

NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00PM THURSDAY 27 April 2023

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Peter Allen, Cameron Shanks, Russell Daniels, Darryl Reardon, John McEntee

Staff: Craig Deal (Manager)
Rachael Quin (Finance Officer / Administrator)

**Member of
The Public:** -

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

APOLOGIES: John Skeates and Mark Bell

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

Peter Allen / Russell Daniels **CARRIED**

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th February 2023 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Cameron Shanks / Peter Allen **CARRIED**

Matters Arising

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

Phil contacted a Kaipara District Councillor and was advised to let matters stay as they are for the time being regarding the paper road through the Underwood property.

Ballot of stands at the wetland has been deferred to next year due to weather events and remediation work taking priority. Casual hunting will occur from 8th May 2023 for the remainder of the game bird season.

1421 District and Regional Councils, Iwi

The manager reported that a tailgate form will be drafted for botulism clean up contamination procedure.

Action: The manager and H+S coordinator will produce a tailgate form for the field officers and H+S folders.

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Nomination Form

Cr. Reardon advised that the nomination form for Rudi Hoetjes was received by the trust and Rudi was unsuccessful.

Action: The chairman will phone Rudi with the results.

CEO Visit

Corina Jordan visited our regional council and had discussions with Northland Fish & Game staff and an informal meeting with councillors. The chairman thanked staff and councillors for attending and commented that the councils' thoughts on budgeting and funding aligned with NZ Council and was well received.

Trout Release at Kai Iwi Lakes

An application was submitted and an invitation has been received from KDC to a meeting where the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee will consider the application.

Managers' Report

1113 Pukeko Survey

Pukeko counts were conducted in April.

1161 Northland Trout Releases

The manager advised the council of underweight trout in Lake Manuwai and suggests less trout released into the fishery this year.

The manager confirmed submission of an application to the KDC mayor and a subsequent invitation from KDC to a meeting on 8th May 2023 along with the co-governance committee and Department of Conservation staff. The chairman offered to accompany the manager and Cr. Allen also offered to attend, in a non-speaking capacity.

All councillors agreed with the managers decision not to support a proposal by landowners to create a private trout fishery due to the fact that there was no intention to allow public access.

1226.1 Underwood Wetland

The manager gave an update of spend and advised that there no need to approve further funding.

The manager stated that will be practical to invest time now in the wetlands to learn more about flight lines before assigning stands and to ensure there are plenty of photos and promotional material available in readiness for its launch next season. The chairman commented that the wetland will be spectacular.

Since the wetland visit by DOC staff, the manager has not heard from Stephen Soole since his return from leave. The manager will continue with plans to erect signage.

Kaipara Moana Remediation have not given a date yet to visit the wetland but will likely be after the game bird season.

1313 Ballots and Permits

The Northland Forests permit condition changes were described and although Northland Forest Managers property conditions were more restrictive it is hoped it is offset by hunting opportunities offered by the other forestry management companies.

1441 Advertising Fish and Game Seasons

Councillors support the 'Take a Mate Hunting' promotion. Cr. Allen proposed being more explicit with information regarding it unnecessary to have a firearms licence. It was thought this to be controversial as firearms licencing and supervision of hunters without a firearms licence falls within the Arms Act 1983 which Fish and Game does not administer.

1530 Compliance

Cr. Allen asked if there was a way to recoup the financial deficit from prosecuting or avoid the court costs. The manager explained that there is an infringement notice system that has not yet been implemented. Fish and Game staff are working towards implementation.

It is uncertain if the forfeited shotgun is handed in to the police or Northland Fish & Game and considered best to hand it to police if of no value.

Action: The manager to obtain advice from the firearms officer on the handling of seized firearms in the future.

Other

The manager advised the council of the upcoming rent increase. It is unfortunate it has come after the opportunity to apply for contestable funding. Councillors discussed options including requesting reason for increase from the landlord and looking at downsizing.

Action: Obtain original lease document to check rent term and legality of rent increase.

Letter from CEO Corina Jordan regarding remuneration review was tabled.

Field Officers Reports

Councillors discussed the field officers' proposal to change the authorised methods from FS to FSB.

Action: Pre-season advertising to emphasise fisheries open all year and bait rules have changed.

It was moved: **To change fishery regulations to allow fly, spinner, bait in all Northland waters year-round.**

Peter Allen / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

Cr. Reardon commented on the contribution to Fish & Game of the late Eddie Smith.

Action: The chairman will write a letter of thanks to the Smith family.

It was moved: *That the Manager and Field Officer reports be accepted.*

Darryl Reardon / John McEntee

CARRIED

NZFGC Update

NZFGC representative Cr. Reardon will defer commenting on the recent NZ Council meeting until the minutes are formally released.

Cr. Reardon passed on congratulations to the manager for the amount and quality of information supporting the contestable funding bid from Northland region. It was considered better than any other region.

The chairman reported a national HR manager has been appointed to help standardise employment matters.

Operational Work Plan 2023-2024 Review

The chairman commented that the work plan is achievable and questioned the value of survey and population monitoring data.

Cr. Reardon suggested the amount required for Prosecutions be adjusted to reflect the amount requested and approved from reserves.

Action: Manager to amend 1531 Prosecutions from \$1500 to \$3000

It was moved: *That the Operational Work Plan 2023-2024 be adopted.*

Russell Daniels / Cameron Shanks

CARRIED

Approval of Updated Sensitive Expenditure Policy

The updated Sensitive Expenditure Policy and gift register were tabled and agreed the 17th February 2023 amendments made were correct.

Action: Rachael to update authorisation page with note of amendments.

It was moved: *That the updated Sensitive Expenditure Policy be adopted.*

Darryl Reardon / John McEntee

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

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

Darryl Reardon / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

Executive Limitations Report

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

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon

CARRIED

Financial Reports

The financial report ending 28 February 2023 was circulated to the councillors.

Cr. Reardon asked about the turnaround of vehicles, whether based on years or warranty period.

Action: Manager to check warranty dates and get industry advice on when to sell vehicles.

It was moved: **That the Financial Report to the 28 February 2023 is adopted.**

Cameron Shanks / Russell Daniels

CARRIED

General Business

Managers Performance Review

In committee.

Rent increase

Cr. Allen requested we question the recent rent increase and find the original agreement.

Governance Review

Results to be distributed at next meeting.

Action: Administrator to minute for next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Phil Durham



Chairman