regions share information of licence holders to NZ Council
- More information on the Privacy Act

It was moved: *That the council writes to NZC requiring the legal interpretation of who owns the data and information of the licence holders.*

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell *CARRIED.*

9.15: Councillor John Skeates left the council meeting.

Reserves Policy Consultation

All regional councils were asked to comment on the Draft Policy on the Accumulation, Management and Application of Reserves within Fish & Game. The Council required further explanation on the following points:

- Reserves should not be held for “unnecessarily long periods of time”. The council commented on how long is “long periods of time”
- Grant receiving Regions, the total of General and Dedicated Reserves should be maintained at between 30% and 50% of the annual operational budget.

The Council required more clarification on the detail within the Reserves Policy.

It was moved: *That the Reserves Policy discussion lay on the table until clarification on the details are received.*

Kris Batelaan/Cameron Shanks

CARRIED.

Council By-Election

A public notice was published in the Northern Advocate at the end of November 2020 advertising the vacancies on the Northland Fish & Game Council. The council has received one application to date.

Game Bird Season Recommendations for 2021 Game Season

The Council considered the recommendations for the 2021-2022 game bird season made by Field Officer Graham Gallaghan. The Council agreed with extending the season for the Pheasant, California quail and Pukeko season by a week and to leave the daily bag limit for the NZ Shoveler duck at three.

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck and any hybrid of that species	1 May to 27 June 2021	12	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	1 May to 27 June 2021	3	All areas
Paradise shelduck	1 May to 1 Aug 2021	20	All areas
	19 Feb 2022 to 27 Feb 2022	20	All areas
Black swan	1 May to 1 August 2021	20	All areas
	19 Feb 2022 to 27 Feb 2022	20	All areas
Pukeko	1 May to 29 Aug 2021	12	All areas
	19 Feb 2022 to 27 Feb 2022	12	All areas
California and brown quail	1 May to 29 Aug 2021	10	All areas
Cock pheasant	1 May to 29 August 2021	5	All areas

The Council made the following resolution:

It was moved: *That the Council adopts the 2021 game bird season recommendation.*

Mike Newson/Noel Birchall

CARRIED.

Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust Update

Councillor Reardon updated the council on the water storage reservoirs which will be built in the Kaipara and the mid-north area near Kaikohe. The first stage of the project will see two reservoirs built in the mid north and one in the Kaipara area.

Councillor Reardon requests that the manager and the chairman talk to Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust about the possibility of stocking the reservoirs with trout.

Council Meeting Dates

NZFGC confirmed their meeting dates at the last Council meeting in Wellington. A spread sheet was circulated with the suggested meeting dates for 2021.

It was moved: **That the following dates are accepted for 2021:**

- *22nd January 2021*
- *23rd March 2021*
- *11th June 2021*
- *13th August 2021*
- *30th October 2021*
- *10th December 2021*

Darryl Reardon/Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

10.05pm: Councillor Darryl Reardon left the council meeting.

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.**

Mike Newson/ Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks/ Mark Bell **CARRIED.**

Managers Financial Report

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 31st October 2020 is adopted.**

Noel Birchall/ Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

General Business

The Chairman thanked the member of public for attending the council meeting. He also wished all Councillors and staff all the best for the Christmas festive season and a happy new year.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Phil Durham
Chairman