NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING

HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE

NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI

7.00PM FRIDAY 18th MARCH 2022

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Phil Durham

Councillors:

Darryl Reardon, Mark Bell, Graeme Stevenson, John Skeates

Staff:

Rudi Hoetjes (Manager),

Fay Stodart (Finance Officer/Administrator)

Member of

The Public:

Craig Deal

The Chairman welcomed the councillors to the Council table and acknowledged Craig Deal, the new regional manager elect. The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

APOLOGIES:

Cameron Shanks, Peter Allen, Russell Daniels

Ross Atkinson (Department of Conservation)

It was moved:

That these apologies are accepted.

Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

The chairman notified the council of the applicants for the regional manager's position. The chairman, one councillor and the regional manager interviewed two very high-quality applicants for the vacancy. Mr Craig Deal was the successful person who obtained the position.

Craig Deal introduced himself and gave a brief precis of his life history. He is currently the Operations Manager for the Department of Conservation in the Whangarei district.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2022 are

confirmed as true and correct.

Darryl Reardon/Mark Bell

CARRIED

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

It was moved:

That the member of the public has speaking rights at the council

meeting.

Mark Bell/John Skeates

CARRIED

Manager's Report

1225 Flaxmill Bridge

The new access bridge into the Flaxmill Wetland is now completed and heavy machinery can now use the bridge for access. The repairs to the bund wall around the wetland have been completed by an earth moving contractor. The wetland is very dry and needs significant rain before the game bird season commences.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

A letter from the Northland Regional Council was circulated to the councillors. NRC has agreed to waiver the charges for processing the Resource Consent and will refund Northland Fish & Game's account of \$950.00 including GST. The annual charges for the consent for the 2022/23 – 2024/25 financial years will also be waivered.

The monitoring inspections required during the construction phase of the dam will be invoiced based on actual labour cost.

The manager met with two local contractors to obtain estimates to build the bund wall for stage 2 of the development at the wetland. One of the contractors has estimated approximately \$80 – 90k. The other estimate was not received before the council meeting.

The NZGBHT has agreed to pay \$50k towards stage 2 of the development and the council has agreed to pay the remaining \$50k from reserves.

Under the resource consent conditions, the consent holder and/or the contractor must submit a Construction Environmental Management Plan to NRC ten working days prior to commencement of any earthworks. The consent allows for the earthworks to be completed over two summers.

1331 Game Bird Magazine

The 2022 Game Bird magazine are sent out to all whole season licence holders on or near the 18th March 2022.

1840 National Liaison

The Acting CE, Di Taylor has resigned her position at NZ Council and finished on the 18th March 2022. Brian Anderton will take on the Acting Chief Executive of NZ Council while a recruitment process is underway for a new CEO.

Field Officers Reports

The field officer reports are brief as the last council meeting was in late January.

It was moved:

That the Managers and Field Officers reports are received.

Graeme Stevenson/Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

Governance Report

The Chairman apologised to the council for no Governance Report but assures them that he will collate the responses for the next council meeting.

NZFGC Update

The 156th meeting of the NZ Council was held on the 18th February 2022. Councillor Reardon attended the meeting via zoom. The discussion focussed on the following:

- Pressure sensitive fisheries option paper. Fish & Game needs to address the options to
 ease the pressure on sensitive rivers from the NZ resident anglers. NZC agreed to
 establish a working party to consider options in time for the 2022/23 angling season.
 The options paper is approved as a draft and will be circulated to regions for their formal
 consultation.
- Pricing for the non-resident licences is being looked at for discussion. Currently the non-resident licence fees are set at 1.35x the resident licence fee rate for adult licences.
 NZ's non-resident licence fees are quite cheap compared to other countries.
- Fish & Game elections. The final overall voting rate return rate was 24.6% of those on the electoral roll, which is very close to the overall return rate for the 2018 election. Several suggested changes were recommended to the NZ Council for their consideration.
- Fish & Game NZ Research Project Funding Application Process & Timing. The Cawthorn Research Institute is researching indigenous fish and the interaction between trout and native fish. Robin Holmes, a freshwater ecologist, is one of the researchers who is undertaking this project. Trout are being seen as pest fish in some areas of the country but not other areas.

Draft Regional Structure Review Report

A Draft Regional Structure Review Report was received at the beginning of March, asking for any recommendations and submissions by the 17th March 2022. Chairman Durham had spoken with the Eastern and Auckland/Waikato chairs to get their views. Both councils were looking at different options and agreed that the date for any feedback was too brief and councils had not met in time to discuss the report.

The councillors considered the option of reducing the number of regions and agreed that the costs would overrun the current budgets with no beneficial cost savings to licence holders or regions.

They also agreed that the basis of the draft review report is based on licence income and were appalled at the lack of detail within the report. The report did not address any of the issues that were raised earlier in discussions.

It was moved:

That the Chairman will send a letter to David Hunt with the council's views.

Mark Bell/Graeme Stevenson

CARRIED

2022-2023 Draft Budget & Contestable Funding Applications

The manager advised the council that the budget level of \$427,748 is the council's allocation under the current budget allocation and any amount exceeding budget needed to be considered as contestable funding applications.

The council received funding of \$85,300 from NZFGC to employ a field officer in the Far North for a period of five years. This funding comes to an end on 31st August 2022 and to maintain a staff person in this part of the region, NFGC must reapply with a contestable funding application.

Other contestable funding applications included CPI for salaries, increased audit and accountancy fees, trend count increased costs etc.

The councillors discussed where savings could be made within the budget. The manager wanted to refer to the upcoming remuneration report for all Fish & Game staff before submitting this budget.

It was moved:

That the council will ring fence \$50,000 for the development of stage three at the Underwood Wetland in the event of no other sources of funding.

Darryl Reardon/Graeme Stevenson

CARRIED

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

There were no incidents that needed reporting. It was noted that the Health & Safety policy is due for review this year in 2022.

It was moved:

That the Health and Safety Report is received.

Graeme Stevenson/John Skeates

CARRIED

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved:

That the Executive Limitations Report is received.

Mark Bell/Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

Financial Reports

The financial administrator gave a summary on the financial report ending 31st January 2022. The second instalment of the grant was received in February. One of the term deposits was transferred into the Savings on Call bank account for operational costs. The council reinvested the other two term deposits.

It was moved:

That the Financial Report to the 31st January 2022 is adopted.

Mark Bell/Graeme Stevenson

CARRIED

General Business

The new regional manager elect, Craig Deal, will begin work with Fish & Game on the 6th April. Rudi will work alongside Craig for approximately two weeks as a hand over.

Council has requested Rudi continues to be involved and oversees the Underwood Wetland project once he had left as regional manager of Northland Fish & Game. The Chairman will discuss a contract with Rudi.

Northland Fish & Game will purchase a new vehicle for the new manager. This vehicle will be purchased at the end of March. Rudi will seek a vehicle appraisal and valuation for the Isuzu Mu-X. He may purchase the vehicle from Northland Fish & Game.

Mark Bell queried the council whether there were many reports on shooting Paradise Shelduck out of season.

A farewell function will be planned for the outgoing manager when his last day as regional manager is finalised.

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

Phil Durham Chairman

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